Agreement Between The Government of the Republic of India And The Government of the People's Republic of China On The Establishment of the Direct Secure Telephone Link Between the Prime Minister of India and the Chinese Premier

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

Pursuant to the Agreement reached between the leaders of the two countries for the purpose of promoting closer high-level contacts and communication between the two Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Each party shall on the basis of reciprocity establish at its side a Direct Secure Telephone Link (hereinafter referred to as "the Hotline") to have secure telephonic conversations between the Prime Minister of India and the Chinese Premier.

Article 2

The Hotline will be established between the Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi and Zhongnanhai, Beijing. The Parties shall take necessary measures to ensure the accessibility of the Hotline whenever it is needed.

Article 3

1. MTNL, Delhi, designated by the Indian side, and Zhongnanhai Telecom Directorate, designated by the Chinese side shall be responsible for the establishment, opening, operation and technical maintenance of the Hotline.

2. On the basis of agreement through consultations, the aforementioned agencies will:

a. Determine the configuration and technical parameters of the circuit channels as well as the type of encrypting devices to be used.

b. Make suggestions on sharing operational and other related cost of the Hotline and formulate a technical protocol and rules of operation and maintenance.

c. Hold technical expert meetings, when necessary, to discuss and resolve matters concerning the establishment, installation, opening, use and operation, and development and improvement of the Hotline.

Article 4

The Parties undertake not to disclose technical details and relevant information of the Hotline to any third party, and will take all the necessary measures to prevent leakage of information transmitted on the Hotline.

Article 5

1. Each Party shall be responsible for the establishment of the link at its side and bear the related cost.

2. Operational and maintenance cost of the Hotline will be specified by the technical protocol mentioned in Article 3 (2) (b).

Article 6

1. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature, and shall cease to be in force six months after either side receives from the other side a written notice requesting its termination.

2. The Parties may request amendment or supplement to this Agreement in written form. Any amendment or supplement to the Agreement as agreed upon by the Parties shall enter into force on the date of signature by both sides.

In witness whereof, the representatives of the Parties duly authorized by their respective Governments have signed this Agreement,

Done in Beijing on 7th April 2010 in two originals each in Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China