

**Erection of mobile towers in cantonment and border areas**

299. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allowed the mobile companies to erect mobile tower and lay optical fiber lines in cantonment and border areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any specific check to watch the activities of mobile companies in cantonment and border areas in the country;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the extent to which communication services has been improved in these areas as compared to other areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Ministry has framed a policy in September, 2008 for the provision of defence land to Communication operators who have been granted licence by the Department of Telecommunications to construct shared communication towers and laying of optical fibre cables to extend the communication network to Military Stations/Cantonments. Necessary security checks have been included in the above policy.

(e) Wherever shared communication towers are established as per the policy, the communication services improve.

**Permanent commission to women officers in defence services**

300. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court on March 12, 2010 had directed the Government to allow grant of permanent commission to women officers serving in Defence services; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Hon'ble High Court of Delhi *vide* order dated 12.3.2010 have passed certain directions regarding grant of permanent commission to the Short Service Commissioned women officers of the Air Force and of the Army. It has been decided to implement the order in respect of Indian Air Force. In case of Army, the matter is *sub-judice*.