

social sector payments under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The Department of Posts has recently got in-principle approval for setting up of payments bank which will promote financial inclusion in every corner of the country and provide simple financial products like current and savings accounts, payments and remittances, and facilitate easy access to third party financial products such as credits, insurance, mutual fund, pensions etc.

Norms for radiations from mobile towers

604. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced more norms for radiations from mobile phone towers and hefty penalty for non-compliance of electro-magnetic field standards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the new norms have been implemented and the achievements made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Madam, Government of India adopted the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines in the year 2008 for limiting reference levels of Electromagnetic radiation from Mobile towers. Further, based on the recommendations by an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), these norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) have been made 10 times more stringent than the existing limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO). The new norms for radiation from mobile phone towers have been implemented throughout India with effect from 01.09.2012. Presently the limits for EMF radiations from Base Station in India are as below:-

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

(f = frequency in MHz)

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.

As on 31.05.2016, a total of 3,02,350 number of BTSs have been tested by various TERM Cells to cross-check EMF radiation exposure norms, out of which a total of 192 BTSs have been found non-compliant to EMF radiation norms. A total penalty of Rupees 10,80,34,274/- have been imposed on these BTSs.

Introducing philately as a subject in secondary level curriculum

605. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has mooted a proposal for inclusion of Philately in curriculum of lower secondary level to create awareness as a hobby and boost sale of stamps among younger generation;

(b) whether, in view of rapid advancement of communication systems, both through telecom and internet, the present postal transmission and delivery system is fast becoming obsolete and out of sync, as borne out by closure of telegram services long back; and

(c) whether Ministry would abandon above proposal and concentrate on sprucing up services under Speed Post meant to carry commercial promotional material and documents by surface/air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir. The Department of Posts has requested the Ministry of Human Resource Development for inclusion of a chapter on the philately in the curriculum for school children who are studying in classes V to VII to promote philately and to create awareness among younger generation.

(b) No, Sir. The present postal transmission and delivery system is very much relevant and is constantly adapting to the changing mail profile in the country. While the internet may have impacted personal mail under the letter mail category to some extent, Speed Post and Registered Post traffic has been steadily growing. In addition to this, the boom in e-commerce has also resulted in an increase in the traffic of products such as Express Parcel Post, Registered Parcel, Insured Parcel, Value Payable Parcel and Unregistered Parcel.

(c) No, Sir. The Department of Posts reviews its services and products from time to time in view of the changing market scenario, customer needs, industry benchmarks etc, and takes steps to modify service features accordingly to improve the postal services including Speed Post, Express Parcel, Business Parcel, Logistics Post, e-Post etc.