

Govt has a list of candidates for strategic sales: Jaitley

The government has prepared a list of public sector units (PSUs) which will be sold to private investors, and from which the government will give up management control, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Wednesday, adding that these PSUs being considered may not necessarily be loss-making.

Jaitley has budgeted ₹28,500 crore from strategic sales, and ₹41,000 crore from

minority stake sales for 2015-16.

"We have a list for strategic sales. You just don't know about it yet... The norm is that if the government exits a company through strategic sales, it will give up management control as well," Jaitley said at a seminar in New Delhi. When asked about possible strategic sale of loss-making PSUs, as was the belief in markets and the media, Jaitley quipped "Not just loss making", but

did not comment further on the issue or reveal the names in the list.

During 2001-02 to 2003-04, the government had gone for strategic sale of companies such as Modern Foods Industries, Bharat Aluminium Company, CMC, Hindustan Zinc, Maruti Suzuki among others. However, subsequently, this path was abandoned before the government revived it for 2015-16.

BS REPORTER