Dharampal Sabharwal MEMBER OF PARLIAMANET (RAJYA SABHA)



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December 01, 2009

New Delhi - 110 001.

Dear Mr. Sharma,

I am glad that TRAI have invited suggestions on consultation paper on "Overall Spectrum Management". As you are aware that spectrum issue is the point of discussion both in the media and Parliament and needs to be discussed threadbare so that Government does not lose money on the allocation of spectrum.

During the last two years, telecom sector has been in media as how the Government sold the spectrum at low price and how the Nation lost thousand of crores. This consultation paper talks about the policy design for allocation of spectrum, which is the need of the hour.

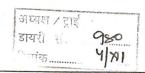
Spectrum is a scare resource, which belongs to the Nation and its people. As the commercial value of this resource is vast, all nations have earned billion of dollars from auctioning the spectrum and utilized for social schemes. Today, when our Government is auctioning Oil blocks, Coal Mines and in fact, 3G spectrum, and then why we are still not following auctioning of 2G spectrum. Why the nation is being deprived from the commercial value of 2G spectrum, which can be easily used for public good.

Even, our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, also emphasize the same, which is event from his speech mad during the occasions of "India Telecom – 2007".

The policy regime for making spectrum available should be fair, transparent, equitable and forward looking. ... At the same time, the revenue potential to the government must not be lost sight of. After all, governments across the globe have harnessed substantial revenues while allocating spectrum. In the final analysis, the key issues are correct pricing, fair allocation rules, and a pro-competitive stance......

In the last few years, we have beer following the Subscriber Linked Criterion; however, there is no reason why we continue to follow the same when it has attracted huge controversies, due to various reasons. India is following the auction policy for 3G and thus, the same should also be considered for 2G spectrum.

I am aware about this fact that if spectrum allocation criterion is changed, few people/ companies will be affected; however, the same should not be any reasons to continue with a subjective policy. The Government has



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the right to change the policy in the larger interest of the public whether such change affects few people / companies one way or the other way. The grounds of maintaining level playing field conditions or as to how it will affect few people / companies one way or the other way should not come in the way of following an auction policy.

Thus, I urge the Regulator that the country should not be deprived from the market driven price of the 2G spectrum and all future 2G spectrum, should now be auctioned, without blocking it for anyone. Auction is a fair and transparent spectrum allocation policy, which gives equal opportunities to everyone and I am sure that the adoption of this policy will be good for the nation and its people. I also request that his letter may be treated as my response to the above consultation paper.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL)

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