



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

11 June, 2015

Dear Shri Ravi Shankar ji,

This is with regards to the broader issue of Internet Governance and more specifically Net Neutrality, which has been dominating the discussions across stakeholders for nearly 3 months in India.

I have written detailed representations in this regard to your predecessors several times since as early as 2012 and to you in a letter dated 13th June 2014. In these letters I had highlighted repeatedly, the need for India to substantively, firmly and consciously adopt multi-stakeholder "procedures for consultation and decision making", where issues related to internet governance (including Net Neutrality) are concerned. India's continued stance emerging out of UPA's UN-CIRP proposal at the UNGA, of November 2011, favoring a multilateral decision making process, is both impractical where internet governance is concerned, and unlikely to emerge as either a consensus or majority view. Refusal to take a firm stance continues to be a source of embarrassment for us at international fora.

Furthermore, the lack of consultation amongst multi-stakeholder groups within the country has resulted in "sudden and extreme" views being presented by stakeholders on the issue of Net Neutrality. This has placed the Government and Parliamentarians in an unnecessary and avoidable situation. Such an impasse could have been avoided if multi-stakeholder consultations on wider issues of Internet Governance, including Net Neutrality, to seek all views and converge on "common ground", had been attempted over the last 2 years.

I fully understand the government's need to keep issues of national security arising from cybersecurity within its purview and remain supportive of that approach. However, even there we need to adopt a policy that exhibits "cooperation" with multi-stakeholder groups to develop a regime that is both flexible and proportionate, while ensuring investments on one hand and protecting privacy on the other.



I urge you to reconsider India's approach and use this opportunity to position India firmly on the global map by leading the global dialogue on internet governance, taking advantage of our position within the developing countries and leading democracies of the world.

If you need any further information I will be pleased to assist.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
Hon'ble Minister of Communication & IT
Government of India
New Delhi

Encl: As above

Copy: Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of India