

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) For the current Financial Year a target of Rs.10,000 crore has been fixed from disinvestment.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) The target is for the entire year which will end on 31.3.2001.

Appoint a Statutory Authority to Determine the Real Value of Public Sector Assets of profit Making Public Sector Units

†*8. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to appoint a statutory authority to determine the real value of public sector assets of profit making public sector units before being sold to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government will ensure whether it is getting the right price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The shares of a PSU are disinvested by a bidding process. The best price is determined by the market forces. However, the Government values shares by different methods to ensure that the sale process fetches the best value. Whenever necessary even the assets will be valued on a case to case basis.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, through you, I would, at the very outset, like to express my anguish over the reply that has been given by the Minister because the statement is a total affront to the Parliamentary system itself. Our

†Starred Question Nos. 1, 3 and 8 were taken together.

[24th July, 2000]

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constitutional system provides that Parliament is the exclusive and sole forum in this country to act as the trustee....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI: What is the question? Is it a lecture on the parliamentary process?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, is this is the way they are going to behave? I am sorry that senior Members like Shri Chaturvedi...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, let him put his supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your supplementary.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, it is the exclusive prerogative of this Parliament to oversee the future of the public assets of this country. Moreover, it was assured in this house...

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the question (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I have been here in this House long enough to know what to ask and what not to ask. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, what is this? He should be allowed to ask. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, this is how Parliament's rights are being protected! (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me regulate. Please put the question.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, therefore, the statement made here infringes upon that basic right of Parliament. I would like to ask the Minister specifically as to who these advisers are. Are they a super-body that they will take precedence over Parliament and Parliament will have no say?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The Parliament has the right to know the value of the assets that are being sold. Family's silver is being disposed off but the family members are not aware of the minimum price at which the asset is being sold. We are seeing Press reports that Government has decided the deadline in regard to one company i.e. Air India. The value of assets is Rs. 2400 crores and the Government is selling them at Rs. 800 crores; there too,

the Government has decided the deadline, which is nothing short of distress sale of a very valuable national asset. Therefore, the only question that I would like to ask is, whether the Government will come out with a white paper vis-a-vis the revaluation of assets of all companies which the Government wishes to sell and the methodology applied in evaluating those assets and whether the Government will calculate the replacement cost, because, when a company closes down, you have also to take into account the amount of investment that will be required to replace that asset that has been created over the years. Will the Government come out with a clearcut white paper indicating the entire methodology of evaluating the assets of public sector companies at current prices as well as the replacement cost? Then only, on the basis of the approval of Parliament, the Government can go ahead.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I want to make a point before the Minister replies. You have clubbed Q. Nos. 1, 3, & 8. He has not answered the other questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Members will ask those Questions next time.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, only Question No. 1 has been put and I have placed the answer. As and when Q. Nos. 3 and 8 are put, I will place their answers also. Now, there are several questions that have been raised by the hon. Member. Let me first clarify it. He said that units are being closed down; this is a process and the Government has repeatedly announced this policy—by which we are trying to revive and strengthen those units. This is not a process by which (*Interruptions*) In fact, this is a process by which the units that have not been commercially doing well are being revived. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Sir, are they interested in listening to the answer or not?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Therefore, the question is not that units are being closed down and assets are being sold; it is a case where shares are being sold through a transparent bidding process to make sure that the performance of these units improves. The second question that was put was, what the policy was and what the role of the advisers, who have been appointed, was. let me just clarify that this is not a new procedure that has been drawn up. This entire process started in the year 1991; it was continued even when the United Front Government was there in 1996. Therefore,..... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: It is not correct.... (*Interruptions*)...

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SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Therefore, the process by which the appointment of advisers, who only advise the Government on the process, is nothing new.

SHRI JIBON ROY: You are not speaking the truth....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Therefore, the process of appointment of advisers is nothing new. The advisers don't have the supreme authority. The advisers only advise, as far as the Government is concerned, on the process. The final decision is taken by the Government itself.

The third question which he has put is with regard to certain figures which he has mentioned. As far as Air India is concerned, the process has just began, and since the process has just began, there is no valuation which has been done so far. Therefore, all these figures which are being mentioned by him—Rs. 2400 crores and Rs. 800 crores—are not the figures which have been arrived at or not even the figures which have been suggested to the Government. I don't know...

SHRI JIBON ROY: It is there in the balance sheet....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I don't know wherefrom the hon. Member has got the figures. As far as the Process of valuation is concerned...

SHRI JIBON ROY: He is not speaking the truth. It is there in the balance sheet. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: How can he say like this? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I was responding to the hon. Member's query that the value is so much and that you have decided to sell off so much. No, such decision has been taken. Only an adviser has been appointed who will advise the Government. Finally, when the process is finalised, the partner would be selected by a bidding process. Therefore, it is only at that stage we would be aware what the values are. It is too early to really comment on that issue.

The final part of the question is, by which process do you arrive at these particular valuations. I have already stated in my reply that valuations, eventually, are going to be arrived at by a bidding process in order to make sure that we get the best value even by the bidding process. There are different methods that the Government adopts to assess what the value is. In some of the cases, I may say, where it is required, we also do revalue the assets.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: You come before the Parliament....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Now, second supplementary. ...(*Interruptions*)...No, no.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, he has not replied to my supplementary where I have specifically asked whether the Government is going to prepare a white paper indicating to us the entire financial and the intrinsic value of the assets and the method on the basis of which the valuations at current prices have been arrived at, and whether the Government will also, in that white paper, come out with the replacement cost.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the valuations, as I said, are done by a bidding process. The market forces decide the value. In order to make sure that we get the best, we make assessment of the value ourselves. Wherever it is necessary, we also revalue the assets, as we have done in some cases in the past. In view of this policy being very clear, there is no need for any white paper on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 3.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I have to put my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put two questions. Now, Question No. 3, Shri Rajnath Singh Surya.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The Government is totally non-transparent because there is an intrinsic value of an asset. If the price in the bidding process is less than the intrinsic value of the asset, then the country's interest will not be served. Therefore, the attempt by the Government not to come out with a white paper with all these figures so that Parliament can take a proper view of the whole situation, is not correct. Now, we know this Government is not ashamed of making itself ridiculed in front of the whole country. Even the censure by the Supreme Court does not dampen their spirit.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: How is it relevant here? (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: In view of the importance of this great forum, at least, whether the Government will come out with a white paper or not; otherwise, Parliament cannot convince itself about the integrity of this Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already answered that the Government was not going to issue any white paper.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य" : श्रीमन्, अपने प्रश्न संख्या 3 के संदर्भ में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उस उत्तर में केवल वर्ष का लक्ष्य क्या निर्धारित किया गया है, इसकी जानकारी हमें दी गई है और वह दस हजार करोड़ रुपए की है। एक तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो 31 मार्च तक का लक्ष्य था, अब तक इसमें प्रगति क्या हुई है और इस लक्ष्य को कितना प्राप्त किया जा सका है, इसकी जानकारी दी जानी चाहिये थी?

दूसरा मुझे माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना है कि यह नीति जब से निर्धारित की गई है 1991-92 से, तब से अब तक लगभग 44,000 करोड़ रुपए इसका प्राप्त करने का लक्ष्य था लेकिन अब तक केवल 18,394 करोड़ रुपए ही प्राप्त किए गए हैं, इस प्रकार पूर्व में इस सदन में सूचना दी जा चुकी है। केवल दो वर्ष ऐसे बीते हैं इस पूरी नीति के लागू होने से अब तक, जिनमें कि लक्ष्य प्राप्त किया जा सका है—एक तो 1991-92 जब यह नीति लागू की गई और दूसरा संभवतः जब इस सदन में संयुक्त विपक्षी दलों की एक मिली-जुली सरकार थी उस समय, जिसके सहयोगी हमारे माननीय सदस्य थे और अब शोर मचा रहे हैं तथा पालिसी का विरोध कर रहे हैं, वे जब शामिल थे तब इसका लक्ष्य प्राप्त किया जा सका था। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वर्ष का जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है, उसमें अब तक कितना ऐचीवमेंट हो चुका है?

श्री अरुण जेटली : सर, मैं इसको स्पष्ट कर दूँ कि जो सरकार की नीति है, उसमें दो प्रकार से विनिवेश अब होता है। एक यह कि जब आप कम्पनी के शेयर्स रिटेल मार्किट में स्माल इन्वेस्टर को, साधारण इन्वेस्टर्स को बेचते हैं, इस प्रकार की नीति पिछले वर्षों में काफी अपनाई गई है। दूसरा प्रकार है कि शेयर्स का एक हिस्सा बेचने के लिए आप एक ट्रांसपेरेंट बिडिंग प्रोसेस के माध्यम से किसी स्ट्रेटेजिक पार्टनर को ढूँढते हैं और उसको देते हैं और उसका मैनेजमेंट में भी शेयर आता है। क्योंकि इस प्रणाली में एक परिवर्तन चल रहा है इसलिए दूसरे प्रकार के विनिवेश की दिशा में हम बढ़ रहे हैं। तो यह जो प्रोसेस शुरू हुआ है, लगभग 18 ऐसे उद्योग हैं जिनके संबंध में कैबिनेट ने अभी तक निर्णय लिया है और जिनके संबंध में हम निर्णय इस वर्ष लागू करने का

प्रयास कर रहे हैं। अभी तक उसमें कोई ट्रांजेक्शन कम्प्लीट नहीं हुआ है लेकिन यह अपेक्षा है कि इस वर्ष के भीतर इस प्रकार के काफी ट्रांजेक्शन्स कम्प्लीट होंगे।

जहां तक पिछले वर्षों के बारे में प्रश्न उठाया गया, तो पिछले 9 वर्षों में से जो टॉरगेट था वह 3 वर्ष ऐचीव किया गया और 6 बार इसे ऐचीव नहीं किया गया।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Venkata Rao.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य": सर, अभी तो मेरा सैकिंड सप्लीमेंटरी है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: When your questions are clubbed, no second supplementary is allowed. That is according to the rules. Now, Mr. Venkata Rao; he is not here.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, my questions are clubbed. My supplementary relates to Q. Nos. 1 and 3. I would like to know whether it is a fact that when making the proposal to the Cabinet for disinvestment of Air India, it was suggested, in the same proposal, that a fresh capital of Rs. 1,000 crores was to be injected into Air India and, thereafter, to reduce the share capital to 49%—that is, disinvestment of 51%. I would like to know whether it is factually correct. If so, I would like to know the rationale behind it. If it were not correct, then the question does not arise. I would like to know whether what I said is a fact. The part (b) of my question is that the hon. Minister has classified, if I understood correctly from part (c) and (d) of his statement with regard to Question No. 1, that only in the case of strategic sale the Government did get the assets charged. There are 17 PSUs which have been referred to. Even the heading of the question says that it is a strategic sale. So, what is the distinction? I would like to know whether here you are first identifying a strategic partner and thereafter disposing of the block building and selling it off or whether you are going through the normal bidding process. This is what I would like to know in respect of 17 PSUs which have been referred to in Para one of the statement which he has laid in respect of Question No. 1.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the suggestion with reard to induction of fresh capital had been made in the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: My limited question, Mr. Minister, is whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation made this proposal for the consideration of the Cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: May I just say this. This was a suggestion which was made by the Disinvestment Commission. This proposal presently did not find favour with the Cabinet. As far as opinions of different Ministries are concerned, one of the Ministries has been suggesting for induction of fresh capital for buying aircraft...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Please tell us which is that one of the Ministries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As the hon. Member wants to know specifically, this is the Ministry of Civil Aviation. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Civil Aviation Ministry has been suggesting this...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Minister has made a public statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a matter between the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Finance Ministry to consider. As far as the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment is concerned, presently did not find favour with the question of induction of fresh capital. Secondly, the hon. Member wanted to know whether you identify a partner first and then go by the process. In earlier cases till previous years, there had been retail sales taking place both in the domestic and foreign markets. The procedure which is followed now is that after the Government takes a decision, it seeks appointment of an adviser. The adviser advises the Government. We invite expression of interest from all persons who appear to be interested. Thereafter, the parties are shortlisted. There is a due diligence conducted by them of the concerned State enterprises and also by the Government of those concerned parties. After negotiating the shareholders' agreement, drafts are prepared. Thereafter the final selection of a partner is done by bidding. There is no selection of a partner prior to that stage at all.

श्री सतीश प्रधान : सभापति जी, मैं दो बातें आदरणीय मंत्री से जानना चाहूंगा । डिसइन्वैस्टमेंट का जो प्रोसीजर इन्होंने बना रखा है, इसमें बहुत समय लगता है । शुरू में तय किया जाता है कि इस कंपनी का डिसइन्वैस्टमेंट करना है और वह निर्णय होने के बाद उस पर अमल होने में जो समय लगता है, उस समय में कंपनी के शेयर्स की वैल्यू बाजार में दिन-ब-दिन कम हो जाती है । हमारी विभिन्न कंपनियों के चेयरमैन जैसे मारुति उद्योग लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन कभी-कभी बाहर ऐसे स्टेटमेंट दे देते हैं कि हमारे शेयर की वैल्यू कम होने वाली है, ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमें अपने शेयर का पूरा दाम नहीं मिलता । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे इस विषय में सोचकर अलग से कोई प्रावधान करने की योजना बना रहे हैं? अगर बना रहे हैं तो वह योजना क्या है?

श्री अरुण जेटली : सभापति महोदय, सरकार इस मामले में सजग है कि जिन केसेज में इसके शेयर्स बेचे जाएंगे, पब्लिक इंट्रस्ट को मद्देनजर रखते हुए उन शेयर्स के अधिक से अधिक दाम सरकार को मिलने चाहिये। इसके लिए जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि इस प्रक्रिया को तेजी से करना आवश्यक है। इसलिए जब सरकार किसी पी.एस.यू. के संबंध में निर्णय लेती है तो उस निर्णय को शीघ्रता से कार्यान्वित करना आवश्यक है। इसके लिए सरकार के जो विभिन्न प्रोसीजर्स हैं, उनको स्ट्रीमलाईन किया गया है ताकि पहले जो अधिक समय लगता था, उस टाइम फैक्टर को कम किया जा सके।

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: In the written reply to the first question, it is stated here that the Government gets share evaluation done, following different methods. The public sector institutions have been built up by investing about Rs. two lakh crores, which is public money. When this is being sold, Parliament and also the public should know whether the transactions are being carried out in a transparent manner and a proper value is being realised. But here, it is said that Government gets the share valuation done by different methods. Why are different methods being adopted, and what are the methods? Another thing is, in the case of strategic sale, Government gets the asset valuation done. My first part of the question is, the Minister may kindly explain the various methods adopted for share valuation and also the way in which the value had been assessed in the case of those institutions where a strategic sale had been effected.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Member first made a statement. I do concede; it is our duty to explain every transaction which is entered into. If there is any specific question in relation to any transaction—it has been asked in the past and it is indeed asked again—the Government itself would be placing all the facts. There is nothing that the Government has to consider; there is not secrecy at all in this affair. The hon. Member wanted to know as to why this was being done only in the case of strategic sales. Sir, the process of retail sales was started in 1991. Therefore, when different Governments were in power, between that period and now, they took decisions to off-load five per cent or seven per cent or eight per cent shares of a particular PSU. The valuations were then dictated by the values of those shares in the market and they were not being related to what is the extent of land or properties, which those companies had. Therefore, from 1991 onwards, no Government, in the case of retail sales, realising consciously that this has no nexus really to the property that the company has, it has nexus to the profitability and the value of the shares in the market ever got those assets revalued. This was the case from 1991 onwards, without an exception. But when we entered into the only

transaction of strategic sale, which has gone through so far, there were four different methods of valuations that we followed, and these are four internationally accepted methods of valuation. We follow the discounted cash flow system, the transaction multiple, as to what do similar transactions realise, the asset valuation method, i.e. what is the market value of these assets that is translated, along with liabilities, into shares; what will be the value of these assets and also the balancesheet method.

After doing the valuation by all these four methods, we then determine whether by a bidding process we were able to reach a value, which was higher than the value arrived at by all these four methods, and only then we sell it.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: My first part of the question is, independent India so far, had only Ministers for investment and not for disinvestment. That sends a wrong signal to the entire world. Why don't we call him as the Minister for revamping public sector undertakings so that it sends correct signal not only to the market but also to the citizens that these assets are not sold in distress? The second part of my question is, instead of identifying it and then waiting for the Cabinet to give clearance and then fixing the value, why doesn't the Government come forward to make a correct assessment of all public sector undertakings, without disclosing to the market that such and such units are available for sale? I am suggesting this because once a common businessman knows, once it is known to the market, the value is lost. Before identifying and making it clear that this particular unit is for sale, why doesn't the Government come forward to make a correct assessment of all the public sector undertakings. The real value, about submitting the papers, make it known to everybody and then let the Government reach to a particular question whether to it sell it or not. This I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as the first question is concerned, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Member for the suggestion that since this is a process by which units are not to be closed but units which are under-performing are intended to be altered to a situation where they are able to give a better output and, therefore, some more positive words should be used in its nomenclature. I am grateful for the suggestion. I will, certainly, pass it on to my colleague, Mr. Shourie, who is now going to handle this responsibility.

As far as the second question is concerned, there are valuations of the public sector undertakings which are done from time to time. But, these

valuations are not disclosed to the market because the intention of the Government is that when you go in for a strategic sale process, you should be able to realise the best value which, in some cases, would be over and above the valuation which we have done. For instance, I have the figures with me, which I can certainly make available to the hon. Member. The valuation of the only unit, which we have done through strategic sale, so far, was, as per our records, prior in point of time and eventually the amount which we got is a much larger amount. Therefore, we do not want to disclose what values we have made to the market. We want the market to make an assessment and once we are satisfied that we are getting the best value from the market, in the public interest, which is higher than this value, we go and settle the transaction.

श्री टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि कब और किन तारीखों में ये सब पब्लिक इंटरप्राइजेज यूनिट डिस-इन्वेस्टमेंट कमीशन को रेफर की गई?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Disinvestment Commission was constituted on the 23rd August, 1996, and the first list of reference of 40 public sector units was made available to the Disinvestment Commission in September, 1996. The second list of 10 cases was made available in March, 1997; the third list was made available in July, 1998, which was again 10 units; the fourth list of 8 units was made available in January, 1999; and the fifth list, which again contains four units, was made available in January, 1999. Thus, in all, 72 references have been made available to the Disinvestment Commission. Of them, eight were withdrawn and six were referred to the BIFR.

श्री प्रेमचन्द गुप्ता: सर, मंत्री महोदय, ने बताया कि क्या प्रोसीजर होगा, कैसा वेल्युएशन होगा, क्या तरीका इसका होगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप राष्ट्रीय झंडे की वेल्युएशन कैसे करेंगे? आप एयर इंडिया के संबंध में उसका वेल्युएशन कैसे करेंगे? Air India is our national carrier, flag carrier. इसके बारे में आप हाउस को बताइये।

श्री अरुण जेटली: सर, माननीय सदस्य का ऐसा कहना इसलिए है क्योंकि एयर इंडिया नेशनल कैरियर है। इसका वेल्युएशन कैसे होगा।...

श्री प्रेमचन्द गुप्ता: नेशनल फ्लेग की वेल्युएशन?

श्री अरुण जेटली: आप ठीक कहते हैं कि इस भावना की वेल्युएशन केवल कुछ रुपयों में नहीं होगी, लेकिन उसके परफॉरमेंस से होगी।

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I take serious objection to this. Valuation of the National Flag! This question should not be allowed. I take serious

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

objection to this. ...(*Interruptions*)... What is this?...(*Interruptions*)... इसको हम सपने में भी नहीं सोच सकते हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prem Chand Gupta, I can tell you. This is a very sensitive thing; you should have put it in a different way and not the way you have put...(*Interruptions*)... You should not have done that....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Let him withdraw that word...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, the Standing Committee on Industry is also seized of the matter. The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Industry has formed a Sub-Group to go into the issue of Disinvestment of the public sector undertakings. They have agreed to submit the report at the earliest, in this Session. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would wait for taking a decision regarding the particular PSU, till the report of the Standing Committee of Industry is submitted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the policy of disinvestment of PSUs has been evolving since 1991, and disinvestment, in some measure or the other, has been going on from 1991 onwards. Therefore, once the report comes, it will be of utmost value; and whatever suggestions are made would certainly be given the utmost respect they deserve, and would be considered by the Government. But the process cannot be suspended because, if the process is suspended, it will have serious repercussions. Therefore, the process will not be suspended.

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव: चेयरमैन साहब, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने प्रश्न के जवाब में जिन 17 कम्पनियों का जिक्र किया है, उनके संदर्भ में मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इन 17 कम्पनियों की परिसम्पत्तियों का आज के बाजार भाव पर अनुमानतया कुल क्या मूल्य होगा और इनमें कितने इम्प्लाईज काम कर रहे हैं? डिसइनवैस्टमेंट के बाद इन इम्प्लाईज का क्या भविष्य होगा?

श्री अरुण जेटली: जहां तक आपके प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग है कि उसके कर्मचारियों का क्या भविष्य होगा तो मैं स्पष्ट कर दूँ कि इसमें से बहुत अधिक कम्पनियां ऐसी हैं जिनकी परफॉर्मेंस आज बहुत अच्छी नहीं है जो घाटे में चल रही हैं। इसलिए इस पूरी प्रक्रिया से सरकार इन कम्पनियों को रिवाइव करके उन कर्मचारियों के भविष्य को बचाने का प्रयास कर रही है। एक केस में जहां पर हमने डिसइनवैस्टमेंट किया है, वहां पर हमने यह भी प्रयास किया है कि जितने अभी कर्मचारी वहां हैं उन कर्मचारियों को नौकरियां बच पाएं। कर्मचारियों के हित के लिए सरकार

योजना बना रही है और इस प्रक्रिया से नौकरियां बचती हैं। जब हम शेयर होल्डर ऐग्रीमेंट वगैरह करते हैं तो यह भी देखते हैं कि कर्मचारियों के हित में क्या-क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं और अगर किसी को हटाना भी पड़ता है जहां ओवर स्टैफिंग है, तो मिनिमम वी.आर.एस. क्या होगा? इसके अतिरिक्त कर्मचारियों के लिए इम्प्लाइज स्टॉक ऑप्शन स्कीम सरकार बना रही है ताकि कर्मचारियों की नौकरी बच सके और उनके बाकी आर्थिक हितों को सरकार मद्देनजर रख सके। जहां तक वैल्यूएशन का प्रश्न है, मैं स्पष्ट कर दूँ कि हम लोग केवल कम्पनीज़ के जब शेयर बेचते हैं—25 परसेंट, 30 परसेंट, 5 परसेंट या 51 परसेंट तो कम्पनी की सम्पत्ति उस दृष्टि से नहीं बिकती कि कोई कम्पनी को बंद करके कर्मचारियों को निकालकर कम्पनी को गिराकर वहां इमारत बनाकर बेचे इसकी अनुमति हम नहीं देते। इसलिए सरकार एक मात्रा में शेयर उस कम्पनी में भी रखती है ताकि इस प्रकार न हो पाए। जो जमीन की कंडीशंस होती है, उनमें भी यह होता है कि केवल इंडस्ट्री के लिए यह है। उस शेयर का जब हम वैल्यूएशन करते हैं जैसा मैंने पहले कहा, अलग-अलग तरीकों से वैल्यूएशन करते हैं जहां सब फैक्टर्स को मद्देनजर रखते हैं। केवल सम्पत्ति के आधार पर बिजिनेस बिकता है, ऐसा नहीं है। यह एक आधार होता है, इसके अतिरिक्त अन्य आधार भी रहते हैं। कई कम्पनीज़ ऐसी भी होती हैं—जैसे सॉफ्टवेयर कम्पनी है, जिसके पास हो सकता है कि कोई इम्प्यूवेबल प्रॉपर्टी न हो लेकिन उसकी कीमत बहुत ऊपर होगी क्योंकि उस कम्पनी का व्यावसायिक भविष्य बहुत अच्छा होगा।

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, in answer to Question No. 3, part (a), the hon. Minister has admitted that for the current financial year, a target of Rs. 10,000 crores has been fixed from disinvestments. So, the first part of my question is whether this amount of Rs. 10,000 crores is to be expected out of the 17 companies which are listed in part (a) and (b) of the reply to Question No. 3. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether, out of the 17 companies which have been listed in the answer, Modern Food Industries, Alwaye—as learnt from newspapers—has been sold for Rs. 105 crores, while it is worth thousands of crores of rupees. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the said unit has been sold at a cheaper price? Then, it had appeared in *The Hindu* and *The Economic Times* on 10th and 12th July that the eight subsidiaries of the NTC have been referred to the BIFR, and the Finance Companies have been directed to invite tenders. Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that all the eight subsidiaries of the NTC, except one in the State of Tamil Nadu, are going to be tendered for sale?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, there are three different parts of the question which the hon. Member has put. The first question is whether the target is intended to be achieved out of these 17 companies. The answer is today, we don't know how much each of these units will fetch and what will be the exact timetable, in terms of the financial year. But, yes, a part of this target certainly would come; if not the whole of it. Maybe, the valuations are much more than Rs. 10,000 crores. We don't know the valuations today. But, certainly, it is reliable to these units which have been mentioned therein.

The second question which you have put is whether our notice has been drawn to the fact about some newspaper articles saying that the assets of Modern Foods were of a higher value than the amount at which it was sold. Since this question has been raised, let me clarify it. In the context of Modern Foods, all possible valuation methods were adopted. After all valuations were adopted, we then appointed a Government Valuer to actually value the immovable property of the company also. The immovable property of the Company was also valued and the valuation of the immovable property of the Company was Rs. 109 crores. Eventually, the unit has been sold-74 per cent shares at Rs. 105 crores plus Rs. 20 crores. to be invested by them in the company. And if we take that 74 as an indication, the entire valuation of the company was projected at Rs. 165 crores. This was much more, in fact, several times more, than by all the four methods that we had adopted. So, any fanciful value, which is mentioned in the newspapers, isn't accurate. (*Interruptions*). It is not accurate. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: It has been admitted that the land value itself is more than Rs. 74 crores.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: May I just say this? Seventy-four per cent is the equity which we have sold. This is where we have to be little careful with newspaper reports because, when you mention land value, then, to the land value, some other assets like machinery will be added. (*Interruptions*). Please allow me to clarify because you have put a question. Let me give a clarification. (*Interruptions*). Even if you took the asset valuation method, to the land value, the value of the machinery would be added and then the liabilities would be taken out of it. Therefore, the valuation of the share, which is done, will not only be relatable to the land value; it will be relatable to several other factors. The market forces also determine... (*Interruptions*). Let me clarify. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: What are the market forces?
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Let us take one example. Shri Chaturvedi can quote one example. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Ultimately, it is only by the bidding process that the best value is arrived. (*Interruptions*). The hon. Member may keep in mind that this is a transaction which is entered into by a transparent bidding process. Ultimately, the values are arrived at by bidding process. It is a success story in as much as all jobs have been saved and an attempt has been made to revive a loss-making unit. As far as the third question is concerned, with regard to NTC, the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a group of Ministers, headed by the finance Minister, to go into the question as to what is to be done with the NTC units. That group of Ministers is going into this question and is likely to submit a report to the hon. Prime Minister soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have taken 55 minutes for this question.
Question No. 2 Shri Kuldip Nayyar.

Outsiders Engaged for News Programmes and Current Affairs

***2. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many outsiders, both individuals and companies, have been contracted for current affairs and news programmes during the current year till date;

(b) their names; and

(c) the amount of money paid to each one of them of per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.