

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3778  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**REVENUE SHARING WITH TELECOM OPERATORS**

**3778. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government did not collect money from telecom companies since 2003 inspite of the word 'gross revenue' clearly defined in the contract and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the contentions of the telecom companies in view of the judgment of the Supreme Court on Adjust Gross Revenue (AGR);
- (c) the telecom operators which have gained from the revenue-sharing model since 2003, company-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the impact of the aforesaid judgement of the Supreme Court on the telecom sector?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) The dispute regarding what constitutes the definition of 'Gross Revenue' as provided in the license agreement was subjudice before the Ld. Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal and Hon'ble Supreme Court since 2003. The TDSAT in a number of cases had stayed the recovery of demands by DoT. The Hon'ble Supreme Court also vide its interim order dated 29-02-2016 had allowed the Department of Telecom to raise the demands as per its understanding without enforcing them. The licensees of the Department of Telecom were making payments based on their own understanding.
- (b) The Cellular Operators Association of India vide their letter dated 29.10.2019 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 Cellular Operators Association of India i.e. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd has submitted a divergent opinion on the said matter.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgment dated 24-10-2019 have observed that the revenue sharing package turned out to be very very beneficial to the Telecom Service Providers, which is evident from the continuing rise in the Gross Revenue which is as follows:

Financial Year (ending in March)	Gross Revenue (in Crore)
2004	4,855
2006	2,666
2007	89,108
2008	1,05,061
2009	1,43,044
2010	1,44,232
2011	1,60,251
2012	1,82,637
2013	2,04,221
2014	2,24,430
2015	2,37,676

(d) The Cellular Operators Association of India vide their letter dated 29.10.2019 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 Cellular Operators Association of India i.e. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd has submitted a divergent opinion on the said matter.

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