

[GST](#) Network has decided to go in for third-party [audit](#) of its software developed by [Infosys](#) to ensure that all changes in law are adequately captured and its performance is not lagging on any count, a [senior official](#) said.

GSTN operates the IT backbone for the collection of [Goods and Services Tax](#) (GST) data of over 11.1 million registered [business](#) entities. A third-party [audit](#) will ensure that data filed with GSTN is adequately secured and there are no glitches.

[GST](#) Network [Chief Executive Prakash Kumar](#) said the third-party [audit](#) is a standard practice which is followed by [banking](#) and financial institutions.

"Whenever the law is changed or any circular is issued, we have to change the software. We need to have a third party to audit whatever [software changes](#) have been made by [Infosys](#). So this is a third-party expert audit," Kumar told *PTI* in an interview.

He said currently the GSTN team audits the [software changes](#) which are brought about after any change in the law.

"But we want a third-party [auditor](#) to certify that whatever changes have been brought about in the law, similarly the software has been changed, not more, not less," Kumar said.

Last year, the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, which is under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, had audited GSTN to check the security of the system.

The audit also encompassed other aspects like mechanism to enhance the resilience of the critical and sensitive [GST](#) IT network.

"Entire product which has been developed by [Infosys](#) it has been audited once by STQC. STQC will not audit every time. But, for all the changes that have been made I need a third-party to certify.

"This will be a continuous audit of what changes have been made, as per ISO requirement. Not only functional audit but also performance audit. These would be technological auditors," Kumar said.

Since the rollout of the GST from July 1, 2017, GSTN has handled 115 million returns and processed 3.76 billion invoices.

Currently, over 11.1 million businesses are registered under the GST regime, of which 6.376 million have migrated from the erstwhile service tax and VAT regime, and 4.772 million are new registrants. As many as 1.761 million businesses have opted for composition scheme under GST.

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