GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1233 TO BE ANSWERED ON 9THFEBRUARY, 2022

REHABILITATION PACKAGE FOR TELECOM OPERATORS

1233. SHRI A. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a rehabilitation package for Telecom Operators;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;
- (c) the cumulative burden on the exchequer in rupees for implementation of the scheme; and
- (d) whether the Government is going to bear this huge loss in revenue and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

- (a) & (b) The government has recently approved various reform measures to reduce financial stress in the Telecom Sector inter-alia including:
 - i. Rationalization of Definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue.
 - ii. Moratorium/Deferment of up to four years in annual payments of dues arising out of the AGR judgement and spectrum purchased in past auctions.
 - iii. Option to the TSPs to pay the interest amount arising due to the said deferment of payment by way of equity.
 - iv. Rationalization of Interest rates and removal of Penalties for delayed payments of License Fee (LF)/Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC).
 - v. Reduction in BG requirements to 20% of the stipulated amount against License Fee (LF) and other similar Levies.
 - vi. Removal of levy of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) on the spectrum to be acquired in future auctions.
 - vii. Removal of requirement for submitting a Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) to securitize the annual deferred spectrum instalments in future.
 - viii. Increasing the validity period of spectrum acquisition in future auctions from 20 to 30 years.
- (c)& (d) The moratorium scheme is revenue neutral. TSPs are not exempted from paying their dues. Interest is applicable on deferred payment, keeping the Net Present Value (NPV) protected.
