

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:503
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWER
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any guidelines/norms for installation of mobile towers in residential areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints in respect of ill effect thereof on humans and if so, the details thereof along with the assessment that has been made by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has also conducted any study about the number of illegally installed mobile towers in various parts of the country during the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to pull them down?

Answer

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

(a) Madam, Department of Telecom (DoT), on 23.08.2012, has issued advisory guidelines for state governments for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers and the same has been forwarded to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments. The above said guidelines have been further revised with effect from 01.08.2013. These guidelines are common for all localities including residential areas.

(b) 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)".

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 made an assessment of health effects of EMF radiations and prescribed stricter precautionary limits for 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.

Till date 1483 complaints in respect of ill effect on human health due to mobile radiations have been received by the 34 Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. Out of 1483 complaints, 1434 complaints have been examined by TERM units so far. During the examination of these complaints, 8 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) were found to be non compliant to the Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) norms prescribed by DoT. Action has been taken as per DoT guidelines on the telecom service providers for these 8 BTSs.

(c) & (d) As per the existing policy for installation of towers, Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC) wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. However, siting clearances of DoT are issued without prejudice to other applicable bylaws, rule and regulations of local bodies such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of tower, the telecom service providers have to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities/ State Government bodies also. Various local bodies/State Government have formulated their own policy regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers. DoT does not maintain the information about grant of such permissions by State Government bodies / Local authorities and DoT has not conducted any study about the illegally installed mobile towers.