

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1497
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
MEDIA REPORT ON BROADCASTING CONTRACT
Purkayastha Shri Kabindra

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports in the media that the U.K. company which bagged the broadcasting contract for production and coverage of Commonwealth Games, 2010 was not legitimate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether such Information/ report was leaked in the media; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the erring persons responsible for the leakage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Dr. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

(a) &(b) Yes Sir. There have been media reports stating that Prasar Bharati gave the production and coverage contract to an illegal entity which gave a fake service tax registration number. As informed by Prasar Bharati, M/s. SIS Live was a consortium of M/s. SIS Outside Broadcasts Limited and Satellite Information Services Limited with SIS Outside Broadcasts Limited as the lead partner. The Expression of Interest and the Request for Proposal allowed consortium also to participate in the bid, subsequently the consortium became a partnership firm without changing the members of the consortium based on the legal advice during finalization of contract. As regards the issue of fake service tax registration number the factual position as conveyed by the Office of the Commissioner of Service Tax, Delhi is that M/s. SIS Live had applied for on line service tax registration on 17.5.2010 for registration based on which it was automatically assigned on line PAN based service tax registration number ABRFS4787LSD001. M/s. SIS Live was required to submit physical documents to the Range Officer within the stipulated time frame. As M/s. SIS Live failed to submit the requisite documents within the given time frame, the formal service tax registration number stated above was not given to M/s. SIS Live. M/s. SIS Live subsequently filed an application requesting for cancellation of service tax registration. M/s. SIS Live filed fresh application on line on 3rd September, 2010 and was automatically assigned on line PAN based service tax registration No. ABRFS4787LSD002. M/s. SIS Live submitted the physical documents to the Range Officer in stipulated time frame and the service tax registration certificate (ST-2) with service tax registration No. ABRFS4787LSD002 was issued to them on 28th September, 2010. It was thus clarified that none of the two PAN based service tax registrations quoted by M/s. SIS Live to Prasar Bharati can be categorized/captioned as 'fake'.

(c) & (d) Ministry is not aware of how such reports appeared in the media and who provided such information. As such no action has been taken against any person/officer.