

**15.30 hrs.**

STATEMENT RE: INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT)

ORDINANCE , 2003\*

Title: Regarding Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance- Laid.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister shall lay on the Table an explanatory statement.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I would like to mention that one important change that was suggested was that the word 'repeal' has to be replaced by the word 'replace'.

Now, I would give you the brief history. One statement is being circulated in English and Hindi.

The Bill to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2003 for establishment of Universal Service Obligation Fund retrospectively with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2002 to meet the Universal Service Obligation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if the statement is lengthy, you can lay it on the Table.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.7 of 2003).

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\*Also placed in Library. See No.L.T.