

Stricter radiation norms for mobile towers

2383. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced stricter radiation norms for mobile towers to reduce emission to one-tenth of the present level and failure would attract penalties of ₹ 5 lakh per tower;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has given any deadline to cell phone makers to comply with the new norms; 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) In respect of Base Transmitting Station (BTS), norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

Self-certification regarding compliance of radiation norms is submitted by the Telecom Service Providers to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). All new BTS sites start radiating only after self-certificate is submitted to relevant TERM Cells. The TERM Cell tests upto 10% of BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also be tested by TERM Cell.

If a site fails to meet the prescribed radiation criterion, there is a provision of levying a penalty of Rs. 5 lakh per BTS per service provider.

(c) and (d) In respect of Mobile Handsets, the following directions have been issued by DoT regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) values:

- (i) SAR level for mobile handsets is limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, average over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.
- (ii) All the new design of mobile handsets shall comply with the SAR value

of 1.6 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 1 gram tissue with effect from 1st September, 2012.

- (iii) However, the mobile handsets with existing designs, which are compliant with 2.0 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 10 gram tissue, may continue to co-exist upto 31st August, 2013.
- (iv) From 1st September, 2013, only the mobile handsets with revised SAR value of 1.6 Watt/Kg are permitted to be manufactured or imported in India for domestic market.

Relief for BSNL and MTNL from onetime fee for spectrum

2384. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have written to the Ministry for providing them relief from the one-time fee on telecom operators holding spectrum beyond the cap fixed by the regulator; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the stand of Government on the relief to MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has received requests from BSNL and MTNL for providing them relief from one time fee on spectrum beyond the cap fixed by the Government. The matter was placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on "vacation of spectrum and auction of 3G spectrum and to look into the grant of license and allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 service areas". The EGoM, in its meeting held on 18.10.2012, has directed that the proposal for financial support to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in this matter be placed before the Cabinet.

Mobile services for remote rural areas of Uttarakhand

†2385. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.