

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:11

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001

ISD RACKETS

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of ISD rackets operating in various States;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have been losing crores of rupees due to such rackets every year;
- (c) if so, whether such a racket has also been exposed in the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);
- (d) if so, the number of officials involved in the said racket and the extent of loss suffered by BSNL as a result thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by the Government against them and to check such tendencies in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 11 FOR 23rd JULY, 2001 REGARDING ISD RACKETS.

75 cases of misuse of ISD resulting in revenue loss to the BSNL have been detected during the last three years. In these cases, 136 officials/officers were found involved. The loss suffered by BSNL in 28 of these cases is estimated to be around Rs. 4.62 crores and in the remaining cases, the loss could not be assessed. The following steps have been taken to check such tendencies.

(i) Old technology exchanges have been mostly replaced by new Digital exchanges.

(ii) Dedicated CBI Cells have been created in four metros exclusively for detecting and checking telecom related frauds.

(iii) Stringent action is taken against the officials/officers found involved.

(iv) A close coordination between Service provider and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

(v) Checks at telecom exchange levels have been intensified.