

PRESS RELEASE

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'Zero tolerance for corruption' has become a laughable 'JUMLA'. To hide one lie, Modi government is resorting to telling 100 more. Government issued a lame duck reaction to the 45,000 crore plus 'Telecom Scam' seeking to put a conspiratorial lid on the entire issue. Instead of admitting the truth and taking corrective action to recover over Rs.45,000 crore owed to public exchequer, smokescreens put up by Telecom Ministry raise serious doubts qua their complicity in the shoddily handled 'cover up exercise'.

Telecom Ministry and former Telecom Minister, ^{Ravi} Shankar Prasad stated that CAG report was received only in June, 2016, though it was tabled in Parliament on 11.03.2016. Neither the Ministry nor the Minister denied the important fact that Telecom Ministry was conducting a special audit through empanelled Chartered Accountants over and above the CAG audit. Lastly, while agreeing that a sum of Rs.12,488.93 crore (in addition to penalty) is recoverable by public exchequer on account of an underreporting of income of Rs.46,045.75 crore by six telecom companies, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad tried to justify the bungling by stating that there is no underreporting of income for subsequent years i.e. year 2010-11 to 2015-16.

Conduct of Modi government and its Minister has consequently come under a serious cloud. On behalf of 125 crore Indians, we demand that BJP government answer the following questions:-

1. Why is Minister, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad insistent upon the fact that there is no underreporting of income by six telecom companies for any subsequent year i.e. year 2010-11 to 2015-16? How can the Minister get this enlightenment qua no underreporting of income by telecom companies without even an audit conducted by CAG? Does it not show that 'Modi government' is not interested in getting an audit conducted through CAG

for the years 2010-11 to 2015-16 for recovery of dues of nearly Rs.33,000 crore that may accrue to public exchequer? Why? Does it not tantamount compromising the interest of public exchequer?

2. Why is Telecom Ministry as also Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad insistent upon a 'special audit' by empanelled Chartered Accountants over and above the CAG audit of actual loss of Rs.12,488 crore? Has it lost faith in CAG or is it a mere ploy to indefinitely defer the recovery or to not recover the amount at all?

3. Is it not true that the UPA government asked for special CAG audit of accounts of telecom companies for the four years i.e. year 2006-07 to 2009-10? Is it not true that telecom companies went to court against this decision and finally Supreme Court, vide judgment dated 17.04.2014, upheld the right of CAG to conduct the audit? Is it also not true that audit of CAG has finally come on 11.03.2016? Why, then, BJP government and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad are creating smokescreens by misrepresenting these unequivocal facts?

4. How long will government take to recover the amount of Rs12,488.93 crore due to public exchequer? Does this government propose to conduct audit of subsequent years (2010-11 to 2015-16) for arriving at a conclusion qua underreporting of income by telecom companies, which may lead to an additional accrual of Rs.33,000 crore?

5. What connection, if any, underreporting/non-disclosure of income by telecom companies has with 'Essar Tapes', which purportedly contain conversation relating to telecom sector and favours extended? Would PM, Shri Narendra Modi conduct an impartial judicial investigation into 'Essar Tapes' based on the representation submitted by the whistleblower?