Dear Dr. Appaswamy,

At the outset I congratulate you and your team from the Heart Care Foundation for successfully organizing 22nd Perfect Health Mela during 4th to 8th November 2015. Your efforts to spread the message of preventive health care are quite praise-worthy. I thank you for inviting me for the inaugural and making MTNL your partner in this noble cause.

Please recall the discussions held before and during the event in regards to the effects of Electro Magnetic radiations from Mobile Towers. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) is fully conscious of the public health concerns and has issued appropriate instructions to Telecom Service Providers to maintain the EM radiation levels, much below the levels at which they are of any concern to humans or the livestock.

You may be aware that the World Health Organization has conducted many studies on the effects of Mobile towers on human health and maintained that "Studies to date provide no indication that environmental exposure to RF fields, such as from base stations, increases the risk of cancer or any other disease." In fact the limits prescribed by DOT for both Mobile Base Stations, as well as Mobile Handset are almost 10 times more stringent than the permissible radiation limits prescribed by the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). I am enclosing a brief note on ‘EMF Radiation from Cellphone Tower’ for your ready reference please.

As per the extent instructions and guidelines, Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) cell of DOT continuously monitor the radiation

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1 World Health Organization, FAQs on Human health and risks. [http://www.who.int/features/qa/30/en/](http://www.who.int/features/qa/30/en/)
levels maintained by various telecom service providers and enforces stringent penalties that can be up to Rs. 10 lakh on each violation. The matter has also been considered by various High courts and in all the cases, Hon’ble courts have observed satisfaction on the adequacy of the steps taken by DOT in regards to monitoring and enforcement of EMF radiations.

However, as some of your colleagues suggested, there are serious reservations among professionals from medical fraternity about the likely effects of EMF radiations from Mobile Towers or Mobile Usage. Therefore I propose to form a joint team of Medical Professionals from your organization and telecom experts from TERM cell, New Delhi to conduct a joint study by measuring and testing EM radiation levels in various parts of Delhi, with special focus on medical centers/ hospitals and educational institutions.

Please nominate a team of medical experts from Indian Medical Association and contact Deputy Director General, Term Cell, Nehru Place, New Delhi (Tel. No. 26464080) for further action in this regards.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Encl.: As above.

Yours sincerely,

( N. K. Yadav )

Dr. K.K. Aggarwal,
E-215, East of Kailash,
New Delhi- 110065

Copy to Secretary, DOT: For kind information please.
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD (EMF) RADIATION FROM CELLPHONE TOWERS

Telecom towers are critical installations on which the backbone of mobile communication rests. These are essential for realizing the vision of inclusive growth. Public at large has been immensely benefitted by the developments in mobile communications, however certain public concerns have been raised on health effects of EMF radiations from mobile towers.

World Health Organization (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 low level electromagnetic fields”. Since the effects on human beings are to be studied over a long period of time, further studies are going on around the world. In September 2013, WHO in online question and answers have mentioned that “Studies to date provide no indication that environmental exposure to RF fields, such as from base stations, increases the risk of cancer or any other disease.” Further, in its latest update on the factsheet No. 193 in October 2014, WHO has maintained that “a large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use.”

Government of India has adopted the limits for basic restriction and limiting reference levels of Electromagnetic radiation from Mobile towers which are ten times more stringent than the limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines and recommended by WHO. The present prescribed norms for the EMF radiation limits for antennae (Base Station) EMF Emissions for general public exposure are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency in MHz</th>
<th>Power Density Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>0.45 watt/m^2 Sq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>0.9 watt/m^2 Sq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2100 and above</td>
<td>1.0 watt/m^2 Sq.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site in case violation persists.

Based on the limits provided by ICNIRP, DOT has also notified in 2008 for compliance of Mobile Handsets being manufactured in India as well as the handsets being imported to conform to SAR limit of 2 W/kg (averaged over a mass of 10 gm tissue). Based on the recommendations of Inter Ministerial Committee, these limits have been further revised from 2 watt per Kg averaged over a mass of 10 gram human tissue to 1.6 Watt per Kg averaged over a mass of 01 gram human tissue.

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 who submitted its Report on 17-01-2014. The Committee observed that the Department of Telecom has taken adequate steps to impose stricter precautionary limits for EMF radiation from mobile towers as well as from mobile handset/phones. After due consideration of