

P. C. CHACKO, M.P.
CHAIRMAN
 Joint Parliamentary Committee
 Telecom Licences and Spectrum



Office : Committee Room 'B',
 Parliament House Annexe,
 New Delhi-110 001
 Tel. No. : 011-23035549, 23092002

16th April, 2013.

Shri A. Raja,
 Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha),
 2A, Motilal Marg,
 New Delhi - 110 011

Dear Shri A. Raja Ji,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated 4th April, 2013. I am pleased to respond to your letter point-wise.

I would like to reiterate that you had the opportunity to send your statement in writing which would be taken on the record of the Committee and this would be equivalent to making your presentation before the Committee.

The decision of whether or not to grant you permission to depose before the Committee is taken on the basis of the opinion of the Members of the Committee. Although some members have requested for calling you to depose before the Committee, majority of them did not share the same view. My conclusion was hence based on the majority decision of the members.

Further as I had explained to you in person, by consenting to your personal appearance before the Committee would thereby compel me to heed to the requests of members to also permit your predecessors to depose before the Committee as we are dealing with issues pertaining to the period from 1998 to 2009.

I am sure you are also aware that as per Directions 99(1) and 59(1) of Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha, it is pointed out that when a Ministry or Department is required to give evidence before a Committee on any matter, it shall be represented by the Secretary and not by a Minister or Former Minister. Hence the rules of procedure of the House relating to the Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make, even to the JPC.

I am aware that you had responded to specific queries of the Committee, however, when I suggested that you could give your deposition in writing which would be considered as part of the report, it also implied that apart from your response to specific queries of the Committee, you could also give your views in the overall context of issuance of UAS licenses and grant of Spectrum by the Department of Telecom.

...2/-

Continuation sheet...2/-

I would also like to assure you that the depositions of all those who have appeared before the Committee are being cross verified with the relevant documents in the possession of the Committee at this point in time when the draft report is being written. In circumstances where the deposition does not tally with the documentary evidences, the report will bear those remarks.

Truly, the correlation between the various documents and the sequence of events is explicable by the person at the helm of affairs at that relevant point in time. So surely you will agree that the concerned Secretaries would also be in the loop to explain the correlation between documents and its chronological sequence. Moreover it is the practice of all Parliamentary Committees to take evidence from the Secretary of the Ministry.

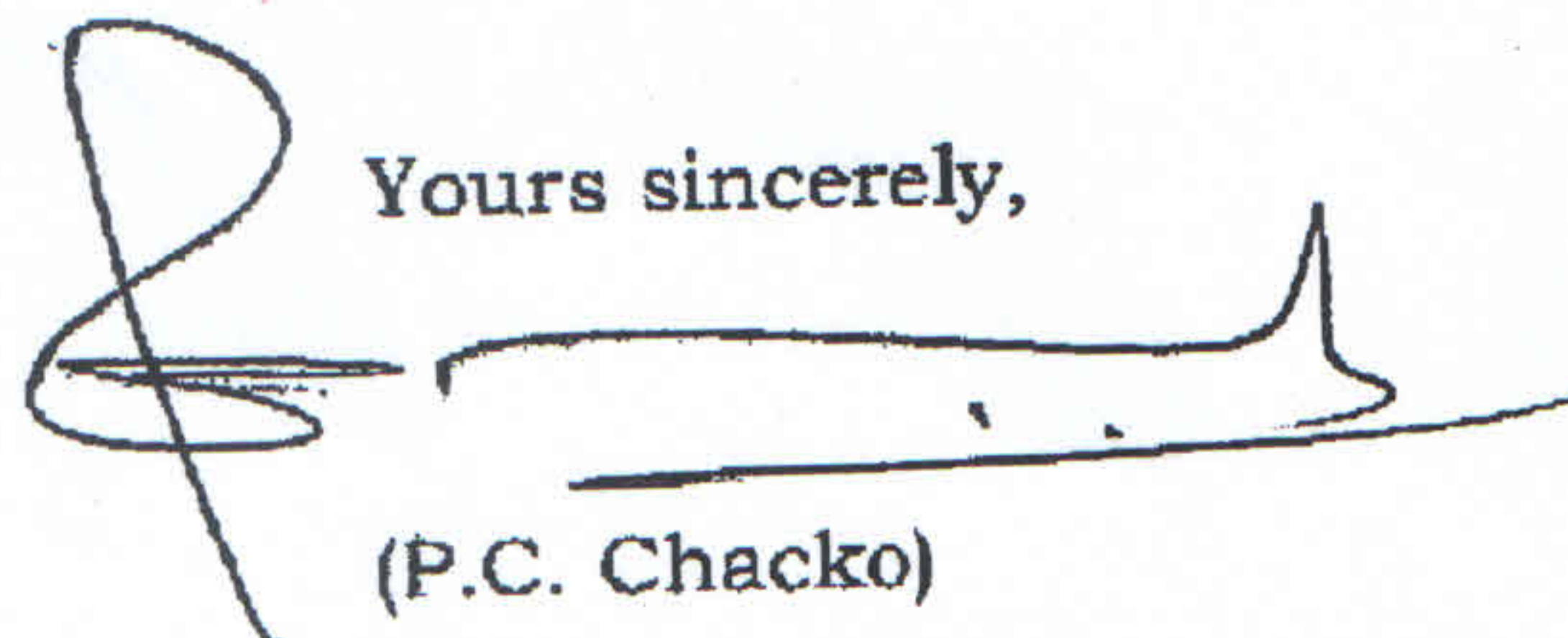
I can therefore rest assure you that the Committee will draw its own conclusions based on the collective wisdom of the members of the Committee, related to policy prescriptions, implementations and aberrations, if any, for the period from 1998 to 2009.

It may appear to you that the Committee does not appear to be speaking in one voice on the issue of asking Ministers to depose and some members may have taken a contrary position in public. But as explained earlier in this letter this was not the majority view of the members.

You should not have any apprehensions about the credibility of the report as stated in your letter. It is decided by the collective wisdom of the Committee.

Thanking you for your co-operation. I remain,

Yours sincerely,



(P.C. Chacko)