

have given costly airwaves to private franchisee companies for free even through BSNL had paid entry fee of Rs. 8000 crore to Government;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details and the findings thereof and the action taken, if any, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) BSNL has paid Rs.8313.80 crore for Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum. To use this spectrum, BSNL has gone for franchisee model on revenue sharing basis. As per the provision of Expression of Interest (EOI) and agreement signed with the franchisee companies they are required to pay amortised value of spectrum/cost to BSNL on monthly basis.

(c) and (d) A direct enquiry is being conducted by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on "irregularities in allotting BSNL's Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) franchisee". Department of Telecommunications has also constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Member (Finance), Telecom Commission for detailed examination of the course of actions taken by BSNL while floating tender/EOI for short listing of bidders for WiMAX franchisee.

Health hazards from over-use of mobile phones

†507. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Empowered Committee of the Ministry has warned about the dangerous effect on health due to over use of mobile phones;
- (b) whether different experts have also expressed opinion at different times about the hazards due to their over use;
- (c) if so, the views of Government in this regard; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any step to protect the mobile phone users from the effects on their health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) DoT had constituted an Inter-ministerial committee consisting of officers from DoT, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health, Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Environment and Forest to examine the effect of EMF Radiation from base stations and mobile phones.

Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) in its report has indicated that most of the laboratory studies were unable to find a direct link between exposure to radio frequency radiation and health; and the scientific studies as yet have not been able to confirm a cause-and-effect relationship between radio frequency radiation and health. The effect of emission from cell phone towers is not known yet with certainty. Further, the committee has also suggested certain safeguards.

The IMC report has been placed on the DoT website for feedback from stakeholders. Based on the comments of stakeholders, DoT will take appropriate action in the matter.

(d) DoT has already adopted the Electro Magnetic Radiation norms prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Further, DoT, *vide* letter No. 800-15/2010-VAS dated 8th April 2010 has directed all Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees for compliance of the reference limits/ levels prescribed by ICNIRP by way of self certification of their Base Transmitting Station (BTS) for meeting the Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiations norms.

As per the directions issued *vide* letter dated 8th April, 2010, all existing BTSs should be ICNIRP guidelines compliant and all BTSs should be self certified as meeting the radiation norm. Self certification should be submitted to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DOT. All new BTS sites should start radiating only after self certificate has been submitted to relevant TERM Cells.

The TERM Cell will test up to 10% of new BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints shall also be tested by TERM Cell. The testing shall be done as per procedures prescribed by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) from time to time.

If a site fails to meet the EMR criterion, a penalty of Rs. 5 lakh shall be levied per BTS per service provider. Service providers must meet the criterion within one month of the report of TERM cell in such cases, after which the site will be shut down.

Accordingly, the self certifications are being submitted by the telecom service providers to respective TERM Cells. As on date, there are 5,53,326 Base Transmitting Stations (BTS) out of which the self certifications have been submitted by the service providers to the respective TERM Cells for 4,55,428 BTSs. TERM Cells have carried out the testing of radiation levels for 1197 BTSs and found that the radiations levels are in compliance of ICNIRP prescribed levels in all the tested BTSs.

For the mobile handsets, DoT, *vide* letter no. 18-10/2008-IP dated 01.09.2008, has notified for compliance of Mobile Handsets being manufactured in India as well as the handsets being imported to conform to ICNIRP prescribed Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limit of 2 W/kg localized for head and trunk in the frequency range of 10 MHz to 10 GHz. Mobile handsets manufacturers have been instructed to indicate the level of radiation on the product itself and to clearly communicate the potential danger of mobile phone radiation and exposure. To regulate indigenous as well as imported mobile phones, Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has been requested to frame standards for mobile phones under BIS Act, 1986.

Further, DoT has also decided to set-up a laboratory in the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) for testing of SAR value of mobile handsets imported/manufactured in India.

Ban on pre-paid mobile services in North Eastern States

508. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern States want ban on pre-paid mobile services due to concerns arising out of lack of proper verification of subscribers by the service providers or vendors; and

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Recovery charges for excess spectrum

509. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the basis of the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Government is planning to recover charges from telecom companies which were awarded excess spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of those companies; and

(c) the details of revenue likely to be accrued by the charges levied for additional and excess spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) The TRAI's recommendations received on 11th May, 2010 and 8th February, 2011 are being