

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) the banking, financial services and insurance industry is the 4th largest industry vertical for IT services in India. Total IT spending in this vertical was Rs. 14,700 Crores in FY 2010-11. New forms of banking and push on financial inclusion are key drivers for growing spend in this segment.

(b) Such data is not maintained.

(c) to (e) As per the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, banks are governed by their Board driven policies with regards to their operational matters and are expected to take steps to cope with future regulatory matters and consumer driven online and mobile services.

Investigation in 2G Spectrum allocation

830. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any case to hamper the investigation process of 2G spectrum allocation;

(b) whether Supreme Court has given any instructions regarding this;

(c) if so, the details of these instructions; and

(d) by when Government intends to complete the investigation of allegations in 2G allotment case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) There is no hampering in the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of cases relating to 2G Spectrum allocation.

(b) and (c) Supreme Court of India has been monitoring the investigation of 2G Spectrum cases vide Civil Appeal No. 10660 of 2010 (earlier in SLP Civil No. 24873 of 2010). Supreme Court has passed various orders in this case, including orders dated 16.03.2011 and 11.04.2011, for not interfering with investigation or impeding the trial.

(d) While the investigation has been taken up expeditiously in 2G Spectrum cases, no specific time frame can be laid down for completion of investigation.

Radiation from mobile towers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that environment in the country is getting polluted due to the electro-magnetic radiation emanating from mobile towers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to make efforts on priority basis to curb this environmental pollution;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether Government Department empowered for preventing environmental pollution have been advised not to interfere in this matter; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) Sir, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic 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.

WHO has recommended that '*National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded.*' WHO has referred to the International Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing" Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.