

facility of form 'C' to Set Top Boxes, which is likely to reduce their prices as this would result into applicability of 2% of Central Sales Taxes on interstate sales and make them more competitive *vis-a-vis* imported Set Top Boxes.

Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme provides financial assistance for creating world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing units and Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) provides financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the manufacturing of electronics products (including telecom).

Government has approved setting up of two semiconductor wafer fabrication (FAB) manufacturing facilities in India which would create the necessary ecosystem for design and manufacturing of telecom equipments.

Foreign direct investment up to 100% is allowed in manufacturing of telecom products under the automatic route.

Further, Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI)-and industry led autonomous "not for profit" Standards Development Organization (SDO) for Telecom products and services has been set up for the development of standards for Telecom especially suited to Indian environment and incorporation of the same in the International standards. This SDO for Telecom will help Indian companies to develop standards for telecom products and services to meet Indian specific environment, which is expected to promote indigenous R&D and manufacturing.

#### **Certificate of authenticity by global GSM handset makers**

1894. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the global GSM handset makers to provide a certificate of authenticity to ensure that mobile phones with dubious International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers do not enter the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move is aimed at checking circulation of unauthorised GSM phones, which is affecting handset makers such as Samsung, Sony, Nokia and Black Berry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a notification No. 14/2009-2014 dated 14th October, 2009 that import of 'Mobile Handsets' classified under ITC (HS) code '8517' without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) Number or with all zeroes IMEI is prohibited with immediate effect. In the same notification, import of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) mobile phones (classified under ITC (HS) '8517' without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) or with all zeroes as ESN/MEID is prohibited with immediate effect.

Further, to check the circulation of unauthorized Global System for Mobile (GSM) phones, the instructions have been issued by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) *vide* letter dated 27.11.2009 directing all the telecom service providers that calls from mobile handsets with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of GSM Association or without IMEI or all 'Zero' as IMEI should not be processed and must be rejected with effect from 30.11.2009.

#### **Radiation emitted from mobile towers**

†1895. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the radiation emitting from the mobile towers installed on the homes/buildings adversely affect human body, and it is likely to cause various diseases, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any report regarding above mobile towers or the standards adopted in other countries in this regard so that it may not cause any adverse effect on human body, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms set by Government for mobile towers in view of protection of health of human beings, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.