

TDSAT seeks DoT explanation on condonation of delay suit

New Delhi, May 19 (PTI) The telecom tribunal TDSAT today asked DoT to explain the grounds on which it was asking for condonation of delay in filing petition seeking claims of Rs 2,015 crore from private telecom operator Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited.

The tribunal observed that the government has filed petition to reclaim Rs 2,015 crore from TTML almost ten months after the Supreme Court's direction to approach TDSAT again.

"Your application does not disclose any ground for condonation for delay," said TDSAT Chairman Justice Arun Kumar directing DoT to clear its stand over delay in filing suit.

On this, counsel appearing for TTML submitted that the government should take permission from the Supreme Court only over condonation for delay.

"Since the permission for claim was given by the apex court. They would have to ask for condonation of delay there only," submitted TTML's counsel.

Over this, DoT's counsel asked for some more time and asked, "give us a time to file a better affidavit for condonation of delay".

Meanwhile, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal also directed DoT to pay court fee of Rs 50 lakh for this suit.

On Friday, DoT had moved a petition seeking TDSAT's direction to TTML to pay Rs 2,015 crore for defaulting in payment of licence fee for Karnataka circle.

In the petition, the Department of Telecom (DoT) had said that Huges Tele.Com (which was later acquired by TTML) bid for licence to provide basic telecom services in circles of Maharashtra and Karnataka in 1995 but did not honour the commitment towards of payment of licence fees for Karnataka circle. (PTI)