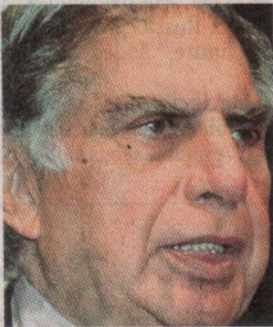
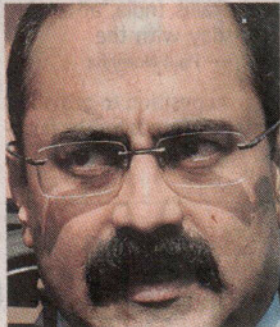


Tata, Chandrasekhar in letter war on 2G

Blame each other in 3 open letters



Mr Ratan Tata



**Mr Rajeev
Chandrasekhar**

Our Bureau
New Delhi, Dec. 9

The spat between Mr Ratan Tata and Mr Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Member of Parliament, went public on Thursday with open letters flying thick and fast through the day from both sides blaming each other of taking advantage of Government's telecom policies.

In an open letter to the MP, the Tata Group Chairman said that when the BJP-led NDA Government in 1999 changed the policy for GSM operators from a fixed licence fee regime to a revenue-share regime, the loss to the exchequer would have been about Rs 50,000 crore. "We should all note that many of the flip-flops in the telecom policy occurred during the BJP regime," Mr Tata said.

In the same breath, Mr Tata also praised the then Telecom Minister, Mr Arun Shourie, for ushering in a regime that provided freedom of choice of technology.

Mr Tata's letter was in response to an open letter from Mr Chandrasekhar on

December 6, who alleged that the Tatas had gained from the decision to permit dual technology by former Communication and IT Minister Mr A. Raja.

In response, Mr Tata said, "The company has strictly followed the applicable policy and has been severely disadvantaged, as you are well aware by certain powerful politically connected operators who have wilfully subverted policy under various telecom ministers."

Mr Tata also blamed Mr Chandrasekhar for lobbying against the entry of CDMA operators in 2002.

Mr Chandrasekhar sent out another letter saying that Mr Tata had ducked the main issues. "In sharp contrast to my efforts to keep this debate relating to facts and policy discussions — your letter is intensely personal, attributes feeble motives and most unbecoming of the House of Tatas," Mr Chandrasekhar said. Tata Teleservices also issued a separate letter rebutting allegations made by Mr Chandrasekhar.

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