

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:641

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

RADIATION FROM TOWERS HANDSETS

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Ram Shri Purnmasi;Singh Shri Ratan

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

- (a) whether India ranks 2nd in the world in having highest number of mobile phone subscribers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether mobile towers installation in the country is on the rise and as a result thereof, non-ionizing radiations emitted by these towers is causing health risks and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any instructions/guidelines for prevention of emission of non-ionized radiation from mobile towers and mobile handsets; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the telecom service providers and handset manufacturers/importers for non-compliance of the said instructions / guidelines issued by the Government?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, as on 31.05.2013, there are 870.20 million mobile phone subscribers in India which is 2nd highest in the world.

(c) The telecom service providers are augmenting their mobile network from time to time which includes installation of additional mobile towers. World Health Organization (WHO), in its Fact Sheet No. 304 of May 2006, has stated that "Considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short- or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base stations".

(d) & (e) In respect of mobile towers, norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has 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.

Action has been initiated and demand notices have been issued to the defaulting telecom service providers for imposition of penalty. Further, a revised advisory guideline has been issued on 01.08.2013 to all the State Government for grant of clearance for installation of mobile towers and the same is also available at DoT website www.dot.gov.in.

In respect of Mobile Handsets, the following directions have been issued to mobile handset manufacturers regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) level:

(i) SAR level for mobile handsets is limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, average over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.

(ii) All the new design of mobile handsets shall comply with the SAR level of 1.6 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 1 gram tissue with effect from 1st September, 2012. However, the mobile handsets with existing designs, which are compliant with 2.0 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 10 gram tissue, may continue to co-exist upto 31st August 2013.

(iii) From 1st September 2013, only the mobile handsets with revised SAR value of 1.6 Watt/Kg are permitted to be manufactured or imported in India for domestic market.

Action against handset manufacturers/importers for non-compliance does not arise in view of (iii) above.