

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4047
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
ANTRIX DEVAS AGREEMENT
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has considered the Report of the Committee set up to scrutinise the Antrix Devas Agreement;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) A High Power Review Committee (HPRC) was constituted by Government in February 2011 to review the technical, commercial, procedural and financial aspects of the Antrix Devas agreement. The HPRC submitted its report in March 2011. The High Power Review committee (HPRC) in its finding has reported that while agreement with Devas does not indicate any short selling of Spectrum, it does, however, indicate certain financial and strategic gaps, procedural lapses and lack of transparency. The full text of the High Powered Review Committee has been placed on the ISRO website (www.isro.gov.in) and Department of Space website (www.dos.gov.in).

On further examination of the facts and circumstances of the agreement on the basis of HPRC findings, Government constituted a High Level Team (HLT) in May 2011 to examine the whole gamut of decision making process followed in Antrix Devas agreement. The HLT submitted its report in September 2011. The High Level Team, in its finding, has pointed out that there have been serious lapses of judgment on the part of a number of officials. In case of some, their actions verged on the point of serious violation of norms and breach of public trust. The HLT also has identified officers responsible for various types of omission and commission. The conclusions and recommendations of the High Level team have been put on the ISRO website (www.isro.gov.in) and Department of Space website (www.dos.gov.in).

(c) Based on the recommendations of the High Powered Review Committee and the recommendations of the High Level Team, the following steps have been taken by Government;- A set of governance and systemic reforms have already been implemented within ANTRIX, Department of Space and in the conduct of business in Space Commission, as given below:-

1. Secretary) DOS/ Chairman, ISRO relinquished the post of Chairman, ANTRIX. A full-time Chairman-cum-Managing Director has been appointed on July 7, 2011. A Coordination Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DOS has been constituted in July 2011 with representatives from ISRO and ANTRIX. The Antrix Board has also been re-constituted.

II. DOS secretariat has been strengthened by appointing a Director (Legal) and Director (Projects and Procurement). Appointment of a Director level functionary for Costing is under process. The Internal Audit function of DOS has been restructured and strengthened with (i) A centralized internal Audit, (H) An Audit plan and Audit calendar and a training scheme put in place.

III. The Satellite Communications and Navigations Programme Office at ISRO/DOS Headquarters has been restructured into three separate Wings, dealing with (i) Frequency Management, (ii) SATCOM Policy Implementation and (iii) Satellite Communication programmes.

IV. SATCOM Policy (1997) as well as the Norms, Guidelines and Procedures (2000), approved by Cabinet have been put on the ISRO Website in July 2011 and later on the DOS Website.

v. Space Commission, with addition of Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, as Member, would give a different perspective as a scientist. A Standing Project Appraisal Committee is in place to review all Project proposals before being taken up to Space Commission for approval. Space Commission is periodically apprised on matters related to ANTRIX.

vi. The INSAT Coordination Committee (ICC) has been re-constituted on May 2011. The reconstituted ICC had six meetings so far. Technical Advisory Group and Standing Pricing Committee have also been activated. ICC has evolved revised guidelines for transponder allocation in future, which is under process for approval. Costing and revision in pricing are being addressed by ICC.

Matters related to orbital slots and spectrum, including possible usage of S-band orbital slots available with DOS, are also being addressed by ICC.

vii. A revised utilization plan has been made for GSAT-6 and GSAT-6A satellites, taking into account the strategic and societal imperatives of the country.

viii. Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Department of Revenue have been requested to conduct necessary investigation for possible acts of omission and commission.

ix. Based on the recommendations of the High Level Team report, four former space scientists 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.