

(b) if so, the details thereof, keeping in view the performance of female sportspersons in individual sports as well as the Indian women's cricket and hockey teams?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All Schemes of the Ministry, including those relating to sports infrastructure, training, participation in competitions, cash incentives, awards and welfare are open for both sportsmen and sportswomen.

Similarly, even assistance provided to national sports federations caters to both men and women sportspersons. Special attention is given to medal prospects in individual and team events in all sports, including cricket and hockey, for both men and women category.

Loss in spectrum licence

†*191. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has suffered a loss of around Rs. 50,000 crore in spectrum licence;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the three companies, *i.e.* Swan, Unitrek and Esstel, to whom the licence has been distributed, are earning profits by selling their share;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that these companies have not provided even a single telephone to telecommunications nor built the infrastructure; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Companies require time to roll out and enroll subscribers after allocation of radio frequencies. According to licence conditions, the Government can impose liquidated damages for not commencing service within stipulated period of one year from the date of allocation of access spectrum in 10% of District Headquarters or towns in lieu thereof where access spectrum is allocated. 50% of such District Headquarters are to be covered in three years from date of allocation of spectrum. These companies, namely Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd., (Formerly Swan Telecom Private Limited), Unitech and S-Tel have reported that infrastructure for rolling out network is being created. They would have to pay Liquidated Damages if they fail to comply with the roll-out obligations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.