

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3710
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2017**

RADIATION NORMS

†3710. SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Telecom Service Providers against whom action has been taken by the Government for non-compliance of radiation norms, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether any rules regarding restricting installation of mobile towers near residential areas, educational institutions and hospitals have been framed by the Government and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the States have their own rules for installing mobile towers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Madam, to ensure the compliance of Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation norms, field units of Department of Telecom (DoT) [erstwhile Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells] carry out audit of up to 10% of the Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) annually on random basis to cross check the EMF compliance. During the audit carried out by TERM Cells, total 284 numbers of BTSs installed on various mobile towers by various TSPs have been found exceeding the prescribed EMF radiation limits as on 30.06.2017. The details of these non-compliant BTSs License Service Area-wise (LSA-wise) and Telecom Service Providers-wise (TSP-wise) is attached at **Annexure-I & Annexure-II** respectively. For all these non-compliant BTSs found during testing, TERM Cells have imposed applicable financial penalty 10 Lakhs per BTS on defaulting TSPs as per the prescribed DoT guidelines.

(b) Madam, with regard to impact of EMF emissions from mobile towers on health, World Health Organization (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 articles published around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has stated, "*Despite the feeling of some people that more research needs to be done, scientific knowledge in this area is now more extensive than for most chemicals.*" WHO has concluded - "*current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields*".

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The main conclusion from the WHO reviews is that EMF exposures below the limits recommended in the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) international guidelines do not appear to have any known consequence on health. In India norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) are already 10 times more stringent than the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO. Making the norms ten times stricter than what has been prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO, obviates the need for having separate norms for special localities. Accordingly, the advisory guidelines issued by DoT to state governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers do not place any restriction on installation of mobile towers near residential area, educational institutions and hospitals etc.

(c) & (d) Madam, BTSs are established by the TSPs at suitable locations, as per their Radio Frequency (RF) network planning for proper coverage of the area and as per their service requirement to fulfil the license conditions. Prior to installation of mobile towers, the TSPs have to obtain Siting clearance from Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) of DoT for 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 by-laws, rules and regulations of local bodies such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. TSPs have also to obtain necessary right of way related clearances from concerned local authorities before installation of tower. Various local bodies /State Governments have formulated their own policy regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers.

DoT has issued advisory guidelines to state governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines list the documents to be submitted by the Telecom Service Providers/Infrastructure Providers for obtaining clearances from State Governments/ Local Bodies for installation of mobile towers and also suggested actions to be taken by State Governments/ Local Bodies. While in general, State Governments/ Local Bodies are following the guidelines issued by DoT, however, some Local Bodies/ State Governments have also formulated their own policy for grant of permissions for installation of mobile towers. The record of such guidelines issued by the State Governments/ Local Bodies is not maintained by DoT.

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Licensed Service Area(LSA)-wise non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms

SN	Name of LSA	Total BTSs (as on 30-06-2017)	No. of non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms (as on 30.06.2017)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,19,294	0
2	Assam	30,907	2
3	Bihar	73,261	0
4	Delhi	78,328	0
5	Gujarat	93,479	0
6	Haryana	37,980	1
7	Himachal Pradesh	15,388	6
8	Jammu and Kashmir	22,903	0
9	Karnataka	1,12,107	88
10	Kerala	78,445	0
11	Kolkata	39,693	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	89,165	14
13	Maharashtra	1,27,371	14
14	Mumbai	49,476	127
15	North East	19,563	8
16	Odisha	39,199	0
17	Punjab	65,309	0
18	Rajasthan	77,847	1
19	Tamilnadu	1,30,846	0
20	Uttar Pradesh (East)	95,063	10
21	Uttar Pradesh (West)	74,648	0
22	West Bengal	54,947	13
	Grand Total	15,25,219	284

Telecom Service Providers (TSP)-wise non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms

SN	Name of TSP	Total BTSs (as on 30-06- 2017)	No. of non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms (as on 30.06.2017)
1	Aircel/Dishnet	66,320	20
2	Airtel/BHL	3,48,890	69
3	BSNL	1,33,066	10
4	IDEA/ABTL	2,43,456	22
5	Loop*	0	11
6	MTNL	3,147	3
7	Reliance	48,007	32
8	Reliance Jio	3,34,614	10
9	SSTL (MTS)	7,966	1
10	Tikona	417	0
11	TTSL/TTML/Tata	64,963	34
12	Videocon**	0	2
13	Vodafone	2,44,837	62
14	Telenor/Telewings/Uninor	29,536	8
	Grand Total	15,25,219	284

* M/s Loop has closed its telecom services in November, 2014.

** M/s Videocon has closed its Telecom Services in May, 2016.
