

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will ask the Minister also.

At this state Shri Suraj Mandal and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Just now the Minister of state laid the papers on the Table on behalf of the hon. Minister. Did she have the authorisation.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give a ruling about this

*(Interruptions)*

13.09hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Telecom Tariff

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members are aware that my Department perforce had to revise the Telecom tariff with effect from 1st May, 1993.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Sir, I want to raise a point of order about his statement. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Naik, let there be the statement.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What state-

ment are you making? Are you aware of it? Have you received a copy of it?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: He is making a statement regarding Telecom Tariff. *(Interruptions)* On this particular issue, he has made a statement some 15 days back. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): He has not made any statement. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it is obligatory for the Minister to get a notification issued and to lay that notification on the Table of the House so that we can give some amendments- modifications- to that notification. The Minister made a statement. but so far, he has not given the notification. If he is doing it again by making some statement regarding tariff which he has already announced, the House must have an opportunity to know about it. One day he will come and make a statement; the next day he will come and make another statement. This is taking the House very lightly. I want to know why he has not issued notification so far and unless that is down he cannot make the Statement.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, he is going to reduce the tariff rates. Members should first listen to him.

SHRI RAM NAIK: How do you know that he is going to reduce the tariff rates? Sir, it appears that the information has been leaked by the minister before hand. It is highly objectionable. Please do not take the House so lightly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us run the House according to the rules.

SHRI RAM NAIK: First the Minister should tell us why he has not issued notification. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Naik, you

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have made your point absolutely clear. RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir,  
if he has any problem, I can relay the papers.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the tariff rates were announced. On 31st March, when the people went with Demand Draft at the old rates, those Demand Drafts were not accepted by the Telephone Department. Now, he is doing something else.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have raised your point of order.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, two weeks ago tariff rates were announced. Not only the Members of Parliament but different organisations also made representations. The Minister in his wisdom has cannot out with a *suo motu* statement. We have to first listen to the Statement and after that if any comment is to be made we can write to the Speaker.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, it is very strange. Some users are getting some relief and my friend sitting on the opposite side is not even repared to hear that.

SHRI RAM NAIK: No, I am not objecting to that. I am objecting to the way you are behaving in the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Sir, what is your ruling?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as the papers to be laid by Shrimati Margaret Alva are concerned, it is deemed that the papers are not placed on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What about the point of order raised by the hon. Member. No notification has been issued. The Government is stating that it is providing relief to the people but if the tariff rates have not been increased how can it say that relief has been provided. The Government should not take this matter lightly. Relief will be provided when a notification is issued. The Telephone Department is not receiving draft or money. The notification has not been issued so far. Ruling should be given on this and the matter should be made clear.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: It is highly unfair. Let the Minister make a statement. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as the point raised by Shri Ram Naik is concerned, I reserve my ruling.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with due respect, you have the right to give whatever ruling you wish or reserve your ruling but the point that is important is at the moment from the List of Business you have called the hon. Minister of Communications to make a Statement. Even before the Minister stands up to make the Statement various versions of thoughts and views have been expressed.

None of them have said, under which rule he can be stopped from making a statement. You may have your views, right or wrong, where you may say that what he is doing is not correct in the sense etc, etc. All these things do not matter here. The procedure is that, if the hon. Member have a specific reason under the rule where they can say the Minister should be prohibited from / making a statement, let them

[Sh. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam]

[Translation]

say so. With precedents, if they have the authority, let them say so. Otherwise, the Minister should be first permitted to make a statement because he was called to make a statement. Thereafter, you know, Sir that in Lok Sabha, normally, a statement is discussed. You can do it under rule 193 etc., etc. We can have a full-fledged discussion whereupon, all these views can be voiced. Nobody's view is going to be shut out. But this method of giving information and voicing your views and criticising on a ground of point of order, I believe should stop.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Since my name has been taken....

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I never took any name. That must be withdrawn. I am sorry.

SHRI RAM NAIK: You have reserved your ruling in your wisdom, I have nothing to say about it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I think the hon. Member should know that taking a name has a meaning. The words "taking a name" has a meaning. I never took the name of any hon. Member. He cannot say that.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, he referred to me.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: How? Where did I refer? I did not refer.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir I raised a point of order. You gave a ruling. Instead of respecting your ruling...

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I have not referred to your name.  
(Interruptions)

SHRINITISHKUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you have reserved your ruling on the point of order raised by Shri Ram Naik. Later when spoke again, under which rule was the point of order raised. Naturally his name has been referred to.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is what he is saying. He has not referred to your name.

SHRI RAM NAIK: My point is that the Minister was not present in the House. If he would have been present in the House, he would have understood how the House is being taken lightly. Sir, you have called the names of the Ministers. None got up to lay the Statement. When we enquired, whether there is an authority with you, Sir, you were also aware what was the position at that time. None of the Ministers got up. That is why we are worried that they are taking the House very lightly. That is why I have raised this issue. I honour your ruling. You have reserved your ruling and later you will give your ruling. viz. whenever you find time. Let the Minister make the statement. But let them not take the House lightly.

SHRI SUKHRAM: Sir, the House is never taken lightly by any Minister. But sometimes, there is so much noise Sir, that it is not possible to make out anything. No Minister has any intention to show any disrespect to the House. I may make it clear that the Notification has already been published. Now, it is being printed and will be laid on the Table of the House. So, it is not correct to say that notification has not been issued. This is also there in the List of Business. My name was called, but there was so much noise, I could not hear it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It was not laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI SUKHRAM: What I say is that it has

already been published and this is being printed. It will be placed on the Table of the House.

Subsequently, I have received numerous suggestions both from hon. Members as well as the general public, asking me to provide relief in the revised tariffs. After considering all the issues and in deference to the sentiments expressed, I am glad to inform the House that I propose to restore the free call limit to 150 calls in a bimonthly period in respect of all Exchange systems. I also propose to give an additional benefit to roughly 55 per cent of all subscribers by introducing a new slab of 151 to 500 calls in a bi-monthly period at a reduced call charge of Rs. 0.80 instead of Rs. 1.00 per call unit. These concessions will benefit all the subscribers of the Measured rate Exchange Systems in general and particularly the low calling subscribers. I am sure that these new concessions which have been arrived at after great deliberations and discussions will be welcomed by one and all. These proposals will entail a reduction of about Rs. 100 crores in the anticipated additional revenue during 1993-94.

In order to comply with legal and administrative requirements, I propose to give effect to the above concessions from 15th May, 1993. The charges for the period between the date 1-5-93, when the revised tariff came into effect and 14-5-93, in respect of these concessions will be given as a special rebate to the subscribers to be adjusted in the bills.

The Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951, will be suitably amended to bring into force the above changes under the authority vested in the Central Government under Section 7 of the Indian Telegraphs Act, 1885. The relevant Notification in the Official Gazette will be placed on the Table of the House in due course. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is this they first increase a little and later decrease it *(interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Out of Rs. 740, Rs. 100 crore have been reduced. The important point is that this House must get an opportunity to discuss it. Our Session will be over by the 14th of this month. So, in today's Business Advisory Committee meeting, they should fix time for its discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is meeting today. It can decide about it.

*(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Regarding papers to be laid on the Table, there was some confusion and that paper was not accepted by me.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARNAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : I must, at the outset, apologise for not being able to present at a particular point of time. I had assured my colleague. *(interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITHISH KUMAR : (Barish) : He is taling the House casually. He should first apologise. Why was he not present when sorn Margret Alva's name was referred to? *(interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I am sorry. He cannot take an allegation like this. You cannot be casual. Why don't you listen to me?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: How can he say that you can not be casual? where were you when the Ren. Minister's name was called?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: He would not listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At the outset, he said, regret it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I am saying it with regret and you are stopping. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMNAIK: (Bombay North): We are at serial no. 8 of the agenda and the statement by the Minister has been completed. Now, there is no provision under the rules that you can go back to the earlier serial nos. So, these papers which are not laid today must be laid tomorrow. How can you go back to the earlier items on the agenda? (Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: At the outset, when you called me, I said, I wish to apologise myself, individually, because, I, as an individual, should have been present at a particular period of time; I was not able to be present. I was held up somewhere. I came little late. My colleague had requested me to lay the paper on the Table of the House on his behalf. I had taken the responsibility to lay it on the Table of the House.

I may kindly be permitted to lay it on the Table of the House. That is all I want to say. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under special circumstances, the Chair has got a right to go back in the interest of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: In that case, you have

declared that you have cancelled all the rules.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so. Under extraordinary circumstances, it should not be taken like that.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is our hon. past Deputy Speaker, he has got a right to charge.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I may be permitted to lay the paper on the Table of the House at serial no. 4 on behalf of Shrimati Margaret Alva.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

13.24 1/2 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Annual Report of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi for 1st Jan., 1991 to 31st December, 1991 and statement for delay in laying these papers etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) ON BEHALF OF SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from the 1st January, 1991 to the 31st December, 1991.
- (ii) A copy of the Memorandums (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of