

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 385  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**EQUITY OWNERSHIP IN VODAFONE**

**385 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of Vodafone's dues for which Government has acquired equity;
- (b) details of power/authority Government would have in Vodafone being its largest shareholder and whether Government would have presence in the company's operational board;
- (c) whether Government shall increase its ownership stake further if Vodafone fails to service its deferred AGR dues and spectrum liabilities after the moratorium, details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has an exit strategy from having ownership in Vodafone, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government plans to explore the merger of its holdings in telecom sector and avail of synergies, details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) Department of Telecom, with the approval of the Union Cabinet dated 15.09.2021, had given an option of moratorium up to four years on annual deferred spectrum payments and the annual installment of Adjusted Gross Revenue related dues as determined payable vide Supreme Court order dated 01.09.2020 to eligible Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). Vodafone vide its letter dated 10.01.2022 has exercised its option for converting its interest liabilities into equity.

As per Cabinet decision, Ministry of Finance shall finalize the procedure, method, rate of conversion, mix of equity and preferential capital (if any), compliance with SEBI and other relevant guidelines.

The company will continue to be managed as professionally run private company.

- (c) As per Cabinet decision, after the expiry of the moratorium period of 4 years or deferment and consequent upon review of prevailing situation, on the option of the Government, TSP will be permitted to pay the due instalment by way of equity.
- (d) Government can sell these shares at appropriate time and thereby receive the amount due.
- (e) There is no such proposal under consideration.

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