

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2356

ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014

CARBON CREDIT POLICY FOR TELECOM FIRMS

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

- (a) whether the Government is promoting the use of renewable energy in telecom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the directives issued by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to evolve a carbon credit policy for mobile phone companies in addition to evaluating the techno commercial feasibility of powering telecom towers with green or renewable energy and has appointed Price waterhouse Coopers (PwC) for the purpose and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether PwC has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by PwC to the Government?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) Govt. issued the following directives on 23.01.2012 for use of RET in Telecom sector:
 - (i) At least 50% of all rural towers and 20% of the urban towers are to be powered by hybrid power (Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) + Grid power) by 2015; while 75% of rural towers and 33% of urban towers are to be powered by hybrid power by 2020.
 - (ii) Service providers should evolve a 'Carbon Credit Policy' in line with the carbon credit norms with the ultimate objective of achieving a maximum of 50% over the carbon footprint levels of the Base Year in rural areas and achieving a maximum of 66% over the carbon footprint levels of the Base Year in urban areas by the year 2020. The base year for calculating all existing carbon footprints would be 2011, with an implementation period of one year. Hence the first year of carbon reduction would be the year 2012.
 - (iii) Based on the details of footprints declared by all service providers, service providers should aim at Carbon emission reduction targets for the mobile network at 5% by the year 2012-2013, 8% by the year 2014-2015, 12% by the year 2016-2017 and 17% by the year 2018-2019.
 - (iv) All service providers should declare to TRAI, the carbon footprint of their network operations in the format prescribed by the TRAI. This declaration should be undertaken after adopting the formulae and procedures prescribed by TRAI. The declaration of the carbon footprints should be done twice in a year i.e. half yearly report for the period ending September to be submitted by 15th of November and succeeding half yearly report for the period ending March to be submitted by 15th of May each year.
- (c) No and Govt. has not appointed Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) for the purpose.
- (d) Nil in view of (c) above.
- (e) Nil in view of (c) above.