GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:684
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013
RADIATION FROM MOBILE TOWERS HANDSETS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a clampdown on mobile tower installation is leading to call drops problem in cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the weaker signals from mobile tower result in higher radiation from mobile handsets and subscribers are exposed to more electromagnetic radiation from the handset as its being closure to human body;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make norms for installation of mobile towers and manufacturing and sale of handsets more stringent;

(e) whether the Government has made it mandatory to display radiation tag on mobile handsets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against defaulters in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) No Madam. Mobile towers and Base Transmitting Stations BTS) are being installed by the telecom service providers as per availability of users, spectrum and Radio Frequency planning. This is an ongoing process and telecom service providers augment their mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the quality of service. Measures like BTS addition, capacity augmentation & up-gradation, antenna tilting, optimization of network and drive test are undertaken on a continuous basis to improve the mobile services. In 83 cases, where the base station emissions were found to be exceeding the prescribed radiation limits, corrective measures have been taken.

(b) Nil, in view of (a) above

(c) Madam. The weaker signals from mobile tower results in higher Transmission power from handsets and subscribers are exposed to more Radio Frequency (R.F) from handset as its being closure to human body. The Department has issued precautionary guidelines for mobile users "If the radio signal is weak, a mobile phone will increase its transmission power. Find a strong signal and avoid movement-use phone where reception is good" and published in National & Regional News papers placed at Annexure-A. Also available on DoT web site.

(d) to (f): For mobile handsets, Department of Telecommunications has issued instructions Vide O.M. dated 25th January,2012 copy placed at Annexure-B and subsequent clarification vide O.M. dated 17th August 2012, for compliance of the following SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) limit copy placed at Annexure-C:
(i) SAR level of the mobile handset shall be limited to 1.6Watt/Kg, averaged over mass of 1gram of human tissue. (ii) All the new design of mobile handsets shall comply with the SAR value of 1.6Watt/Kg, averaged over mass of 1gram of human tissue w.e.f. 1st September, 2012. However, the mobile handsets with existing designs which are compliant with 2.0W/Kg averaged over 10 gram tissue, may continue to co-exist up to 31st August 2013. (iii) From 1st September, 2013, only the mobile handsets with revised SAR value of 1.6 W/Kg would be permitted to be manufactured or imported in India for domestic market.
Instructions, inter-alia, issued for inclusion of safety measures are as follows:
(i) SAR value to be displayed on the handset like International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) display.
(ii) All the handsets sold in India shall support hands free operation.
(iii) Mobile handsets manufactured and sold in India or imported from other countries shall be checked for compliance of SAR limits. Self declaration of manufacturers for conformity to SAR level of mobile handsets and testing in ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) accredited labs shall continue to be enforced.
(iv) Manufacturer's booklet shall contain details of safety precautions.
Telecom Engineering Centre New Delhi has established a state of art SAR lab for measurement of SAR of mobile hand sets.