

**Renaming of Telecom Commission**

2631. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to rename the Telecom Commission as "Digital Communications Commission";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of India has re-designated the 'Telecom Commission' as the 'Digital Communications Commission (DCC)' *vide* Resolution dated 22nd October, 2018 to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the National Digital Communications Policy- 2018 that has a vision to support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society.

**Amendment of norms for interconnection usage charge**

2632. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposes to amend the norms on Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI has sought views and comments from the telecom industry on the said proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by TRAI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to amend the norms on Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC).

**Decline in Spectrum Usage Charge**

2633. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) is declining as the tariff war has led to declining of industry's revenue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in financial year 2018, the industry's AGR stood at ₹ 155,680 crore against ₹ 190,658 crore in financial year 2017; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result, Government's revenue from licence fee got reduced to ₹ 12,976 crore from ₹ 15,975 crore and similarly, SUC got reduced to ₹ 5,089 crore from ₹ 7,574 crore a year earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) based SUC receipts have declined due to declining AGR.

(b) In financial year 2017-18, the industry's AGR was ₹ 130844.9 crores against ₹ 160787.9 crores in financial year 2016-17.

(c) In financial year 2017-18, Government's revenue from licence fee was ₹ 10670.6 crores against ₹ 13032.9 crores in financial year 2016-17 and SUC was ₹ 4983.75 crores in 2017-18 against ₹ 7048 crores in financial year 2016-17.

#### **Levies on telecom sector**

2634. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to rationalise the levies imposed on the telecom sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the industry has been demanding lower taxes and levies, which add upto about 30 per cent of the revenues;

(c) whether it is also a fact that industry debt is pegged at over ₹ 7 lakh crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) have been rationalised through introduction of weighted average method of assessment.

The industry has demanded lowering taxes and levies. However, DoT has requested Ministry of Finance *vide* D.O.No.37-1/2017/LFP-I(part) dated 08.12.2017 that a standard rate of GST@12% for telecom services should be fixed in place of the existing 18% and the applicable rate of IGST in respect of certain telecom equipment on which IGST applicable is 28% be reduced to 18%.

(c) and (d) As per the Inter Ministerial Group report of August, 2017, the total debt of the telecom industry was ₹ 7.88 lakh crores.