

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3660

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015

TOWERS POWERED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the increased use of diesel by telecom companies in operating telecom towers and telephone exchanges thus resulting in air and noise pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of mobile towers powered by diesel and the quantum of diesel used and the expenditure incurred thereon by telecom operators particularly by telecom PSUs;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to assess the quantum of carbon emissions from these towers or pollution caused by these towers due to use of diesel in tower operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the telecom operators including BSNL and MTNL are planning to install solar and wind turbine generators to power their mobile towers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such generators are likely to be installed?

Answer

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

(a) In general, the primary source for powering the telecom tower and telephone exchange is Grid supply and whenever, grid power is not available, Battery system is used as the first backup. After exhausting battery system, DG set is used as second backup. So, the diesel is used only when grid power is not available and battery system is exhausted.

However, on the basis of TRAI recommendations, DOT issued broad directions and goals on 23/01/2012 for greening of the telecom sector and to achieve reduction in carbon emission using Renewable Energy Technology (RET) solutions and energy efficient equipments.

(b) As stated in (a) above, the diesel is used in mobile towers by second backup i.e. DG set only when the grid power is not available and battery system is exhausted. Exact quantum of diesel and expenditure incurred by Telecom Service Providers is not monitored by the Government.

However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its report "An approach towards Green Telecom" dated 12.04.2011 stated that "Assuming 8 hours of operation by DG sets, the average fuel consumption would be 8760 liters of diesel every year per tower, and the total carbon emission on account of diesel use by telecom towers is estimated to be 10 mt of CO₂ for 4 lacs telecom towers."

(c) No Madam.

(d) As stated above, the diesel is used in mobile towers by second backup i.e. DG set only when the grid power is not available and battery system is exhausted. So, the diesel consumption is need based. Further, broad directions and goals for greening of the telecom sector and to achieve reduction in carbon emission using Renewable Energy Technologies and energy efficient equipments had also been issued for implementation on 23/01/2012.

(e) & (f) The Telecom Service Providers including BSNL & MTNL have executed around 4000 of Renewable Energy Technology (RET) projects including solar & wind projects, as per the report of RET Committee, 2014.