

(b) whether Government is aware of Indian firms trading such data with foreign agencies which are claimed to be personal and confidential; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government is aware of the media reports regarding electronic surveillance programme deployed by the United States Agencies to capture internet and telephony data from foreign countries, including India. As per the media reports, the electronics surveillance programme PRISM was specifically designed to eavesdrop on Internet traffic, including access to websites, emails, chats, voice and video calls and Social Media activity. Further, U.S. agencies used a number of methods to gather intelligence including intercepting communication on fibre cables and infrastructure, collecting information from servers of global Internet Service Providers.

(b) and (c) As per the Media reports, global firms AT&T, VeriSign, Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco, IBM and Intel are involved in sharing data with foreign agencies. However, no Indian firm has been named in the media reports and no specific official information from any Government Agency over the issue has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Resistance from public regarding erection of mobile towers

3282. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers erected by Government/Government companies in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government/companies have come across resistance for erecting such towers on grounds of environment pollution or other wise;

(c) the types of objections raised by members of public;

(d) the specific objections raised regarding towers erected or proposed to be erected in the State of Goa; and

(e) the stand taken by Government/Government companies in this regard as regards allaying the fears of members of public?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, the telecom licenses are issued Licensed Service Area (LSA)-wise and accordingly the information is maintained

LSA-wise. Number of mobile base transceiver station (BTS) erected by Government companies *i.e.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the last two years,, Licensed Service Area-wise is provided in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Following types of objections/resistance for erecting mobile towers have been raised by public:

- (i) Issues related with ill-effect/ health impact due to radiations from mobile towers.
- (ii) Issues related to Diesel Generator (DG) sets.
- (iii) Issues related to agreement with owner.

(d) In the State of Goa the public concern raised has been specific to health impact due to radiations from mobile towers.

(e) 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 Radio Frequency (RF) Signals from base stations and wireless networks cause 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 base stations (mobile phone towers)”.

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 Telecommunication (DoT) has already prescribed stricter precautionary limits for Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation from mobile tower. The present prescribed limits for EMF radiations from Base Station in India are one-tenth (1/10th) of internationally prescribed limits of ICNIRP.

Further, in a Writ Petition filed in Hon’ble High Court Allahabad, Lucknow bench, the Hon’ble Court *vide* its order dated 10.01.2012 constituted a committee including Members from IITs Kharagpur, Kanpur, Delhi, Roorkee, Bombay and from other scientific institutions of the country including Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi. The Committee submitted its Report on 17.01.2014. After due consideration of the human health concerns on account of EMF

radiation being raised in public and the Report of the Committee, the Government has decided in February, 2014 that the present prescribed precautionary EMF safe exposure limits are adequate and need no further change at this stage.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed EMF radiation limits from mobile tower in India, self-certificates are required to be submitted by telecom service providers as per the guidelines issued by DoT. To cross check these, audit of base transceiver station (BTS) sites is carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. This is regularly done by TERM units for the purpose of monitoring that the EMF radiation exposure is within prescribed norms. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken by imposing a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site as per the prescribed procedure.

Further, to allay the fears of public, DoT has issued "Precautionary guidelines for the mobile users". DoT has also published advertisements in National and Regional Newspapers for creating awareness among public for ensuring safety from EMF radiations emitted from Mobile Towers and handsets. For the information of the general public, a hand book on "Mobile Communication - Radio Waves & Safety" has also been issued.

Statement

Number of Mobile Base Transceiver Station (BTS) erected by BSNL and MTNL in the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of Licensed Service Area	Total BTS erected during last 2 years by BSNL and MTNL
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2227
2.	Assam	113
3.	Bihar and Jharkhand	262
4.	Delhi (MTNL)	18
5.	Gujarat	293
6.	Haryana	355
7.	Himachal Pradesh	120
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	75
9.	Karnataka	547

1	2	3
10.	Kerala	1017
11.	Kolkata Telecom District	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	201
13.	Maharashtra and Goa	187
14.	Mumbai (MTNL)	149
15.	North East	135
16.	Odisha	74
17.	Punjab	454
18.	Rajasthan	313
19.	Tamil Nadu including Chennai Telecom District	755
20.	Uttar Pradesh East	392
21.	Uttar Pradesh West	208
22.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	50

Long distance calls at local call rates

3283. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce the scheme of long distance calls at the rate of local calls;
- (b) if so, when was the decision taken;
- (c) whether the scheme has come into force;
- (d) the advantages and disadvantages, if any, of the scheme;
- (e) whether private service providers are expected to fall in line; and
- (f) what are their reaction as of now and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per the provision of