

- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of those companies;
- (c) the details and names of foreign companies which are supplying equipments; and
- (d) the number of applications received for import of communication equipments along with the names of applicant companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Sir, in terms of amendments issued in December, 2009 in the Licence Agreements of all telecom service providers for security related concerns, the Licensee(s) have to apply to the Licensor for security clearance, alongwith the details of equipment(s) as well as details of equipment(s) suppliers and manufacturers including Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), before placement of the final purchase order for procurement/upgradation of equipment/software for provisioning of telecommunications services under the licence and that it shall also include any such activity by the franchisee, agents or person of that licensees. In case, no response is received from the Licensor within thirty working days, it shall be presumed that there is no objection to procurement. However, some of the proposals from service providers for procurement of equipments/software have been turned down due to security concerns in procurement from foreign vendors.

(c) and (d) Almost all the licensed telecom service providers have been purchasing equipments/software for building their network according to their commercial and technical requirements from vendors of various countries. Total 1028 applications have been received from the service providers for procurement of equipments from foreign vendors. No comprehensive list of foreign companies supplying equipments in India is maintained.

#### **Induction of Director in BSNL**

1196. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to induct a Director to the Managing Committee in BSNL as part of workers participation in management in an effort to improve the functioning of the PSU;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for not giving such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### **Radiation due to cell towers in Metros**

1197. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai have been caught in horrifying radiation due to cell towers causing hazardous health problems; and

(b) if so, the measures that are being planned to avert the consequences of radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Sir, no case of health hazards has been reported to Government from cell tower radiation. A committee, setup under the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects, concluded that “overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of Radio Frequency exposure from Mobile Base Stations”. Various studies have also been conducted by World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Fact Sheet No. 304 of May 2006 of WHO states that “Considering the very low exposure 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, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued instructions to all the Access Service Providers to conform to the limits of radiation as prescribed by ICNIRP from time to time. Latest detailed instructions have been issued *vide* DoT letter No. 800-15/2010-VAS dated 8.4.2010.

#### **Problems of drop-calls**

1198. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the problem of drop-calls for mobile users in the country;

(b) whether there are very few towers for the expanded mobile phones in the country;

(c) the other technical reasons attributed to common problem of drop-calls particularly for BSNL users;

(d) whether this is the result of tampering of the technology of BSNL, leading to deficient technical performance of BSNL;

(e) whether efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate drop-calls problem recently; and

(f) the steps proposed to enhance technical reliability and quality of BSNL and MTNL mobile telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) Sir, the Call drop in mobile network can be caused by any or combination of the following reasons;