

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its Report; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and the action his Ministry has taken on those recommendations?

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

(b) No, Sir.

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

Unregulated growth of towers

295. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unregulated growth of towers for mobile telephony is causing hazards of various types in Delhi and NCR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps which are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The latest Fact Sheet No. 304 of May, 2006, of World Health Organisation (WHO) states that "Considering the very low exposures levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects". Further, a committee was set up under the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects. The Committee had studied the effects and concluded that "overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from Mobile Base Stations".

In regard of the Structural safety, before erection of any cell tower, it is mandatory to obtain Structural stability certificate from one of the institute in Delhi/NCR:-

(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

(b) Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee.

(c) Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES), Delhi.

(d) National Council for Building Material, Faridabad.

(e) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee.

Pension to employees of MTNL

296. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has refused to give pension directly as it is being given to BSNL employees;

(b) the reasons for such discrimination when Government has agreed and given written commitment to pay pension to MTNL employee directly; and

(c) if so, whether Government will consider and give pension to all MTNL employees directly at par with BSNL employee as both the corporation belong to same Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The demand of the employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for payment of pension at par with the employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was considered by the Government in the year 2004 and was not agreed to. As per the existing provisions, pension to the employees of MTNL is to be paid through a Pension fund. However, the entire issue has been referred to the Union Cabinet.

BSNL guidelines for shortlisting WIMAX franchise

297. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines prescribed by BSNL for short listing WIMAX franchise and the names of the companies which have been shortlisted for the purpose;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the shortlisted company do not meet the criteria prescribed in the guidelines; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, details of guidelines prescribed by BSNL regarding eligibility requirements for applicant company (bidder) in the WIMAX tender is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The names of the companies which have been shortlisted for WIMAX franchisee are:

1. M/s Teracom Limited, Noida
2. M/s Take Solutions Limited, Chennai
3. M/s Adishwar India Limited, Bangalore
4. M/s Ampoules & Auto Pvt. Limited, Kolkatta

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Statement

1 Eligibility requirements for applicant company (bidder)

- 1.1 The bidder should be a company registered in India for more than two years with a minimum turnover of Rs. 100 Crores in each of last two years or a WIMAX operator in a foreign country. In case bidder is a foreign WIMAX operator, the bidder is required to submit an undertaking