

[27 July, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the steps that have been taken or proposed to be taken to curb this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per license conditions, the mobile telephone service providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as subscriber. Instructions in this regard have been issued from time to time to all the service providers. This includes obtaining proof of identity and address from the subscribers.

It was brought to the notice of the Department of Telecom (DoT) that the mobile service providers are generally not complying with the requirement of subscriber verification. DoT carried out special drive to check this in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and the State of Haryana. It was observed that all the service providers in these places are not fully complying with the instructions on subscriber verification.

Notices have been issued to concerned service providers in the above areas to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification and also to explain why action should not be taken against them for not complying with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.

E-pollution caused by mobile phone towers

†284. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of e-pollution caused by mobile phone towers etc.;

(b) if so., the steps being taken to control the same.

(c) whether any parameters have been set for controlling e-pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) A Committee was constituted in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research to study possible health hazards due to mobile phone base stations (towers). Based on their initial study, the Committee has opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from Mobile Base Stations (towers).

Satellite telephone service

285. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact the BSNL is planning to offer satellite telephone service in 14 villages;
- (b) if so, the districts in which these villages come under, State-wise;
- (c) the criteria for selection of these villages; and
- (d) whether Government are planning to add some more villages for this facility in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) in 14183 villages. The details are given in the Statement enclosed. (See below).

(c) The Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) are being provided in the villages located in far-flung, inaccessible areas where VPTs cannot be provided on any other terrestrial media. These VPTs and DSPTs are provided under an Agreement with Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund of Department of Telecommunications.

(d) BSNL has sought some flexibility in identifying villages that require satellite phones and villages (originally identified for satellite phones) where connectivity can be provided through Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/ landline. USO Fund has agreed to the request subject to the condition