

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014
COVERAGE CAPACITY OF MOBILE TOWERS
Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the average network coverage capacity of mobile towers installed by the service providers including the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in urban and rural areas separately;
- (b) the guidelines/norms followed by the service providers while selling SIM cards in a telecom circle in this regard;
- (c) whether there are reports of poor mobile services due to excessive sale of SIM cards and for other reasons in various parts of the country, including tribal areas of Nandurbar district of Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the service providers to address the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 379 FOR 4 AUGUST, 2014 REGARDING `COVERAGE CAPACITY OF MOBILE TOWERS`

- (a) As per information received from various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), the average network coverage capacity of mobile towers in urban areas varies from radial distance of 0.5 KM to 1.5 KM whereas in rural areas the coverage may be upto a radial distance of 5.0Kms.
- (b) It has been reported by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) that they are following guidelines issued by Department of Telecommunication while selling SIM cards in a telecom circle. A copy of the instructions dated 9th August, 2012 issued by the Department is attached as Appendix-I.
- (c)&(d) It has been reported by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) that there are no reports of poor mobile services due to excessive sale of SIM cards and for any other reasons in various parts of the country: including tribal areas of Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. The TSPs have reported that they are meeting, in general, the Quality of Services benchmarks prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Some TSPs have also reported that Quality of Service (QoS) improvement is a continuous process and measures like addition of Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTSs), capacity augmentation and upgradation, optimization of radio network are routinely under taken.