

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

DUES PENDING AGAINST TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS

**†575. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
PROF. SAUGATA RAY:
SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than approximately Rs. 92,000 crore worth amount of Government is outstanding against the private and State-run Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) on account of license fees and if so, the details thereof, TSP-wise and the steps taken by the Government to recover the said amount;
- (b) whether the Government has fixed any accountability in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether TSPs have failed to pay Adjusted Gross Revenues (AGRs) to the Government on time and if so the details thereof along with the the quantum of AGRs of TSPs due to the Government, TSP-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide a waiver for penalties and interest on the non-payment of license fee on AGRs by TSPs and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to extend the time limit for TSPs for the payment of license fee, penalty, interest and other dues and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the debt burden of the telecom industry and if so, details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 24.10.2019 in Civil Appeal 6328-6399 of 2015 upheld the definition of 'Gross Revenue' and 'Adjusted Gross Revenue' as enumerated in the License Agreement. The Hon'ble Court has directed to make the payments of due amounts within three months and report the compliance.

The provisional outstanding of the TSPs on account of License Fee is attached as **Annexure-I**. These amounts are provisional and subject to revision in light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 24.10.2019.

The Government has directed the TSPs to make the payment in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 24.10.2019 and submit the requisite documents to ensure the compliance within the stipulated timeframe.

(d) & (e) No such proposal is under consideration of the government as on date.

(f) As per the Inter-Ministerial Group report of 31.08.2017, the total debt of -the telecom industry was Rs 7.88 lakh crores.

(Rs. in Crore)

Particulars	Telecom Service Providers	Tower Companies	Total
Indian Debt	159675	18049	177724
Foreign Debt	83918		83918
Total Bank/FI Debt	243593	18049	261642
Bank Guarantees	50000		50000
Deferred Spectrum Liabilities of DoT	295864		295864
Other Third Party Liabilities	175464	4763	180227
Total Outside Liabilities	764922	22812	787734

The Committee of Secretaries under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary held meetings to discuss the issues relating to the stress in the sector.

TSPs wise Provisional License Fee outstanding as per demand up to July-19(Rupees in Crore)

S.No	Name of the Company	Total Outstanding
1	Idea Cellular Ltd	8485
2	Vodafone Group of Companies	19824
3	Bharti Airtel Group of Companies	21682
4	Telenor India Private Ltd.	1950
5	Tata Group of Companies	9987
6	Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd.	13
7	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd	2099
8	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd	2537
9	Aircel Group of Companies	7853
10	Etisalat DB Telecom Private Ltd	29
11	Quadrant Televentures Ltd	116
12	S.Tel Pvt Ltd.	42
13	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	1033
14	Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd	302
15	Reliance Communication Ltd/Reliance Telecommunication Ltd.	16457
16	Loop Telecom Pvt Ltd.	233
	Total	92642
