

- (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)”.

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 Science (AIIMS) Delhi. The committee submitted its Report on 17-01-2014. The committee in its report has observed that: "as regards the possible health hazards of EMF radiation from mobile phones, WHO has concluded in its Fact Sheet No. 193, year 2011 that a large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk". Further, "to date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use. Further studies are ongoing in different parts of the world to assess possible health effects of mobile phone exposure".

(b) to (d) 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".

In India, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has taken initiative to study possible impact of EMF radiation exposure from mobile towers and handsets in the non-ionizing band (300MHZ to 3 GHZ) on life. *i.e.* Humans, Living Organisms, Flora & Fauna and Environment. SERB has short listed 79 proposals for carrying out scientific studies.

Amendment in TRAI Act

1898. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to revive investor confidence in the telecom sector and make it more viable given that the sector has suffered greatly on account of poor Regulatory Orders and excessive litigation;

(b) whether Government would consider reviewing and amending the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act to address the regulatory inadequacies and impediments in the effective discharge of TRAI's functions;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when this is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?