

(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.

Outstanding debt liabilities of Telecom operators is given below:

Particulars	(₹ in crores)		
	Telecom Service Providers	Tower Companies	Total
Indian Debt	159675	18049	177724
Foreign Debt	83918		83918
Total Bank/FI Debt	243593	18049	261642
Bank Guarantees	50000		50000
Deferred Spectrum Liabilities of DoT	295864		295864
Other Third Party Liabilities	175464	4763	180227
Total Outside Liabilities	764922	22812	787734

Source: IMG Report.

Testing of telecom products and equipment

2635. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has started a facility for testing telecom products and equipment to ensure security in digital communications at the national level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this facility would work for security from the national perspective and also facilitate the development of testing and certification eco-system in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Security Assurance Standards Facility (SASF) in Bengaluru has been established and entrusted with the responsibility to develop Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements for telecom equipment to ensure security in digital communication at the national level. This facility will work for security from the national perspective and also facilitate the development of testing and certification ecosystem in the country through participation in the activities of recognition of security test labs and security certification of telecom equipment based on test results reported by these labs.