

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2  
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014  
INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWERS  
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the threat of occurrence of fatal diseases like cancer is rising due to installation of mobile towers in the populous areas in prominent cities of the country including Jalore-Sirohi districts in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has fixed any time limit for removing these towers from these areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the mobile towers installed in all the schools and hospitals premises of Rajasthan have been removed;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Madam, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak Radio Frequency (RF) Signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects." "From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by base stations (mobile phone towers)".

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 Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has already prescribed stricter precautionary limits for Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation from mobile tower. The present prescribed limits for EMF radiations from Base Station in India are one-tenth (1/10th) of internationally prescribed limits of ICNIRP.

Further, in a Writ Petition filed in Hon'ble High Court Allahabad, Lucknow bench, the Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 10.01.2012 constituted a committee consisting of Members of IITs Bombay, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Delhi, Roorkee and other prominent persons of other scientific institutions of the country like AIIMS (Delhi), Indian Council of Medical Research who submitted its Report on 17-01-2014. After due consideration of the human health concerns on account of EMF radiation being raised in public and the Report of the Committee, the Government has decided in February 2014 that the present prescribed precautionary EMF safe exposure limits are adequate and need no further change at this stage.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed stricter precautionary norms of EMF radiation from mobile tower, the extensive audit of comprehensive compliance self-certificates being submitted by telecom service providers and base transceiver station (BTS) sites is carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. This is regularly done by TERM units for the purpose of limiting the EMF radiation exposure and keeping general public areas in the vicinity of towers safe. Such audit is being conducted in all the License Service Areas in the country including Jalore and Sirohi districts in Rajasthan license service area. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site as per the prescribed procedure.

In Jalore and Sirohi districts, Rajasthan TERM field unit of DoT has randomly tested 77 BTSs on sample basis up to 31/05/2014 and all sites were found compliant to the radiation norms prescribed by DoT. One complaint was received from Mount Abu, Sirohi regarding EMF radiation from the base transceiver station (mobile tower). The same was tested by TERM field unit Rajasthan and it was found compliant to the radiation norms prescribed by DoT.

(d) to (f) Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan in Writ Petition No. 2774/12 had inter alia directed removal of Mobile Towers from hospitals and schools within two months. 204 mobile towers installed in all the schools premises of Rajasthan have been removed in compliance to the interim order dated 22/08/2012 passed by Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court. However, regarding removal of mobile

towers installed at hospitals, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had extended time limit of compliance of order of Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan on 21/01/2013 by two months. Subsequently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has extended the time limit till further orders and the matter is sub judice.