

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)”. Further, WHO has referred to approximately 25,000 studies, conducted around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded: “current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to EMF radiation”.

(b) and (c) 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) for Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation limits. Many countries have adopted EMF radiation limits prescribed by ICNIRP. However, Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has prescribed stricter precautionary limits for EMF radiation from mobile tower which is one-tenth (1/10th) of the limits prescribed internationally by ICNIRP.

The present norms for exposure limits for the radio frequency field (Base Station Emission) in India are placed below-

Frequency Range	E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter (V/m))	H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter (A/m))	Power Density (Watt/Sq. Meter (W/Sq.m))
400 MHz to 2000 MHz	$0.434f^{1/2}$	$0.0011f^{1/2}$	$f/2000$
2GHz to 300GHz	19.29	0.05	1

[f = frequency in Mega Hertz (MHz)]

### Software Technology Parks

1896. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of physical and financial targets fixed and achieved by the Software Technology Parks in the country during the current plan so far;

(b) whether there has been under performance in this regard;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to achieve the targets set?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) A total of 53 Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centres are currently operational in the country. As per policy for setting up a new STPI centre, on receipt of a proposal from the State Government, STPI jointly with the State Government concerned conducts a feasibility study to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal. Since the initiative for setting up a STPI centre lies with the State Government, it is not feasible for STPI to set targets for setting up of new STPI centres.

(b) to (d) As per reports, the STPI Centres are performing satisfactorily. The main objective of STPI is to promote IT-ITeS exports from the country. The services rendered by STPI Centres include statutory services to various STP units as per the Foreign Trade Policy, Datacom Services and the incubation facilities. The Centres are rendering aforesaid services to their clients.

#### **Health hazards from mobile towers/phones**

1897. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that varying reports are coming out regarding health hazards of radiation from mobile towers and mobile phones;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any scientific study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 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)”.