GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3313
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
MEETING OF WGIG
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether currently the power to control and govern the internet rests with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Number (ICANN), based in California;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to wrest control of internet on expiry of MoU in September, 2006 between ICANN and the Department of Commerce of the USA;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether India has attended meeting nof Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) held in Geneva in mid-June 2005;

(e) if so, the details of issues discussed therein; and

(f) the outcome of the meeting and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): ICANN is an internationally borganized, non-profit corporation that has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. As a public-private partnership, ICANN is dedicated to preserving the operational stability and security of the Internet.

(b) and (c): No Sir, Government after consultation with all stakeholders have declared that governments and all stakeholders should have effective say in all deliberations on Internet policy. These should be transparent, inclusive and democratic.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. A delegation from India attended the WGIG meeting held in Geneva in mid-June 2005. India presented its view point in the form of response to the Questionnaire circulated by WGIG Secretariat on various aspects of publicpolicy issues and ICANN functions, structure and governance.

India maintained that Internet has a very important role to play and its stability, reliability and security is very vital for communication and variety of applications such as e-Commerce, e-Governance, etc.

It was suggested that the organizational form which will be charged with the managementof Public Policy issues related to Internet Governance and should be multilateral, transparent, and democratic. This will be with the full involvement of the Governments, the Private Sector, Civil Society and International Organizations.

(f): Based on the deliberations by various countries and organizations, four models of Internet Governance and its institutional mechanism were brought out in the WGIG report. India has maintained that this report will pave the way for further deliberations in the World summit on Information Society.