

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	4.61	7.83	1.68	6.47	6.29	14.30
Haryana	2.31	2.35	0.74	2.05	3.05	4.40
Himachal Pradesh	1.13	0.70	0.63	0.38	1.77	1.08
Jammu and Kashmir	1.28	1.01	0.50	0.57	1.78	1.58
Karnataka	3.92	7.67	1.74	8.38	5.67	16.05
Kerala	3.38	3.46	3.08	4.42	6.46	7.88
Kolkata	0.20	4.84	0.27	3.34	0.47	8.18
Madhya Pradesh	5.57	7.15	0.68	5.50	6.26	12.65
Maharashtra	7.19	9.16	2.56	8.80	9.74	17.97
Mumbai	0.16	7.06	0.12	7.94	0.27	15.01
North East	1.57	1.22	0.44	0.61	2.01	1.83
Odisha	3.16	3.11	0.38	1.14	3.54	4.25
Punjab	4.03	4.82	0.72	3.50	4.75	8.31
Rajasthan	5.49	6.35	1.66	3.20	7.15	9.55
Tamil Nadu	4.24	10.61	2.87	9.15	7.11	19.76
UP (East)	9.11	7.45	1.22	2.95	10.34	10.40
UP (West)	4.88	5.73	0.97	3.29	5.86	9.02
West Bengal	5.60	3.27	1.52	1.90	7.12	5.17
TOTAL	84.31	119.76	27.20	93.68	111.51	213.44
	204.07		120.88		324.95	

Regulation of installation of mobile towers

375. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking necessary steps to regulate the illegal and unregulated installation of mobile towers in residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that mobile towers have harmful and fatal effect on health; and

(d) if so, the specific precautionary measures being taken to reduce the effect of harmful Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation on health?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are established by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/Infrastructure Providers (IPs) at suitable locations, as per their Radio Frequency (RF) Network Planning for proper coverage of the area and as per their service requirement to fulfil the license conditions. Prior to installation of mobile towers, the TSPs have to obtain siting clearance from Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) of DoT for every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. However, siting clearances of DoT are issued without prejudice to other applicable by-laws, rules and regulations of local bodies such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. TSPs have also to obtain necessary right of way related clearances from concerned local authorities before installation of tower. Various local bodies/State Governments have formulated their own policy regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers. DoT, has issued advisory guidelines to State Governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines to State Governments do not place any restriction on installation of mobile BTSs in residential areas. As per terms and conditions of access service licenses, the licensee is required to ensure that the Telecommunication installation carried out by it should not become a safety hazard and is not in contravention of any statute, rule or regulation and public policy.

(c) and (d) In the area of biological effects of non-ionizing radiation, World Health Organization (WHO) has referred approximately 25,000 articles that have been published over the past 30 years and based on in-depth review of the scientific literature, WHO has concluded that "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields". Several High Courts in the country have given judgements whereby they have dismissed petitions, where the mobile tower installations were challenged on grounds of ill health effects of EMF radiations.

Further, DoT has laid down stricter precautionary norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions), which is ten times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiations Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by WHO. Keeping the precautionary EMF safe exposure limits for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) as 1/10th of the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP for all areas in India, eliminates the need for fixing lower limits for specific areas like schools, hospitals, residential premises, children playgrounds.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed stricter precautionary norms of EMF radiation from mobile towers, the extensive audit of self-certificates being

submitted by TSPs and BTSs sites is carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. All new BTS sites starts radiating commercially only after self certificate has been submitted to corresponding TERM Cells. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site, if the violation persists. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cells.

**Clarifications from TRAI on compensating
subscribers for call drops**

376. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecos have sought clarifications from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding compensating subscribers for call drops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that operators want to know the details of implementation, refund mechanism, who will get penalized, time-frame required and who will fund the capital expenditure; and

(d) if so, the clarifications made to them by TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The telecommunication service providers through their Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) requested TRAI on 27th October, 2015 to withdraw the Telecom Consumers Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 citing following reasons:

- (i) Wireless network cannot be designed for zero call drops;
- (ii) Inherent flawed assumptions and impractical regulation;
- (iii) Will increase disputes consumer mistrust and costs;
- (iv) Service providers are worst affected by call drops;
- (v) No basis for compensations; and
- (vi) Regulation unprecedented in other service industry.

TRAI responded to AUSPI and COAI on 4th November, 2015 and informed that extensive consultations were held with the stakeholders including an open house discussion in New Delhi on measures to provide relief to the consumers in the event