

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:127
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013
GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLATION OF TOWERS
Singh Shri Dushyant;Tudu Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms/guidelines laid down for installation of mobile towers;
- (b) whether a large number of mobile towers are installed near residential areas, public buildings, schools, etc.;
- (c) if so, the details of such towers, State/UT/Company-wise and the steps taken by the Government to remove these towers from such areas and also the action taken against the telecom operators for violation of norms in installation of such towers;
- (d) whether the Government has the records of the mobile towers installed without prior clearance from concerned bodies and local authorities in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether any compensation is provided/proposed to be provided to the persons affected by mobile radiation and if so, the details thereof and if not, the measures taken to minimize and neutralize the impact of radiation from mobile towers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 FOR 6TH MARCH, 2013 REGARDING "GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLATION OF TOWERS "

(a) As per existing policy for installation of mobile towers, Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. The siting clearance is issued without prejudice to applicable bylaws, rules and regulation of local bodies such as State Government/Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of tower, the telecom service provider has to obtain the necessary permission from the respective local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/ Gram Panchayat etc.

Further, DoT has issued a broad guideline for issue of clearances for installation of Mobile Towers and the same has been forwarded to the Chief Secretary of all the States on 23.08.2012.

(b) & (c) As per the broad guidelines issued by DoT regarding installation of mobile towers, no restriction has been imposed on installation of tower on specific buildings such as residential areas, public buildings, schools etc. However, it has been prescribed in the guideline that there shall be no nearby buildings right in front of the antenna with height comparable to the lowest antenna on tower at a distance threshold as specified below:

Sl No. Number of Building / Structure distance from the
Multiple antennas antenna (safe distance) (in meters)

1	2	35
2	4	45
3	6	55
4	8	65
5	10	70
6	12	75

However, some of the State Governments have formulated their own guidelines for grant of permission for installation of mobile towers and have put specific restrictions and prohibitions on installation of mobile towers. The same has been contested in Supreme Court by various Telecom Service Providers.

(d) The record regarding grant of permission for installation of mobile towers etc. is maintained by the local authorities and DoT

maintains the record regarding grant of siting clearance to the mobile tower by Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA).

(e) There are no conclusive evidence so far on the risk associated with Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) emitted from mobile towers.

However, as a precautionary principle, norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) have been reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

After implementation of the above mentioned revised norms for mobile towers, India now has one of the most stringent EMF exposure norms in the world.