

उदाहरण के तौर पर Biomax है, जिसको खास कर हम लोगों ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में launch किया है। हम देश के 6 लाख 40 हजार गांवों को अपने programme making का एक केन्द्रबिन्दु मानते हैं, इसलिए Department of I.T. ने नौजवानों को शिक्षित करने का बीड़ा उठाया है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हमें एक सुझाव दिया है कि हम वर्ष 2022 तक एक करोड़ लोगों का skill development कराएं और उस पर हम कार्य भी कर रहे हैं।

इसी तरह जैसा आपने कहा, आपकी इस बात से मैं कुछ हद तक सहमत नहीं हूँ कि जो विभिन्न राज्य हैं, वे अपने तरीके से अपना e-governance programme चलाते हैं। हमारा यह काम है कि हम लोग उन best practices को अपनाएं, जिनमें interoperability हो तथा जो compatible हो, ताकि हमें उस चीज को बार-बार invent न करना पड़े। इसलिए हम लोग समय-समय पर conferences और seminars आयोजित करते हैं और उस पर debate और discussion करने के बाद इसको करने का जो सबसे बढ़िया तरीका हो, जो cost effective हो और जो करने में सबसे आसान भी हो, उसको हम लोग उदाहरण के तौर पर पेश करते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 383.

National Spectrum Policy

*383.DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the Government not being able to auction 3G Spectrum to date despite two years having lapsed since the first announcement; and

(b) whether a National Spectrum Policy would be formulated to comprehensively examine and identify suitable mechanism to remove the existing deficiencies in the strategic and operational aspects of spectrum management?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A.RAJA):

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The guidelines for auction of 3G spectrum was announced by the Government on 1.8.2008 and amendments in the guidelines were issued on 11.9.2008. However, there were some issues regarding availability of 3G spectrum, number of blocks to be auctioned and the reserve price for 3G auction, which delayed auctioning of 3G spectrum.

These issues were deliberated in the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 28.1.2009 and an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) was constituted on "Auction of 3G spectrum" in July, 2009 to go into these issues. These issues were discussed in the EGoM on 31st

July, 2009, 27th August, 2009, 19th November, 2009, 21st December, 2009 and 12th January, 2010. Consequently as per the decision of EGoM it was decided to auction 3 blocks of 3G spectrum in 17 service areas and 4 blocks of 3G spectrum in 5 service areas. Consequently the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) was issued on 25th February, 2010 and the 3G auction has started on 9th April, 2010.

(b) National Frequency Allocation Plan 2008 a policy document has been made effective since 1st April 2009 which caters to the needs for Government as well as private sectors. This document has been developed in very transparent manner where Government and private entities participated in the discussions. This document has been made public and does not contain any security related information.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire nation, including this august House, is very much concerned about the biggest, the highest independent India's scam which is known as the Spectrum scam, leading to a wrongful gain...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking a question relating to this?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: I am coming to this, Sir. Leading to a wrongful gain to a few individuals and leading to the highest loss to the Government, this is what I am talking about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me please remind the hon. Member that supplementary questions have to be related to the answer given.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the TRAI has ...*(Interruptions)*... I am asking the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the TRAI has announced auction process in giving this Spectrum. As far as supply and demand is concerned, at the time when this announcement was made by the TRAI, there was ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the supplementary?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, there was limited supply whereas the demand was high. What I am trying to ask is ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't try, ask. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, my specific supplementary is, when there is a great demand and supply is less, the Minister should have exercised his discretionary powers to see how much gain could be made for the Government. Instead, he referred back the matter and passed on the papers

with the result that so many things have happened. Why did the Minister not exercise his discretionary powers to see that the Government was able to gain, not the private individuals? That is my first supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I do not doubt the sincerity of the hon. Member. I do not know from where he has got his sustenance to ask this question. The question is related to the 3G Spectrum. Of course, when the TRAI recommendation came, the base price that was fixed for 3G Spectrum was Rs. 1,010 crore for PAN India. When the matter was referred to the Telecom Commission, it was doubled, that is, Rs. 2,020 crore. Then, a question came to me that how many slots were going to be auctioned. The TRAI, the regulator, which was created by a Parliament statute, earlier said that four slabs could be auctioned. The matter was referred to the TRAI for some other reasons like Spectrum charge and other things. When they accepted the reference, it was not by the Government, but for the reasons best known to the TRAI, it changed its attitude that all available slots must be auctioned. So, the question came to me. Of course, Mr. Malaisamy is very keen on me that I have to exercise discretionary powers. I do not want to exercise the discretionary power because if at all a Minister is legitimately, with all sincerity, uses his discretionary powers, it will open a Pandora's Box to have allegations. What I did is, since ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... There was a contradiction. ...*(Interruptions)*... There was a difference of opinion between the Government and the TRAI with regard to how many slots were going to be auctioned. Of course, by law, the Minister is empowered to decide. In spite of that, I referred the matter to the CCEA. At that time, the Lok Sabha elections were announced. So, a reference was made to the Election Commission whether a policy decision can be pushed on further. The Election Commission gave a report that since it is a major policy decision in the scientific and technological domain, it should not be done during the election time. Accordingly, after the UPA Government was elected, again the matter was referred to the EGoM. The EGoM fixed the base price and fixed the number of slots. We expected, and even in the Parliament I told that Rs. 35,000 crore may come out of the 3G Spectrum auction.

Today, the result is that it – 3G plus Wi-MAX – may exceed Rs.45,000 crore. So, it will be a good gain for the Government.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, my second supplementary is this. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is fully aware that the spectrum sold to private individuals had been resold to foreign traders. They sold it at Rs. 1,651 crore for pan India telecom licence. This was resold to private

people, foreign traders for Rs. ten thousand crore. I want to know whether the Minister is fully aware that he sold it at a less price by auction with the result that those people made profit of Rs.8,000 crore. I want to know whether the Minister is fully aware of it.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, again, with due respect to Dr. Malaisamy and with all sincerity, I must say that he suffers from complete ignorance on spectrum issue because there is complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The country is ignorant. Please enlighten it.

SHRI A. RAJA: Dr. Maitreyan, it is universal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. RAJA: Dr. Maitreyan, it is universal. A doctor cannot be expected to give opinion on engineering. Likewise, an engineer is not expected to give opinion on medicine. Ignorance is universal, including the institutional ignorance. So, it is not wrong. I have to teach you. If it is necessary, I will get teaching from you. It is a bilateral agreement between us in the august House. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is different. There is confusion between 2G and 3G. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडामाई रुपाला : जैसे IPL के बारे में सबको पता नहीं है।

डा. वी. मैत्रेयन : सर, IPL मंत्री पर action हो गया, "Spectrum Raja" पर action कब होगा ?

SHRI A. RAJA: Earlier I took more than one hour in this House on this issue. There is some confusion in the minds of the people; there are some confusion in the minds of the media; and there are some confusion in the minds of the institutional mechanisms all over the country. 2G service is for common people. This commitment was made by the NTP 1999. It was devised during the NDA regime in 1999 that 2G spectrum need not be auctioned; it had to be done on the basis of allotment. The very question whether it was sold for again or traded for again is completely wrong. Spectrum cannot be sold; spectrum cannot be traded. Of course, the FDI policy permits any company to offload its share. Accordingly, some of the companies have done it. It is legitimate and well within the financial norms. It has been approved by the CCEA also.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I am not an expert on this like many other hon. Members. But I would like to know if 3G and broadband are complementary. If they are complementary, what is the need for a separate auction? Is it true that it has been allotted to the BSNL and the MTNL long

before? How are the BSNL and the MTNL performing as far as this is concerned? And what is the experience of the Government so far as it is concerned ?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, a policy decision was taken by the Government that 3G should be auctioned as per the international practice in the developed countries. Then we took a political or administrative decision in the Ministry. Since the BSNL is a PSU, not only it has commercial value attached to it but it has social obligation also to provide telephone connections and other facilities to the common people, those who are living in the lowest strata of the social order. We decided, notwithstanding this auction, to allot one slot. In this, the matching price will be borne by the BSNL and the MTNL. It was done because the procedure contemplated in the BSNL to offer equipment by tender was cumbersome and it might have taken long time to procure the equipment. However, the BSNL has started providing these services in major cities, metros, urban and semi-urban areas, and up to district level in almost all the States. I am told that more than 1 million connections have been given. They are on the job. The leverage that has been offered by the BSNL has been properly utilized. Of course, it has to be stimulated. We are taking all measures to do it.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Minister, your reply relates to 3G spectrum auction. You may recall that in 2G spectrum allocation many irregularities were reported and the office of the concerned Ministry was raided by the CBI as well. My very straight question is this. What kind of mechanism has been ensured in the 3-G auction process, so that the irregularities of the 2G are not repeated?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the process of 3G auction is going on. It is open to all including the CVC and other institutions.

They are regularly monitoring 3G auctions. So far as 2G is concerned, yes, there is a case filed by the CBI. I must be fair to the House that whatever may be the scrutiny either by the institution or by the individual or by the judicial forum, we are ready to face it and we will place all the records there. Whatever may be the decision, we will abide by it. But, so far as the CBI is concerned, it is not within my domain.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह : सर, 2008 में guidelines बनने के बाद भी मंत्रालय ने नोटिस invite करने में दो वर्ष से ज्यादा का समय लगा दिया। 1G और 2G mobile के लिए बहुत समय ले लिया। जब कि दूसरे देश जैसे, Sweden, Norway, USA, Korea, Japan, etc. 4G mobile पर काम कर रहे हैं। क्या सरकार 4G mobile के लिए consultation paper और प्लान तैयार कर चुकी है और इसको introduce करने के लिए model बना चुकी है? सर, 4G mobile BSNL को देने के बाद BSNL का जो शेयर 15.6 परसेंट से घटकर 7 परसेंट पर आ गया था, क्या इसमें improvement हो पाएगा?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, this is not directly connected with 3G auction. Let him put a different question with regard to the performance of BSNL. We would reply to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fair enough.

Registration as Overseas Citizen of India

*384. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications for registering as overseas citizen of India granted by Government since the enforcement of the Scheme, State-wise;
- (b) the salient features of the amended law and the Scheme; and
- (c) the number of applications pending from the persons, indicating the origin of their State?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As on 31st March, 2010, a total number of 5,73,324 persons of Indian origin have been registered as Overseas Citizens of India. State-wise data is not maintained.

(b) Salient Features of the OCI Scheme :

- The Scheme provides for registration of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on or after 26th January, 1950 or were eligible to become citizens of India on 26th January, 1950 and who are citizens of other countries, except Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- The Scheme was introduced by an amendment of the Citizenship Act, 1955 in August 2005 and was made operational from January, 2006.
- Registered OCIs are issued an OCI registration certificate and a life-long multiple entry, multi purpose visa for visiting India.
- Registered OCIs are exempted from the requirement of registration with Foreigners Regional Registration Office and can stay in India for any length of time.
- Registered OCIs are granted conceptual parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters