

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 502
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

PENALTY IMPOSED ON TELECOM COMPANIES

**502. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:
SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the apex court has allowed the Union Government to recover Rs.92,000 crore from telecom companies as licence fee and penalty along with interest based on revenue sharing and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether this verdict is expected to put more pressure on the telecom sector which is already under stress and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether telecom companies have urged the Government to provide them a bail-out package and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any committee of Secretaries in this regard and is considering a bail-out package and if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the said committee in the aforesaid matter;
- (e) whether telecom companies owe approximately Rs.46,300 crore as spectrum usage charges to the Government and if so, the details thereof, telecom companies-wise; and
- (f) whether the Government is planning to recover the aforesaid charges from these companies and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in CIVIL APPEAL NOS. 6328 - 6399 OF 2015 [UNION OF INDIA VERSUS ASSOCIATION OF UNIFIED TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS OF INDIA ETC.ETC.] pronounced its judgment dated 24.10.2019 wherein the appeals filed by the Department of Telecom were upheld and the appeals filed by the TSPs were dismissed. The Supreme Court has upheld the definition of the Gross Revenue and Adjusted Gross Revenue as enumerated in the License Agreement and has also upheld the imposition of Interest, Penalty and Interest on Penalty as per the terms and conditions of the License Agreement.

(b) & (c) The Cellular Operators Association of India vide their letter dated 29.10.2019 has submitted that in the absence of an immediate grant of relief by the Government, two of the three private mobile operators viz. Airtel and Vodafone-Idea, will face an unprecedented crisis. COAI has sought urgent intervention of the Government to avert such an unprecedented impact on the financial health of their member companies. However, one of the members of the COAI i.e. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd has submitted a divergent opinion on the said matter.

(d) A Committee of Secretaries chaired by Cabinet Secretary has held meetings regarding the issues related to Telecom Sector.

(e) The provisional Spectrum Usages Charges (SUC) dues TSP-wise is as below. This amount is subject to be revised once the AGR figures are finalized and assessments are done accordingly.

Outstanding SUC dues as on 31-10-2019		(Rs. In Crores)
Sl.No	TSP	Total
1	Aircel Group of Companies	2376.77
2	Allianz	0.00
3	Bharti Airtel Ltd	13904.01
4	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd	2890.46
5	Dishnet	642.54
6	Etisalat DB Telecom Private Ltd	2.81
7	Idea Cellular Ltd	6745.37
8	Loop Telecom Private Ltd	0.56
9	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd	585.88
10	Quadrant Televentures Ltd	53.93
11	Reliance Communication Ltd	3887.46
12	Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd	47.52
13	Reliance Telecommunication Ltd	796.32
14	Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd	101.44
15	S Tel Ltd	13.67
16	Spice	0.00
17	Tata Teleservices Ltd	3836.29
18	Telewing	3.49
19	Telenor	204.35
20	Unitech-Wireless	712.33
21	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd	265.09
22	Vodafone Group of Companies	17984.23
Total		55054.51

(f) The Government has directed the Licensees to make the payments in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 24.10.2019 and submit requisite documents within the stipulated timeframe.
