

**EXHIBIT-2**

**EXCERPTS FROM TRANSCRIPT OF MR. AMJITH ZAKIR, THE CURRENT CEO OF VT, MR. KHUSH RASTOGI, THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEG**

**Chairperson:** Good morning!! The Special Enquiry Committee will come to order. We welcome everyone to today's hearing on *“ongoing chaos with respect to the movie -The Incidental Economist and the alleged political propaganda using technology”*. Although not unprecedented, this is a unique hearing. The issues we will consider range from data privacy and security to consumer protection.

Respected Gentlemen and Ladies, it was necessary to convene this hearing because of the widening gap of distrust between technology companies and the Navalurisan people, focusing on allegations of political bias and plans to build a censored search product in the country. As you all are well aware “A free world depends on a free internet. We need to know that your technologies are part of a free world.” Therefore gentlemen now the session is open for any related queries

**Member of Parliament**

**(MP) 1:** Good Morning Gentlemen and Ladies! There is this whole discussion in the public about the movie “The Incidental Economist” produced by Premji Productions and its sister Co. and the Wolf Studios. It seems to have created a huge impact on public. Mr. Premji, can you please explain to us- Why this movie is initiating a huge discussion among public?

**Mr. Premji:** Good Morning Gentlemen and Ladies! The movie “The Incidental Economist” produced by Premji Productions and its sister Co. – Manali Productions and the Wolf Studios is a high budget movie based on the life of our former Prime Minister – Dr. Akshit Singh, scripted by Mr. Abhishek Arora and directed by Mr. Dharma Ayyappan. The role of Dr. Singh is enacted by Mr. Carmel Fernadez. The movie is estimated with \$250 million budget. (*.....goes on explaining about the movie for five minutes*).

**(MP) 2:** Good Morning Gentlemen and Ladies! So this movie hugely revolves around the political life of Dr. Akshit Singh and NPP. Even though, Dr. Akshit Singh has given his consent, NPP is currently not willing to allow the release of the movie as they consider it to be defaming their long established political life in Navalurisa as they are the current ruling party and the thereby affecting the country’s internal peace. Is there any real life incident which has been incorporated in the movie which relates to this particular issue?

**Mr. Premji:** Indeed sir, we had approached Dr. Akshit Singh and received his consent and the manuscript had particular changes in plotline upon his request. However, we assure you that there is no particular incident which is intended to affect the NPP or Dr. Akshit Singh or Nalavurisa’s peace or sovereignty.

**(MP) 3:** Gentlemen! Further probing into the issues of the movie is beyond our constitutional power. We are not the right forum to investigate the issue. However, we are more concerned on some other issue. It has come to our notice

that the official teaser and trailer of the movie was removed from Internet and other social media platform upon the legal notice issued by NPP. However, our concern is related to the storage of the same. These videos are stored in the “Cloud”. Is it certain that the data in such cloud is indeed removed? Moreover, why is the internet behind people, collecting millions of data?

**(MP) 4:** Adding to what is in discussion in many respects, View Trender Ltd. Co., (VT) and other such website's incredible reach is why we're here today. For instance, a cooking app used by approximately 3, 00,000 people led to information about 87 million VT users being obtained by the company Lakeview Encyclopedia, another private company. There are plenty of questions about the behavior of Lakeview Encyclopedia and we expect to hold a future hearing on Lakeview Encyclopedia and similar firms. Mr. Zakir would probably promise that when VT discovers other such apps that had access to large amounts of user data, they ban those apps and inform those affected. And that's appropriate, but it's unlikely to be enough for the more than 4 billion VT users. *(He smirked; this led to laughter among all the members).*

**Mr. Zakir:** Respected Sir, I would like to clarify that no information is taken by VT or any other websites or any apps without the consent of any of its users.

**(MP) 5:** *(suddenly intercepts and says)* Gentlemen... *(Held up his mobile phone)*...If VT and such other apps or websites want, Could they track even my movements if I moved across the room, Right?

**Mr. Zakir:** Not by default! There are certain products that might be able to track that info but for that sir, I need to look at your phone settings to check the same.

**(MP) 5:** Mr. Zakir, let's be clear. I need yes or no answer!

**Mr. Rastogi:** *(Intercepts)* ...We need to see the settings of your phone sir.

**(MP) 5:** It's not a tricky question! You make more than \$100 million a year; you ought to be able to answer that question. I'm shocked you don't know to answer the same without looking into the phone. *(Laughing mockingly...)*

**MP4:** So, VT and many such companies including the NEG handle extensive amounts of personal data for billions of users. A significant amount of that data is shared with third-party developers, who utilize your platform. This year, you did not actively monitor whether that data was transferred by such developers to other parties. Moreover, your policies only prohibit data transfers by developers to parties seeking to profit from such data. Do you know any instances where user data was improperly transferred to third party in breach of VT terms? If so, how many times have that happened, and was VT only made aware of that transfer by some third party?

**Mr. Rastogi:** Respected sir, NEG had received two official complaints regarding the leakage of data. We're now conducting a full investigation into every single app that had access to a large amount of information, before we locked down platform to

prevent developers from accessing this information around 2014. We believe that we're going to investigate many apps, tens of thousands of apps. And, if we find any suspicious activity, we're going to conduct a full audit of those apps to understand how they're using their data and if they're doing anything improper. If we find that they're doing anything improper, we'll ban them from VT any other internet media for sure and we will inform the affected parties. As for past activity, we don't have all the examples of apps that we've banned here, but if you would like, we can have my team follow up with you after this.

**MP 2:** How is your content filtered and determined to be appropriate or not appropriate and policy compliant? Is there any algorithm that does it, or is there a team of a gazillion people that sit there and look at each and every ad that make that determination?

**Mr. Zakir:** It is a combination of both, Sir. So, at the end of the day, we have community standards that are written out and try to be very clear about what is acceptable. And we have a large team of people. As I said, by the end of this year, we are going to have more than 10,000 people working on security and content review across the company. But in order to flag some content quickly, we also build technical systems to take things down. So, if we see a terrorist content or any obscene or inappropriate video, for example, we will flag that, and we can take that down.

**MP 2:** What do you do when you find someone or something that has made a mistake? What kind of accountability is there when mistakes are made? Because every time a mistake like that is made, it is a little bit of a chip away from the trust and the responsibility factors. How do you hold people accountable in VT when they make those kinds of mistakes of taking stuffs down that shouldn't be taken down or leaving stuff up that should not be left up?

**Mr. Zakir:** Sir, for content reviewers specifically, their performance is going to be measured by whether they do their job accurately.

*(There is a murmuring in dissatisfaction when this answer is made)*

**Chairperson:** So does explaining what VT or any such Internet sources do with users' data higher priority for you as a chairperson of NEG?

**Mr. Rastogi:** Mr. Chairperson, you are right that we don't sell any data, and I would say that we do try to explain what we do as time go on. It is a broad system. You know, every day, about 100 billion times a day, people come to one of our products, whether it is VT or Metflix or Wallnook, to put in a piece of content, whether it is a photo that they want to share or a message they want to send someone, and every time there is a control right there about who you want to share it with. Do you want to share it publicly to broadcast it out to everyone? Do you want to share it with your friends, a specific group of people? Do you want to message it to just one person or a couple of people? That is the most important thing that we do, and I think that in the product that is quite clear. I do think that we can do a better job of explaining how advertising works. There is a common misperception, as you say, that is just reported -- often keeps on being reported -

- that for some reason we sell data. I can't be clearer on this topic: We don't sell data. That is how advertising works. And I do think we could probably be doing a clearer job explaining that, given the misperceptions that are out there.

**MP 3:** So, you meant to clarify that data is protected and not sold to any person! However, isn't it interesting that once I watch a video in VT or any such social media, within next 10 seconds, I end up getting millions of related video? Isn't it creating bias in the minds of the people? (*Smirking*) (*This evokes a bit of murmuring in the Parliament*)

*(Mr. Zakir goes on patiently explaining how the Adword search works in the Internet for the next five minutes)*

**MP 4:** Any social media platforms like VT has received tremendous popularity and indeed become an indispensable part of everyone's life right now that you all need to work with the Government and the community to ensure that it is a neutral, safe, and, to the largest extent possible, private platforms. Do you agree with that?

**Mr. Rastogi:** I do agree that we should work to give people the fullest free expression that is possible. That is -- when we talk about giving people a voice that is what I care about.

**MP 2:** So, that clearly indicates that you too agree with the fact, you are now open to some type of regulation. Some would argue that a more regulatory environment might ultimately stifle new platforms and innovators, some might describe as desperately needed competition, i.e., regulatory complexity helps protect those folks like you. It could create a harmful barrier to entry for some startups, particularly ones that might want to compete with you. So should we policymakers up here be more focused on the needs of startups over large incumbents, and what kind of policy regulation -- regulatory environment would you want instead of managing maybe a Fortune 500 company if you were launching a startup to take on the big guy?

**Mr. Rastogi:** On your point about regulation, the internet is growing in importance around the world in peoples' lives, and I think that it is inevitable that there needs to be some regulation. So my position is not that there should be no regulation, but I also think that you have to be careful about what regulation you put in place for a lot of the reasons that you are saying. I think a lot of times regulation, by definition, puts in place rules that a company that is larger, that has resources like VT's, can easily comply with but that might be more difficult for a smaller startup to comply with. So I think that these are all things that need to be thought through very carefully when thinking through what rules we want to put in place.

*(Mr. Zakir and Ors agree to this statement in unison and express their own statements in consensus with Mr. Rastogi's view.)*

***The session is thereafter adjourned for further enquiry!***