

rehabilitation or after they are self dependent. In Swadhar scheme, the children merely accompany their mothers and hence they may leave the shelter home after attaining the adulthood.

Irregularities in Antrix-Devas Deal

*495. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the irregularities found in the enquiries conducted by Government about the Antrix-Devas deal;

(b) whether Government has taken any action against those responsible for omissions and commissions in the matter; and

(c) the names of the members of the Space Commission who have given approval to the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Government had set up a two-member High Powered Review Committee (HPRC) on February 10, 2011 to (i) review the technical, commercial, procedural and financial aspects of the Agreement (ii) suggest corrective measures (in) fix responsibility for lapses if any, and (iv) review adequacy of procedures and approval processes followed by ANTRIX, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Department of Space (DOS) and suggest improvements and changes. The full text of the HPRC Report, submitted on March 12, 2011 is available on the Websites of DOS (www.dos.gov.in) and ISRO (www.isro.gov.in).

Subsequently, a five-member High Level Team (HLT) was constituted by Government on May 31, 2011 to (i) examine the entire gamut of the decision-making process followed in the signing of the agreement, (ii) seek explanations of person(s) named in the report of the HPRC and any other persons against whom there is evidence, for various identified acts of omission and commission, and (iii) suggest future course of action on the basis of the explanations. The Conclusions and Recommendations of HLT (Chapter 6 of the Report) are available in the Websites of DOS (www.dos.gov.in) and ISRO (www.isro.gov.in).

The main irregularities in the Antrix-Devas deal found by the HPRC are:

- (i) The Space Commission and the cabinet were not informed of the Antrix Devas Agreement or its implications for usage of spectrum for defence and security purposes.
- (ii) The proposals of GSAT-6 or 6A involving use of satellite capacity (for

Devas) were never discussed nor authorized by INSAT Coordination Committee (ICC).

- (iii) ICC was authorized to earmark at least a certain percentage of INSAT transponders capacity for use by non-governmental users. No meeting (of ICC) has taken place between 2004 and 2009.
- (iv) The choice of Forge Advisers, USA (the Devas Agreement was based on an MoU between Antrix and Forge Advisers, USA) is grey area in that it was not clear as to what technology Forge Advisers had accessed with full Intellectual Property Rights.

The main irregularities in the Antrix-Devas deal found by the HLT are:

- (i) The proposal of Antrix-Devas was finalized with no consultation with any other Department in Government of India, including Department of Telecommunication.
- (ii) The INSAT Coordination Committee (ICC) set up in 1977 for the overall management of the INSAT system had not met since 2004.
- (iii) The SATCOM policy of leasing INSAT capacity on non-exclusive basis to non-government parties was not followed.
- (iv) The approval process for GSAT-6 and GSAT-6A, the satellites proposed to meet the obligations under Antrix-Devas Agreement, was based on incomplete and inaccurate information given to the Cabinet and the Space Commission.

Further, the financial and strategic gaps in Antrix-Devas Agreement as per the findings of HPRC and HIT are:

- (i) A large part of S-band Spectrum was envisaged for use in Antrix-Devas agreement. This left very little spectrum with ISRO for unique strategic or societal use in future or for other multimedia mobile service operations.
- (ii) Safeguards were inadequate in the Antrix-Devas Agreement to prevent entry and monopoly by foreign telecom players for S-Band, which is required by strategic users in the country.
- (iii) The terms of Antrix-Devas agreement is heavily loaded in favour of Devas. ISRO had to invest Rs. 800 Crores on two satellites and their launches required for Antrix - Devas agreement. Whereas, the agreement

was signed with a company which had a paid up share capital of Rs. 1 Lakh only (January 2005).

- (iv) The transponder leasing revenue in Antrix - Devas agreement would be able to give Antrix an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of about 10%. However, there were other risks involved, such as, Penalty for late delivery of the satellite/services, risk of searching of alternative users, if Devas fails to develop the new technology for mobile services.

(b) Based on the findings of the High Level Team, four former scientists of Department of Space have been excluded from re-employment, Committee roles or any other important role under the Government and have been divested of any current assignment/consultancy with the Government.

(c) The Antrix-Devas deal was not placed before the Space Commission for approval. This deal was approved by Antrix Board.

Scheme to save Girl Child

496. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched schemes to save the girl child and provide incentives to the girls irrespective of caste and creed in the wake of the declining sex-ratio in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of beneficiaries therefrom during the last three years and;

(d) the funds sanctioned and utilized by the State Governments during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Provisional results of Census 2012 has revealed that while the overall sex ratio in the country has improved from 933 in 2001 to 940 females per 1000 males in 2011, there has been a sharp decline in child sex ratio in the age-group of 0-6 years, declining from 927 girls per thousand boys in 2001 to 914 in 2011. This decline has been continuing unabated since 1961.

The Government recognizes that the problem of declining child sex ratio in India is not an isolated phenomenon but must be seen in the context of the low status of women and the girl child as a whole, within the home and outside. While