

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 241
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2018**

MOBILE TOWERS

241. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousands of mobile towers are being added every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of mobile towers added during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether any regulatory mechanism is in place to check on the telecom companies in selecting the locations for their mobile towers so as to minimize the mobile radiations especially in residential areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, 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) During the last three years, aggregate number of mobile towers has increased from about 4.21 lakh to 5.06 lakh, due to the addition of approximately 85,000 mobile towers across the country. It includes different types of tower structures including ground-based towers/poles, roof-top based towers/poles, Cell-On-Wheels (CoW) etc.

As telecom licenses for mobile services are specific to License Service Area (LSA), the number of mobile towers added in each LSA since February 2017 is mentioned in **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has adopted the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines, as recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO), to limit electro-magnetic field (EMF) radiations from mobile towers within safety limits. Since 2011, these norms for exposure limits have been made more stringent and reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits, prescribed by ICNIRP. Keeping the precautionary EMF safe limits at this level eliminates the need for fixing lower limits for specific areas like schools, hospitals, residential premises etc.

As per extant terms & conditions, each licensee is mandated to conduct audit and provide self-certificate in each case, after every two years, for compliance of limits/levels prescribed. This is subject to further technical audit by field units of DoT. Moreover, any person can request for EMF emission measurement at a location by paying a nominal fee of Rs. 4000/- online. DoT field offices carry-out such testing, as requested, and provide the test-report.

Besides, DoT has also mandated Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) to be below ICNIRP's prescribed values so that the exposure from mobile handsets remains well within safety limits. All mobile handsets manufactured in the country or imported from abroad are required to be compliant to mandated SAR value.

Mobile Towers, License Service Area-wise

Sr.	License Service Area	Tower-count February 2017	Tower-count February 2018	Tower-count December 2018	Additions since Feb 2017
1	Andhra Pradesh	33,988	35,804	39,680	5,692
2	Assam	9,984	10,415	11,444	1,460
3	Bihar	29,399	31,921	36,147	6,748
4	Delhi	18,559	21,023	24,096	5,537
5	Gujarat	25,587	26,593	29,275	3,688
6	H.P.	4,955	5,049	6,048	1,093
7	Haryana	9,685	10,154	11,782	2,097
8	J & K	7,559	8,050	9,037	1,478
9	Karnataka	28,072	28,085	32,503	4,431
10	Kolkata	8,498	10,030	11,666	3,168
11	Kerala	15,705	15,913	16,588	883
12	Mumbai	14,189	14,751	14,944	755
13	Maharashtra	35,701	36,045	38,242	2,541
14	M.P.	29,622	31,368	36,394	6,772
15	North-East	6,211	6,635	7,185	974
16	Odisha	14,854	15,636	16,719	1,865
17	Punjab	17,334	18,390	19,628	2,294
18	Rajasthan	23,654	24,668	27,691	4,037
19	Tamil Nadu (inc Chennai)	38,843	38,573	40,379	1,536
20	Uttar Pradesh (E)	29,718	29,910	30,693	975
21	Uttar Pradesh(W)	22,839	24,107	26,358	3,519
22	West Bengal	17,224	18,307	20,247	3,023
Total		4,42,180	4,61,427	5,06,746	64,566
