

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3977

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014

OTT PLAYERS

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India has expressed concern over the growing strength of OTT (Over the Top) players like WhatsApp, Viber, Hike, Skype and Facebook as they are getting free ride on telecom networks without paying for spectrum or any other fee and thereby the telecom operators are losing their revenue heavily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to frame rules and guidelines for such players and generate revenue from them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) No communication has been received by the Government from Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India expressing concern over the growing strength of OTT (Over the Top) players like WhatsApp, Viber, Hike, Skype and Facebook.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.