

AERB which is granted on the basis that the used Cobalt-60 source is returned to the original supplier and the owners of the sources are under obligation to ensure safety and security of the sources.

The preliminary investigations carried out so far indicate that the sources found in Mayapuri Scrap shops are not fabricated in India. It is possible that these sources have come to India along with some imported scrap. Though there is a requirement that exporting countries have to certify that the scrap being exported does not contain any radiation material, there are instances when radioactive material has found its way to India along with the scrap.

In order to prevent such incidents following measures are being taken:

1. The Government of India had set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2005. The NDMA has raised and trained four battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for responding to radiological emergencies. Also the DAE established eighteen well-equipped Emergency Response Centres at different parts of the country for preparedness and response to any radiological emergency in the public domain.

2. A variety of Radioactive Material Detection equipment are being installed at various Border points - seaports, airports and landports. The detection capabilities have been aimed as per international guidelines and specifications (Mega Port Initiative complaint) to detect a variety of radioactive substances emitting gamma rays and neutrons. In addition, portable equipment are being procured for use by National Disaster Response Force of NDMA and by Emergency Response Teams of the DAE for radiation detection. Capacity is being created for inspection of trucks/containers passing on the road (vehicle monitors), portal monitors inspect personnel at entry/exit and handheld detection equipment for close scrutiny including Isotope identification.

Limits of radiation from mobile tower

3692. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a nexus between the private traders of mobile towers and the authorities in the erection of towers indiscriminately in and around living urban areas;

(b) whether Government is aware that the radiation emanated from such mobile towers will be highly harmful and injurious to human health; and

(c) the mechanism to monitor each and every tower that the radiation produced is within the permissible limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the Department of Telecommunications has no information about any nexus between the private traders of mobile towers and the authorities in the erection of towers.

(b) A committee was set up under the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects, which concluded that "overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of Radio Frequency (RF) exposures from Mobile Base Stations". Further, several studies have been conducted in different countries, under the aegis of World Health Organization (WHO) and none of these studies prove that the emissions from the mobile phone towers/networks are causing harmful effect on human beings.

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, adopted by Telecom Commission states that epidemiological studies on exposed workers and the general public have shown no major health effects associated with typical exposure environments. The studies have yielded no convincing evidence that typical exposure levels lead to adverse reproductive outcomes or an increased cancer risk in exposed individuals.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the Access Service Providers to implement the ICNIRP Prescribed limits / levels of radiation norms on Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) exposure by Base Transceiver Stations (BTSS) *vide* letter dated 4th November, 2008 and 8th April, 2010. The Telecom Enforcement, Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT have been advised to monitor the BTS sites for prescribed radiation limit.

Essar Group

3693. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Essar Goup which is having substantial stake in Vodafone and is also illegally holding stake in Loop Telecom for which UASL has been issued;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the promoters of Loop Telecom and Essar Group are the same set of people; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the DoT to cancel the licence of Loop Telecom and forfeit the licence fee?