



A. RAJA, M.P.

D.O. No.50/MP/VIP/2013

06.11.2013

Respected Madam Speaker,
Vanakkam.

Re: JPC to examine matters relating to allocation and pricing of telecom licenses and spectrum from 1998-2009

When the Hon'ble Prime Minister agreed, on 22.02.2011 in his address to the Lok Sabha, to set up this JPC, it was pursuant to a persistent demand of MPs who had expressed a desire for the entire matter relating to allocation and pricing of telecom licenses and spectrum be looked into, along with the roles played by various individuals. For reasons that are too well known to be written, the Chairman of the JPC chose to adopt a partisan and political role and ensured a report that was more political than parliamentarian in character.

I was shocked to see that the final report of the JPC on 29.10.2013 does not include my written statement of 22.04.2013 at all.

You will recall that I had written to you on 22.02.2013, explaining that as the Minister for Communication & Information Technology from May 2007 to November 2010, I was best placed to explain the policy and rationale of the Government behind the issuance of UAS licenses and grant of spectrum, as well as the sequence of events and the role of various individuals and institutions. I had requested that I should be called as a witness to the JPC to tender my evidence. Thereafter, I also took up the matter with the Chairman of the JPC. Unfortunately, despite my several requests – and the requests of several members of the JPC – the Chairman of the JPC refused to permit me to depose before the Committee.

I had thereafter submitted a detailed written statement, in which I had specifically expressed that "*I trust that it will be a part of the report to be given*". My trust could not have been breached in a worse manner. Indeed, the final report of the JPC does not even mention my written statement. Thus, the JPC that was to bring out the truth, has chosen to hide behind falsehoods.

Kindly note that the Minute of Dissent of Sh. T.R. Baalu, MP, specifically mentions that:

In my view, all the factual and legal aspects of this matter have been correctly and cogently recorded in the written statement. The contents of that statement should be read as part and parcel of this note of dissent.

(Report p. 250)

Similarly, in the Minute of Dissent by the MPs belonging to the BJP, my written statement has been repeatedly referred to and relied upon (*Report p. 271*).

It is evident from the above that my written statement forms an integral part of the above Minutes of Dissent. Despite such clear and unambiguous Minutes of Dissent, the Chairman of the JPC has chosen to exclude my written statement.

I now understand that the Chairman of the JPC made his intentions clear when he refused to let me depose before the Committee. Still, relying on his representation, I submitted a detailed written statement. However, I believe it can be safely said that the credibility of the JPC has touched new depths when the Chairman chose to exclude my written statement from the Report. It is nothing but an act of cowardice, intended solely to prevent the truth from being known.

The Chairman may take refuge by saying that my written statement is part of the overall record/proceedings of the JPC, along with all other documents collected during its nineteen months' tenure. This is as good as saying that the truth will remain forever buried, rather than being made accessible to all.



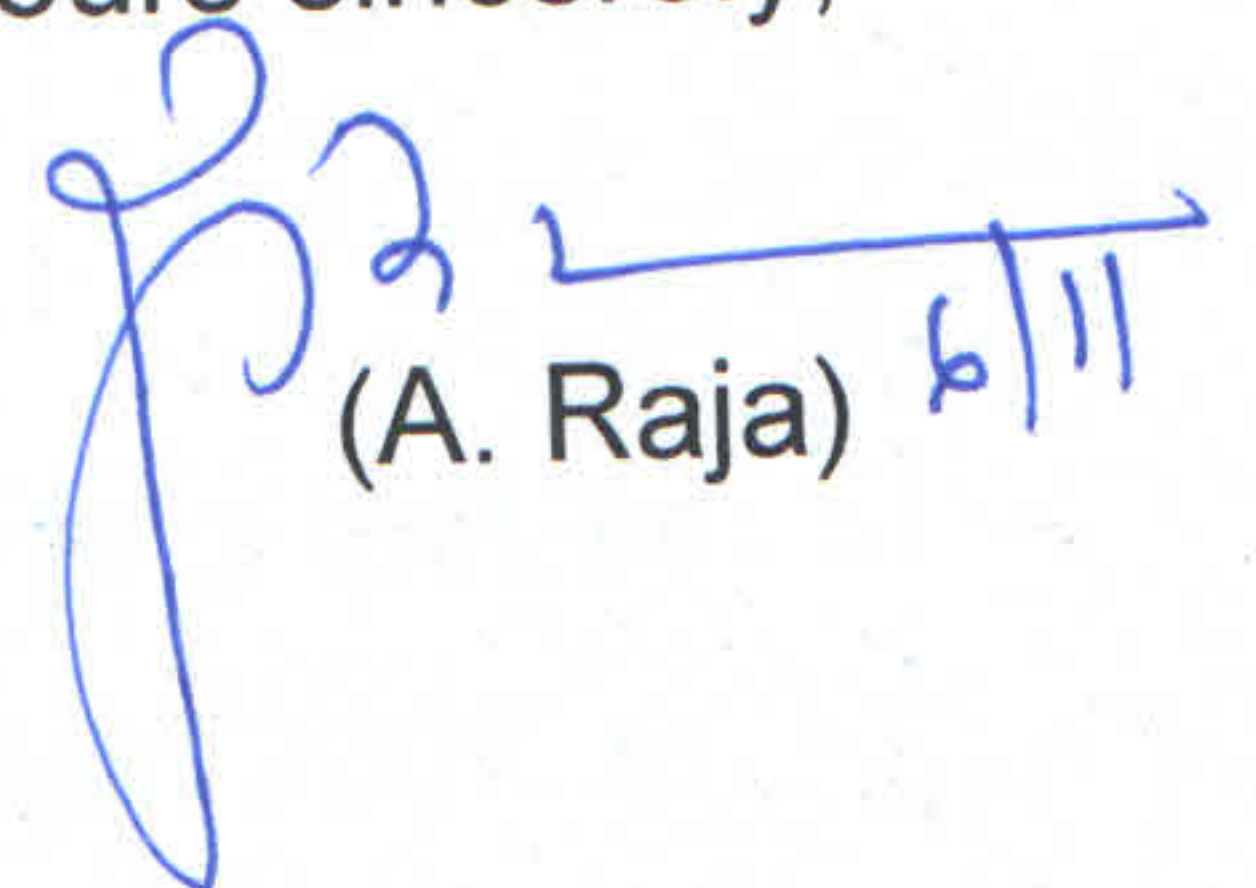
It is disturbing that apart from being excluded from the Report, to the best of my knowledge, my written statement was not even properly put to discussion during any meeting of the JPC by the Chairman. The result is that the facts I have stated have not been contradicted or refuted by the JPC. This has led to a strange situation where there is no finality to the factual issues that the JPC was supposed to enquire into.

Further, I would respectfully draw your attention to the Terms of Reference of the JPC, which required it "to *examine irregularities and aberrations, if any, and the consequences thereof in the implementation of Government decisions and policy prescriptions from 1998 to 2009*". Consideration and discussion of the latter part of the Terms of Reference, i.e. the "*consequences*", is curiously absent in the Report. The Report is thus a half-baked and half-hearted effort that takes the matter no further and is indeed a disservice to Parliament.

I would urge you to return the report to the Chairman and direct him to re-submit it after including my written statement.

with regards,

Yours sincerely,


(A. Raja) 6/11

Hon'ble Speaker
Lok Sabha
Parliament House
New Delhi