

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014  
LAUNCH OF EMF PORTAL  
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has set up any mechanism to address the concerns over Electro Magnetic Frequency (EMF) exposure due to installation of mobile towers in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to various State Governments on safety norms and procedure to be followed for setting up of mobile towers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has launched a National EMF portal in the country and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) Madam, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) 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)". Further, WHO has referred to approximately 25,000 studies, conducted around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded: "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to EMF radiation".

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) for Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation limits. Many countries have adopted EMF radiation limits prescribed by ICNIRP. However, Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has prescribed stricter precautionary limits for EMF radiation from mobile tower which is one-tenth (1/10th) of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed EMF radiation limits from mobile tower in India, self-certificates are required to be submitted by telecom service providers as per the guidelines issued by DoT. To cross check these, audit of 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 monitoring that the EMF radiation exposure is within prescribed norms. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, as per the prescribed procedure, actions are taken by imposing a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh per BTS per incidence.

(b) DoT has issued advisory guidelines for state governments on 23.08.2012 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines have been further revised with effect from 01.08.2013. These guidelines list documents to be submitted by Telecom Service Providers/Infrastructure providers, for obtaining clearances from State Government / Local Bodies, for installation of mobile towers and also suggest actions to be taken by State Government / Local Bodies in this regard.

These guidelines cover different aspects relating to adherence to safety norms and procedures and include SACFA clearance/ application, submission of requisite certificate to TERM Cell, structural stability certificate, fire safety clearance etc.

(c) No, Madam.