

restrictions in terms of SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) value limiting to 2 W/Kg (averaged over 10g tissue) in the frequency range of 10 MHz to 10 GHz and have taken following steps for compliance of SAR value for mobile phones:

- (i) Indigenous manufacturers of mobile handsets have been instructed to comply with ICNIRP guidelines and furnish self-certificate.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) To regulate indigenous as well as imported mobile phone, Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has been requested to frame standards for all mobile phones under BIS Act 1986.

All major manufacturers publish the SAR value for mobile phones in the user manual and on its company website. No cases have been reported to DoT regarding mobile handsets having radiation more than the limits prescribed by ICNIRP.

#### **New Telecom Policy, 2011**

†2052. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating working on a New Telecom Policy, 2011;
- (b) if so, the proposed draft of this policy;
- (c) the reasons leading Government to contemplate formulation of new policy; and
- (d) by when the new policy is slated to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Telecommunications has constituted a Committee for making recommendations on formulation of National Telecom Policy-2011. Department of Telecommunications has received several inputs from a

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

wide cross section of the industry, trade associations, academia and the citizens. Since formulating the New Telecom Policy-1999, there have been many major changes in the telecom sector, which necessitate formulation of a new Telecom Policy.

(d) The new policy would be implemented after it is duly approved.

**Internet connectivity in rural areas**

†2053. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in the rural areas of the country around 85 per cent population is deprived of internet facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the target fixed by the Central Government to make rural areas of the country cent per cent internet equipped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has 28,776 Rural Exchanges. All the Rural Exchanges are having internet facility. Circle wise details is given at Statement-I (*See below*). As on 30.6.2011, 1,69,201 out of 6,01,625 villages are covered through Broadband internet. Circle wise details is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

Moreover Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) is also working on Rural Wireline Broadband Schemes to provide access to internet facility in rural areas of the country. Under this scheme, as of June 2011, a total of 2,88,454 broadband connections have been provided.

(d) Under Bharat Nirman, the Government envisages to cover all the 2,50,000 village panchayats with broadband by 2012. A total of 133712 Panchayat villages have been covered with broadband facility as of June 2011.

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