

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4782

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015

RADIATION FROM MOBILE TOWERS

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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some leading scientific institutions in the country including All India Institute of Medical Sciences(AIIMS) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been engaged to conduct research on effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF), particularly, radiation from cell phone towers on human health and other living beings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose along with the time by which the reports are likely to be submitted;
- (c) whether as per the research carried out by the World Health Organisation, there is no evidence to conclude that exposure to radiation emitted from cell phones is harmful to human health;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any such study/studies have been conducted earlier and if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A study has been initiated jointly by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology; and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communication & Information Technology to investigate the effects of radiation from mobile towers. 19 groups, including researchers from AIIMS and IITs have been identified for the investigations at a total budget of Rs. 9.9 crore. These groups will examine the effects of EMF radiation on reproductive dysfunctions, male infertility, neurological disorders (cognitive behaviour, sleep related disorders, depression etc.), otorhinolaryngology (ENT) disorders, psychosocial implications, DNA damage and repair, EMF effects in blood cell/tissues in animal and plant systems. Duration of the study varies from 18 to 36 months, and the findings will be available after the study is completed.

(c) & (d): World Health Organization (WHO) is yet to take a conclusive view on the harmful effects of electromagnetic radiation on human health. In response to public and government concern, WHO established the International Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Project in 1996 to assess the scientific evidence of possible adverse health effects from electromagnetic fields. WHO will conduct a formal risk assessment of all studied health outcomes from radiofrequency fields exposure by 2016.

(e) A number of studies on animals and human beings have been conducted both in India and abroad reporting the adverse effect of EMF radiations. But there is no conclusive data available so far on this issue. Based on the reports available on this subject, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) suggested Department of Telecommunications

(DoT) to develop health based precautionary guidelines to limit the exposure level of these radiations in the country. DoT has reduced the exposure level by 1/10th of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) levels. Since the studies conducted in India as well as abroad are not comprehensive, the Government has initiated a multi-disciplinary comprehensive long term prospective cohort study to establish the cause of ill effects of EMF radiation.