

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3385

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

NORMS FOR INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWERS

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

- (a) the number of mobile telephone towers installed in the country, State, circle and company-wise including BSNL;
- (b) the norms and guidelines set up by the Government for installation of tower near public places and the radiation limit fixed for the same;
- (c) whether the cases of violation of the said norms by service providers have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken and penalty imposed on the erring service providers, State-wise and company-wise; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to keep a check on erring service providers?

Answer

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

(a) Madam, the current number of Base Transmitting Stations (mobile towers) set up by telecom companies including BSNL in the country as on 30.09.2013, Licence Service Area-wise and Telecom Service Provider wise is enclosed as Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(b) For providing the mobile services in the country, the telecom service providers have to establish towers and install Base Transmitting Stations (BTS), at suitable locations, as per their Radio Frequency (RF) network planning for proper coverage of the area. Prior to installation of mobile towers, the telecom service providers have to obtain site clearance from Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. The telecom service providers have also to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities such as municipal corporation, gram panchayat etc before installation of tower.

Further, DoT has issued advisory guideline for State Governments for issue of clearances for installation of Mobile Towers which are effective from 01.08.2013.

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) to (e) DoT, has issued instructions to all Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees for compliance of the above reference limits/ levels by way of submission of self certification of their Base Transmitting Station (BTS) for meeting the Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiations norms to relevant Telecom Enforcement, Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT.

The TERM Cell tests up to 10% of BTS sites randomly. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also being tested by TERM Cell. If a site fails to meet the Electro Magnetic Radiation criterion, there is a provision of levy of a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh per BTS.

As on 31.12.2013, approximately one lac four thousand BTSs have been tested by the TERM Cells since 16.11.2010, out of which, 160 BTSs have been found to be exceeding DoT norms of EMF radiation exposure. In case of non compliance of EMF radiation norms namely cases of exceeding the radiation level beyond DoT limit, display of signage at BTS sites and non-submission or delayed submission of BTS EMF self-certificates, penalty is imposed on Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and they have to take suitable corrective action to comply to the EMF radiation norms. The details of penalty imposed on account of violation of EMF

radiation norms, License Service Area (LSA) wise and TSP wise is enclosed as Annexure-III & Annexure-IV respectively.