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Nobody is investigating the health effects of RF radiation.	The World Health Organization, many national & international organizations and independent expert groups are coordinating to investigate health effects of RF radiation.

**Misuse of freedom of expression on social networking sites**

40. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a process to resolve the problems arising out of the freedom of expression in the IT Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is of the view that social networking has turned into a major set-back in the present networking scenario; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by Government to curb the misuse of freedom of expression in the IT Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) The provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 protect the democratic processes and are in line with the freedom of speech and expression and citizen's rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The provisions are also based on the international best practices and similar provisions in the legislation of other countries.

The new medium of Internet and social media are expanding and the balance required between rights and obligations of different stakeholders is going to revolve over a period of time. In such a technology advancement arena, there could be a need for consultation on the emerging issues, time and again, to refine understanding on such issues.

(c) The web and social media has emerged as one of the important public communication channels today. It brings social groups together in one virtual place and enables interaction in real time thereby offering a great advantage in accessing and posting the information and expressing the views in day-to-day life. It also has the potential to be misused for variety of purposes.

(d) The Government has held discussions with stakeholders including the Industry Associations, intermediaries and users to address the issue of proper implementation of the provisions of the Act. It has been agreed to provide necessary guidelines to prevent misinterpretation of the provisions of the Act and to minimize the unintended consequences. Government has issued an Advisory to all the State Governments and Union Territories to ensure citizen's right to freedom of speech and expression and proper implementation of provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

**Study on radiation from mobile towers and cell phones**

41. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:  
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:  
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:  
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent study report, Bio Initiative 2012, exposure to radiation from mobile towers and cell phones is causing serious health hazards including cancer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether existing guidelines and public safety limits regarding safeguards from mobile tower radiation and cell phone radiation are not adequate; and
- (d) if so, the fresh steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, Bio-initiative 2012 report has summarized about 1800 new studies under twenty four technical chapters. Overall, these new studies reported abnormal gene transcription; genotoxicity and single and double strand DNA damage; stress proteins because of the fractal RF-antenna like nature of DNA; chromatin condensation and loss of DNA repair capacity in human stem cells; reduction in free radical scavengers – particularly melatonin; neurotoxicity in humans and animals; carcinogenicity in humans; serious impacts on human and animal sperm morphology and function; effects on the fetus, neonate and offspring; effects on brain and cranial bone development in the offspring of animals that are exposed to cell phone radiation