

## **TELECOM CRISIS DEPENS**

For 14 years, the private Telecom mobile providers like Vodafone, Bharti Airtel etc. have been engaging Dept of Telecom in legal battle on the issue of AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) to be paid by them to the DoT. On 24-10-2019, the Supreme Court ordered that the companies should pay the dues with interest. It amounts to Rs 1.47 lakh crore.

Instead of paying the dues, the companies filed Appeal petition. Court rejected that. Again they approached the Court. They tried to pressurize the government also. Some Desk officer in Sanchar Bhavan, with consent of senior officers, issued an order that no coercive action should be taken to recover the amount from private companies.

On 14-2-2020, the Supreme Court pulled up the DoT and the private companies for disobeying its orders. Court said that they will face contempt of court case also. Justice Mr. Arun Misra was furious over the attitude of the DoT officers. Suddenly DoT withdrew the earlier instruction and asked the companies to pay the amount before 2359 hours on 14-2-2020.

**Airtel** says that they will pay a portion on 20-2-2020 and rest before 17-3-2020, the date of next hearing of the case. **Vodafone** may not be able to pay the dues. It may withdraw from the mobile business in India even. **Ambani's JiO** is waiting for the situation to grab the business. Will our BSNL management act now? It is a golden opportunity for them to increase the business attracting the 33 crore subscribers of Vodafone.