

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, cases of unsolicited telemarketing calls have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. To curb such unsolicited telemarketing calls on mobile phones, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) Regulations, 2007 (4 of 2007) dated 5th June, 2007 and a scheme of National Do Not Call (NDNC) Registry has been put in place since October, 2007.

The registration process in the NDNC Registry is very simple. Any mobile subscriber willing to register in NDNC Registry needs only to either make a call to 1909 or send SMS "TART DND" to 1909, where DND stands for Do Not Disturb.

The efficacy of the UCC Regulations is reviewed by TRAI from time to time.

Pricing of 3G spectrum

2110. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

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

(a) the details of two rounds of discussions held between the officials of his Ministry and the Ministry of Finance over pricing of 3G spectrum; and

(b) the main contention points between the two Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Department of Telecom has proposed Pan India reserve price of Rs. 2020 crores for auction of one block of 3G spectrum as agreed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The Ministry of Finance has suggested further revision of reserve price of 3G spectrum.

An empowered Group of Ministers (eGOM) has now been constituted to look into issues relating to auction of 3-G Spectrum which *inter-alia* include reserve price, administrative charges and annual spectrum charges.

Mobile towers

2111. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile towers are great health hazard to the people;

(b) if so, the details up to what distance and the kind of risk people living around are exposed to;

(c) whether Government plan to educate the people all over the country on such health hazards; and

(d) if so, give details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines has been adopted by Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) of DOT regarding basic restriction and response levels for limiting Electro Magnetic Field exposures. Epidemiological studies on exposed workers and the general public have shown no major health effects associated with typical exposure environments.

In this regard, it is also mentioned that the World Health Organization (WHO) fact sheet No. 304 of May, 2006 states that from all evidences accumulated so far no adverse short-or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by base stations. Since wireless networks produce generally lower RF signals than base stations, no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to them. It is further mentioned that the report of the committee constituted to study the effects of radiation from mobile towers and related aspects, under Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from Mobile Base Stations.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Rural telephony

2112. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom regulator released a draft recommendations on rural telephony for overcoming various constraints coming in way of increasing telecom penetration in rural areas in India;

(b) whether there is need for evolving policy and regulatory environment necessary to encourage service providers to move to these apparently less lucrative markets;

(c) whether total telecom subscribers as on January, 2009 were 400.05 million out of which only 26.6 per cent is contribution from rural India that constituted 70 per cent of total population of country; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government has taken to improve situation in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Against the envisaged target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by 2010 under New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99), the present teledensity is 16.54% as on 31.05.2009 as a result of various initiatives of the Government. As on 31.01.2009, out of the total telecom subscribers of 400.05 million, the contribution of rural subscribers was 28.17%.