

14.15 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT

THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT

[English]

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, the Thirty-fourth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on India's Performance in International Sports.

14.15½ hrs.

RE- ISSUE OF NOTIFICATION BY GOVERNMENT
FOR ENFORCEMENT OF DELHI RENT ACT, 1995*[English]*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri H.D. Shurie, Director of Common Cause, a registered society, West End, New Delhi, for issue of notification by Government for enforcement of Delhi Rent Act, 1995.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

Sir, my point of order is that since 12th December, an item on agenda was being shown as the Statement of the Minister.

[English]

That Shri Balram Singh Yadav was to make a statement regarding release of the second instalment of the MPs Local Area Development Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Now that is not there because the Minister is not available here.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we would like to know what is happening to the amount of Rs. 50 lakh. Nothing has been told so far about that.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order here. Yet, I would be very happy to inform you that the amount of Rs.50 lakh for each MP is being sent.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Thank you, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, women for Manipur have launched a hunger strike. They are on a hunger strike for the last eight days. Their condition is alarming. They are demanding the vacation of the Assam Rifles...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have some other things to do. Now, I call Mr. Sukh Ram to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore) : What is the statement?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may lay it on the Table. please.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : I beg to place a statement regarding award of licences to private companies for operating basic telecom services on the Table of the House.

Sir, I have kept the files relating to the tender documents for basic telecom services in Room No.112.

14.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

*Award of Licence to Private Companies for Operating
Basic Telecom Services*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM)

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I wish to lay a statement regarding the status of the tenders for the award of licences to private companies to operate Basic Telecom Services in various parts of the country. Such a statement has become necessary because of the critical observations made by some Hon'ble Members of the House, both inside and outside Parliament, during the past few days. Government has nothing to hide and is keen to place all the facts before Parliament.

In our country supply of telephone has always been far behind the demand. We have one telephone for every 100 persons as against the world average of ten telephones per 100. Even in the developing countries, tele-density is six per 100. As against around 10 million working telephones in the country we have more than two million people on the waiting list and in some cities and towns people have to wait for as long as 8-10 years to get a plain telephone connection.

After considering the matter for a number of years, Government came out with the National Telecom Policy on 13 May, 1994, a copy of which was placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on that day itself. Some of the principal objectives of this historic document were :-

a) to bring about a situation by 1997 when a telephone will be available on demand;

b) to have a public telephone in every village of India by 1997. More than 2/3rd of 6,00,000 villages in the country are not on the telephone map.

c) to have a Public Call Office for every 500 persons in the urban areas by 1997.