

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
RADIATION FROM MOBILE TOWERS
Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

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

- (a) whether the radiation emission level of cell phone towers in the country is very high as compared to the international standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to address the issue;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to regulate import of mobile handsets and issue guidelines to make it mandatory to display the Specific Absorption Rate on mobile sets; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 218 FOR 5TH FEBRUARY, 2014 REGARDING "RADIATION FROM MOBILE TOWERS".

(a) & (b) Madam, World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended that "National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded." WHO has referred to the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) which has prescribed the levels limiting Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) emission from Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) as safe for general public. Department of Telecommunications adopted the EMF radiation limits prescribed by ICNIRP in 2008 which was further reduced to 1/10th of the safe limit prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012. All telecom service providers have to comply with these prescribed limits of EMF radiation from mobile towers.

(c) & (d) Instructions regarding display of Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) values on mobile handsets have been issued which, inter-alia, include:

(i) Mobile handsets manufactured and sold in India or imported from other countries shall be checked for compliance of applicable SAR limits.

(ii) SAR level for mobile handsets shall be limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, averaged over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.

(iii) SAR value is to be displayed on the handset similar to display of International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI).