

(d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers. Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the BTS radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012.

(e) World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May, 2006 on Electro-magnetic Fields 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.

**Security threat from foreign company manufactured
communication equipments**

†1618. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security threats have come to light due to the use of many foreign company manufactured equipments in the communication operation system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any concrete action in this regard so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, no specific case has arisen due to foreign company manufactured equipments in the communications operation system in the country. However, it is a known fact that in the modern age, telecom equipment and networks used for provisioning of telecom services are prone to spyware/malwares etc., emanating from the equipment itself or embedded software contained in it or from antisocial or antinational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

individuals or agencies. Such potential threats exist in the network, irrespective of the sources/vendors.

(c) and (d) To address the security concerns related to Telecom & Telecom Network, comprehensive guidelines in the form of license Amendment have been issued to Telecom Service Providers on 31.05.2011 in Access Service licenses and on 3rd June' 2011 for other licenses.

Vide these amendments, it is mandated that Telecom Service Providers are responsible for the security of their network. It is also mandated that only those network elements shall be inducted into their Telecom Network, which have been tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards e.g. IT and IT related elements against ISO/IEC 15408 standards, for Information Security Management System against ISO 27000 series Standards, Telecom and Telecom related elements against 3GP, 3GPP2 security standards etc. from any International agency/labs of the standards e.g. Common Criteria Labs in case of ISO/IEC 15408 standards until 31st March, 2013. From, 1st April, 2013 the certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India. The copies of test results and test certificates shall be kept by the licensee for a period of 10 years from the date of procurement of equipment, which can be audited/demanded any time during this span, by the licensor.

Thus, a framework has already been mandated to deal with potential threats by the induction of foreign company manufactured equipment or from any other source. So far, no specific issue has arisen due to equipment of any specific country. However, as and when any specific issue arises or a report is received, the regime can be further tightened for the equipments coming from a specific country or source or group of countries.

Government continues to examine all new developments related to Telecom Security and regularly reviews the security arrangement in this regard in the light of such developments.

In order to increase the share of telecom equipment manufactured in the country, based on Notification of Department of Electronics & IT *vide* NO. 8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10th February, 2012, Department of Telecommunications has already issued the Notification *vide* No. 18-0712010 dated 5th October' 2012 regarding domestic telecom equipment for Government procurement and Government projects.