

## “Corruption” The curse on Indian growth

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has submitted to the government the report on the 2G spectrum allotment that may have caused a loss of over Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the exchequer. CAG has reportedly put the revenue loss to exchequer at up to Rs 1.40 lakh crore, in addition to another Rs 36,700 crore on allocation of spectrum beyond contractual limit to existing nine operators. Nine firms were issued licences, bundled with start up of 2G spectrum, in January 2008 at Rs 1,658 crore for pan-India operations.

This exposure has not only shattered the faith and trust of people of this country on the Administrative and political system which runs this country but also created a doubt on many such corruptions which went unnoticed in the past. There is lot of media and many agencies are involved in investigation and now the supreme court of India also has commented on the functioning of Prime Minister’s Office, all this shows the magnitude of the problem which has taken this country into the lap of corruption and making it more vulnerable internally.

Every time we present our budget, we say we have fewer funds to support many important schemes which could build this nation strong and bring accelerated and inclusive growth. We talk about our fiscal deficit, external and internal borrowings and the burden of interest payment, we have been shown the helplessness of our Finance Ministry in providing and managing adequate funds for important programmes in this country. Having said so, we have ample of evidences where we can see a meager allocation or increment in expenditures for important development projects and increase of expenses for non developmental activities. If we see it will appear that our real economy is lagging behind the parallel black economy in our country and this type of corruptions is really responsible for such a pathetic situation.

Many of the observations in the past and present have shown critical issues which this country is facing and also the kind of allocation which is given during the current budget for some social and development related projects due to unavailability of the fund is a shame on the face of our great managers of this country. The basic question is how come the fund will be available when the corruption has reached at this level, when the protectors are behaving like predators, we should not expect any miracle to finish this from the root unless we fight till we succeed.

From the various reports and information, it has been observed that India’s food security is in danger of being compromised due to a shortage of funds, says an urgent note from the department of food and public distribution to the Finance Ministry. Despite the government providing Rs 55,578 crore to finance purchase of food grains, the food ministry has said that the sum is short of another Rs 26,979 crore. In 2010-11, FCI and state agencies have fixed a target of procuring 26 million tonne of wheat at Rs 1,100 per quintal. In 2009-10, an amount of Rs 52,145.44 crore was allocated under food subsidy, against a requirement of Rs 63,415.51 crore. The requirement rose to Rs 72,234.98 crore during the year because of the additional bonus of Rs 50 per quintal on paddy for kharif marketing in the year 2009-10, extra allocations of food grains for festivals, drought and floods, besides additional ad hoc allocations. However, against this, the food ministry was allocated just around Rs 58,242.45 crore, which included supplementary grants and amount reappropriated from other budget heads towards food subsidy. The shortfall between requirement and actual allocation was Rs 13,992.53 crore. Similarly, in 2010-2011, against a requirement of Rs 68,198 crore for food subsidy, actual allocation by ministry of finance was around Rs 55,211 crore, a shortfall of Rs 12,987 crore. So how this deficit will be taken care of, definitely not by this kind of corruption, in a country where food security is in question, which ranks 134 in human development index, how our leaders and administrator can do such heinous crime against the people of this nation for whom they have been selected. The democracy of this nation is in the custody of these corrupt practices and this is high time, enough is enough.

If we see the magnitude of the 2G spectrum scam against the various budget allocations for 2010-2011, it is really shocking that the country has lost such a huge amount which could have been utilized to support many important issues and help poor people of this country. But this has been hijacked by the vested interest and nexus between the corrupt people who manage the show. The loss of over Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the exchequer forms nearly 16% of the total expenditure proposed in the Budget Estimates which is Rs. 11,08,749 crore. The fiscal deficit for BE 2010-11 at 5.5 per cent of GDP, which works out to Rs.3,81,408 crore and this amounts forms nearly 47% of the estimated fiscal deficit. The allocation for defense increased to Rs. 1,47,344 crore this time which could be easily funded with

this amount which we have just lost in the hand of corrupt politicians and corporate. This is a open fact that India needs better Health and Education facilities for both urban and rural people under poverty, also we need to spend on our social security and should support the basic need of nearly 300 million people below poverty line. From the table below we can see the level of increase in the allocation of fund is not so big to support the activity at large, and unavailability of funds may be the reason for this meager increase in allocation.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
Plan allocation to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	Rs 19,534 crore	Rs 22,300 crore
Plan allocation for school education	Rs.26,800 crore	Rs 31,036 crore
National Social Security Fund for unorganized sector workers to be set up with an initial allocation of Rs.1000 crore. This fund will support schemes for weavers, toddy tappers, rickshaw pullers, bidi workers etc.		

This is a fact that after 60 years of independence we are able to provide electricity to only 488,173 villages (30 May, 2006) out of 638365 villages (2001 census) in India. Nearly 400 million Indians have no access to electricity, being at this point we need to think of providing the necessary support and mange funds to provide this facilities, when the country is dependent on crude import we must need to explore the clean and green energy sector for which the country needs funds and this meager increase of allocation for power sector excluding RGGVY from Rs.2230 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.5,130 crore in 2010-11also the increase for new and renewable energy from Rs.620 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.1,000 crore in 2010-11will not support much as it required. The country which is going to claim as one of the important economy of this world needs to look into the situation very carefully, In a country where there are 70% of the people stay in rural areas, were provided with Rs. 66,100 crore for Rural Development which is nearly one third of the 1.76 lakh crore which we lost due to mind less and heart less act of our own people.

Now the question in the mind of common man for whom we cry now and then is, will our leaders understand the fact that for whom they are what their duties are as a leader, as human being towards other human being who is poor and derived people of this country. When millions sleep in hunger and rarely manage to effort the basic facilities how we can justify this type of irresponsible act on the part of people whom we believe will change our situation, will provide us with better life, will protect our fundamental rights to live respectfully in this world. We do not want a tip from the lavish life style, but can our leaders give us what we deserve from them, at least a fair and transparent system through which we can reach our needy, poor and deprived people of this great country with what they need.

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