

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:470
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
RADIATION FROM MOBILE PHONES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial committee to examine the edverse effect of Electro Magnetic Field Radiation from base stations and mobile phones on human beings, butterflies, bees, insects, sparrows, etc. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details and the salient feature thereof; and
- (e) the follow up steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard including ban on mobile phones not adhering to standard level of specific absorpton rate?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Madam, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) consisting of officers from DoT, Indian Council of Medical Research (Ministry of Health), Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of Environment and Forest was constituted on 24.08.2010 to examine the effect of Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) Radiation from base stations and mobile phones. IMC in its report, examined the environmental and health related concerns and indicated that most of the laboratory studies were unable to find a direct link between exposure to radio frequency radiation and health; and the scientific studies as yet have not been able to confirm a cause and effect relationship between radio frequency radiation and health.

The salient feature of the recommendations that were submitted by the Committee to Government, inter-alia, includes –
The Radio Frequency (RF) exposure limits in India may be lowered to 1/10th of the existing level.

DOT should create a national data base with the information of all the base station, their emission levels and display on public domain for public information.

Conduct the long term scientific research related to health aspect of EMF radiation exposure and associated technologies in India in the following areas:

- a. Health effect of RF exposure in children.
- b. Health effect of RF exposure in Foetus, mothers and elderly persons.
- c. Combined electromagnetic field radiation effect exposure from multiple antennas of a shared infrastructure sites

Adoption of Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) level for mobile handsets limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, averaged over a 6 minutes period and taken over a volume containing a mass of 1 gram of human tissue as per the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) norms of United States.

(e) In consideration of the report of IMC, the actions taken by DoT, inter-alia, include:

Norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

The following directions, effective from 01.09.2012, have been issued regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) values:

- a. SAR level for mobile handsets is limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, average over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue. b. All the new design of mobile handsets shall comply with the SAR value of 1.6 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 1 gram tissue with effect from 1st September, 2012.

c. From 1st September 2013, only the mobile handsets with revised SAR value of 1.6 Watt/Kg are permitted to be manufactured or imported in India for domestic market.

d. SAR Value is to be displayed on handsets

Science and Engineering Research Board has taken initiative to study possible impact of EMF radiation exposure from mobile towers and handsets in the non-ionizing band (300MHZ to 3 GHZ) on life. i.e. Humans, Living Organisms, Flora & Fauna and Environment. In response to the advertisement for scientific studies, 158 proposals were received, of which, 79 proposals have been short listed at this stage.

DOT has issued precautionary guidelines for mobile users. Also, for the information of the general public, DOT has issued a hand book on mobile communication -Radio Waves & Safety.