

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:208  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014  
GREEN ENERGY UTILISATION IN MOBILE TOWERS  
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made any recommendations for renewable green energy utilisation in mobile towers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the public sector telecom companies have been facing difficulties in implementing these recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether private sector telecom companies have been successful in executing said recommendations; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) made recommendation dated 12.04.2011 regarding "An approach towards Green Telecom". On the basis of TRAI recommendations, DoT issued directions in January, 2012 regarding Implementation of Green Technologies in Telecom Sector. The directions, inter-alia, indicated the following in respect of renewable green energy utilization in mobile towers:-

(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 tower by 2020.

(c) Yes.

(d) A committee consisting of officers from Department of Telecommunications (DoT) & Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Industry representatives and others have been constituted to develop a road map for facilitating increased use of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) for powering Telecom networks and sector specific schemes for promotion of green technologies in telecom sector. This RET Committee has submitted its report to DoT on 01.08.2014.

As per the report of above RET Committee, high CAPEX, non-availability of suitable & clear south facing space, rental issues for roof-top space, lack of local eco system in rural/ remote areas, challenge in operation & maintenance of scattered RET sites are some of the difficulties faced by telecom companies in implementing the government directives. It is also mentioned in the report that Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is not in position to extend the subsidy for telecom towers because of paucity of funds.

(e) & (f) As per the report of RET Committee, the private sector telecom companies have executed only a small no. (around 3400) of Renewable Energy Technology (RET) projects. The timelines for implementing the directions in respect of powering the mobile towers through hybrid power/Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) + Grid Power are 2015 and 2020.