

1	2
Maharashtra	61
Punjab	40
Tamil Nadu	99
Uttar Pradesh	71
GRAND TOTAL:	500

Impact of cellular towers in residential areas

2707. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cellular towers are set up in residential areas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the radiation emitting from the cellular towers has adverse impact on environment and human health;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether there are any criteria or rules to set up cellular towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir, there is no bar for installation of mobile towers in residential areas.

(b) and (c) Government of India has adopted the basic restriction and limiting reference levels of Electromagnetic radiation from Mobile towers prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). *Vide* letter No. 800-15/2010-VAS dated 8th April, 2010, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed all the 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 EMF radiations norms.

World Health Organization in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May, 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded 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 caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

However, based on media reports and growing concern about the radiation from mobile towers, 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 Environment and Forest on 24.08.2010 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 suggested certain safeguards such as adoption of Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) level for mobile handsets limited to 1.6 Watt/kg. in place of present level of 2 Watt/kg. and lowering the BTS Radio Frequency (RF) exposure limits to 1/10th of the existing level. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted for implementation.

(d) Mobile Towers are being installed by the Telecom Service Providers and Infrastructure Providers Category-I based on their Radio Frequency Network Planning and after obtaining sitting clearances from Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). WPC issues sitting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. The sitting clearance is issued without prejudice to applicable bylaws, rules and regulation of local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of towers, Service providers are required to obtain necessary clearances from concerned Municipal Authorities/local bodies, wherever required.

Supreme Court notice to Government on 2G spectrum licences

2708. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Central Government on the plea seeking cancellation of 2G spectrum licences allocated during the tenure of his predecessor; and

(b) the number of companies who got 2G spectrum licences allocated during that tenure and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir, Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued notices to the Government for cancellation of 2G spectrum licences in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 423 of 2010 in the matter of Centre for PIL and Ors. *Vs.* Union of India and in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10 of 2011 in the matter of Dr. Subramanian Swamy *Vs.* Union of India and Ors.