

(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.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Base Transmitting Station (BTS) radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012. The Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT test upto 10% of BTS sites randomly. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

(e) and (f) DoT is not interfering with the empowered Department in the matter of prevention of environmental pollution. As the issues relating to the Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) radiation from mobile towers is being dealt by DoT, it has been indicated to Ministry of Environment and Forest that issue of directions on the same subject by different Department/Ministry may have complications and difficulties.

Information technology industry

†832. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information technology industrial institutes of the country are capable of operating successfully in the market, facing international competition;

(b) if so, Government's response thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India ranks eighth among ten such countries in the world which pay minimum wages to the employees of such companies;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether the averages of dividends of these companies have been assessed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian IT-ITES industry has exhibited resilience in the face of growing competition and have grown by 16.3% in FY 2011-12 and is expected to exhibit double digit growth in FY 2012-13.

(c) to (f) No such data is maintained.

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