

Radiation from mobile phone towers and other electronic devices

†489. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to check electromagnetic radiation emitting from mobile phone towers, airports, ATMs of banks, call centres, electrical sub stations, generator sets, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Radiation from mobile phone towers and other electronic devices has been engaging the attention of the Government for quiet some time. Based on the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Karma Jyot Sewa Trust of Gujarat, Mumbai High Court had ordered the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India to examine the issue on health hazards due to mobile phone base stations. As a follow up of Mumbai High Court's directions, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) comprising the doctors from the leading scientific institutions viz All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and also including a representative of Department of Telecommunication. The Committee met on 29th May, 2006 and opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of radio frequency exposure from mobile base stations. The Committee recommended that a precautionary approach needs to be adopted till further research data is available and as suggested that it would not be amiss to adopt the International Council for Non-ionizing, Radiation protection guidelines for limiting electronic magnetic force exposures. Further, in order to develop the expertise in this area, Ministry of Telecommunication has also set up a multi-disciplinary Committee to examine the issue of adopting international guidelines for electro magnetic radiation emitting from mobile phone towers. This Committee

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is expected to prepare precautionary guidelines for protection of public from electro magnetic radiation from mobiles towers and mobile phones within time frame of four months.

Dental colleges in the country

490. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of dental colleges in the country;
- (b) the total number of applications received for approval of the Dental Council for new dental colleges during this year; and
- (c) the number of colleges approved by the Dental Council of India, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) At present there are 224 dental colleges in the country.

(b) and (c) Of the 88 applications received, till date, in 19 cases permission has been given by the Central Government on the recommendation of Dental Council of India for opening of new dental colleges during 2006-2007. A list indicating the total number of Dental Colleges recognized/approved, state-wise, is enclosed in statement.

Statement

State-wise list indicating the number of Dental Colleges Recognised/ Approved

State	Recognised		Approved*		Total
	Private	Government	Private	Government	
Andhra Pradesh	4	2	14	0	20
Assam	0	1	0	0	1
Bihar	3	1	3	0	7
Chandigarh	0	0	0	1	1