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Title: Need to take effective measures to curb the ill-effects of radiation from cellular telephone towers in the country.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very important matter which I raise under Rule 377 and I specially draw the attention of the Urban Development Minister and also the Minister of Planning to look into this aspect.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently pointed out the ill-effects of radiations from cell towers. ICMR has stated that epidemiological studies made for assessing health effects of mobile phone based stations have shown adverse neurobehavioural symptoms, increased incidents of cancer in persons living for several years within 400 meters from base stations and the existing public safety limits as specified by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection is inadequate to protect public health.

Many countries have specified their own radiation level. The bone density and the fat content of an Indian is much low as compared to European countries and hence the level of susceptibility of an average Indian is different.

When the standard adopted in USA is most stringent and the permissible Specific Absorption Rate levels at or below 1.6 w/kg, standard adopted in India is 2 w/kg.

I would urge upon the Government to immediately take up this issue of radiation from cell towers and adopt the USA standards more stringently.