

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2372

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

CESS ON TELECOM FOR SWACHH BHARAT

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao; Gupta Shri Sudheer; Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant; Paswan Shri Chirag; Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

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

- (a) whether Department of Telecom (DoT) has sought the advice of Attorney General on levy of cess on telecom to fund Swachh Bharat;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether telecom industry body COAI has opposed the cess; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Yes Madam, Department of Telecommunications sought the advice of Ld. Attorney General on levy of cess on telecom to fund Swachh Bharat. Ld. Attorney General mainly opined that since 'Telecom Service' is a recognized service and covered by Finance Act 1994 on which 'Service Tax' is currently levied hence the Parliament has the competence to levy the proposed "Cess" either across the board and/or all services covered by the Finance Act or even on an individual service i.e. telecom. COAI has raised its opposition on levying of this cess. At present the proposed levy of cess on telecom services has not been implemented by Government.