

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”.

Further, Department of Science and Technology (DST) has constituted a committee on 01.10.2012, under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Former Director General (ICMR), having representative from IIT Chennai, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Environment and Forest, ICMR and DST to examine the harmful effects from Cell towers on the population living in the vicinity and for developing the frame of reference for calling out request for proposals for scientific assessment of health hazards and adverse impact on ecology.

(d) and (e) Based on the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Committee, Department of Telecommunications, as a precautionary measure, has modified the Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation Standards in India and reduced it to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

Most of the countries are following the radiation limits prescribed by the ICNIRP. However, few countries including India have adopted the limits lower than that of the ICNIRP.

Delay in delivery of mail

†1281. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which normal mails sent through post offices take upto a month's time to reach their destination;

(b) whether this delay is being caused due to shortage of staff or because of the sacks containing mails not reaching in time;

(c) if there is no dearth of staff then the reasons for which mails are not being delivered to recipients in time;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether there is an apprehension that people might lose their faith in Government machinery if they don't get their important mails through post offices in time; and

(e) if so, details of the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) It does not take a month to deliver ordinary mail. The norms for delivery of ordinary mail are 2 days for local (area within municipal limits) and between metro cities (area within municipal limits); and 2 to 6 days for "Rest of India." A majority of articles are delivered within prescribed norms.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A majority of mail gets delivered within prescribed delivery norms. However, occasional delays occur due to the following reasons:—

(i) Late running or cancellation of trains/flights/buses used for carriage of mail;

(ii) Incomplete address written on the article;

(iii) Change of address without intimation to the post office concerned;

(iv) Non-use of PIN Code; and

(v) Mis-sending of mail.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Bringing improvement in the quality of mail delivery is a continuous activity and measures are taken from time to time to improve mail operations. The operational network has been restructured and the processes have been streamlined. An online monitoring system has been developed for Speed Post and Registered Post. Track and trace facility has been introduced for Registered mail.

Imposition of fine for violation of TRAI's guidelines

1282. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has imposed fine on telecom service providers for violation of TRAI's guidelines;