

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1201  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

**MOBILE TOWERS AND RADIATION**

†1201. SHRI OM BIRLA:  
SHRI JOSE K. MANI:  
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the number of cellular towers is less in comparison to total consumers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government for making reform in this sector and the new towers installed during the last three years; State-wise;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently directed the Department of telecommunication (DoT) to set standards to deal with the harmful radiation emitted by Mobile Towers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether an expert committee set up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in 2012 has suggested that electromagnetic radiation by mobile towers be treated as pollutant;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and whether India has reduced the permissible radiation limits for towers to 10 times lowers than global benchmarks followed by more than 50 countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) & (b) The installation of additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) is a regular and routine exercise carried out by Telecom Service Providers based on the network traffic and customer requirements. Licensed Service Area wise details of BTSs installed during the last three financial years and current financial year (till 30.09.2016) and total BTSs as on 30.09.2016 are enclosed as **Annexure**.

(c) No such direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has been received in Department of Telecommunications.

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(d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had constituted 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 (MoEF) in 2010 to examine the effect of EMF Radiation from mobile base stations and mobile phones. Inter-Ministerial Committee (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.

No expert committee was set up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in 2012 on electromagnetic radiation by mobile towers. However, the matter whether Electromagnetic radiation from Mobile Tower is a “pollutant” or not, has been agitated in National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi whereby Hon’ble NGT in its judgment dated 10.12.2015 has opined that it has no jurisdiction on the issue of Electromagnetic Radiation from Mobile Tower. This implies that Electromagnetic Radiation from Mobile Tower is not a pollutant.

(e) & (f) Based on the recommendations by an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), as a precautionary measure, the norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) have been made 10 times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by World Health Organization (WHO). Presently the limits for EMF radiations from Base Station in India are as below: –

Frequency Range	E-Field Strength ( Volt/Meter)	H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter)	Power Density (Watt/Sq.Meter)
400MHz to 2000MHz	$0.434f^{1/2}$	$0.0011f^{1/2}$	$f/2000$
2GHz to 300GHz	19.29	0.05	1

(f = frequency in MHz)

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## Annexure

SN	LSA Name	Number of BTSs installed during last three financial years i.e. from 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2016	Number of BTSs installed during current financial year i.e. from 01.04.2016 to 30.09.2016	Total Number of BTSs as on 30.09.2016
1	Andhra Pradesh	32,331	13,133	1,05,716
2	Assam	8,486	3,549	26,024
3	Bihar	12,620	4,588	61,180
4	Delhi	29,652	7,723	67,244
5	Gujarat	26,425	7,443	79,420
6	Haryana	11,966	3,278	32,787
7	Himachal Pradesh	4,168	1,827	13,001
8	Jammu and Kashmir	5,701	1,336	17,977
9	Karnataka	35,391	13,016	1,01,603
10	Kerala	20,649	13,022	66,180
11	Kolkata	11,737	4,104	35,314
12	Maharashtra	33,294	13,229	1,10,581
13	Madhya Pradesh	26,936	4,537	77,748
14	Mumbai	14,056	2,902	44,159
15	North East	6,266	2,515	16,731
16	Odisha	10,135	3,188	34,032
17	Punjab	16,935	13,045	56,722
18	Rajasthan	17,021	8,424	60,642
19	Tamil Nadu	35,732	11,244	1,13,885
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	26,846	9,087	81,140
21	Uttar Pradesh (West)	15,268	7,475	60,733
22	West Bengal	10,027	6,128	46,130
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,11,642</b>	<b>1,54,793</b>	<b>13,08,949</b>

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