

Title: Need to relax norms of minimum telephone connections required for a new telephone exchange in Dhule and Nasik Districts, Maharashtra.-Laid

SHRI D.S. AHIRE (DHULE): Sir, in my constituency, mostly in tribal areas of Dhule and Nasik districts of Maharashtra, a number of new Telephone Exchanges have been sanctioned during the period 1996-97 and 1997-98. At present, four exchanges from Dhule district and six exchanges from Nasik district have already been completed in all respects. The people of the villages within respective Telephone Exchanges have filled up their demands for getting new telephone connections but no single connection has been released so far to anybody in both the districts.

After enquiry with the officers concerned, it is learnt that out of sanctioned and completed Telephone Exchanges the local people have not completed their quota, that is, 30 connections from each exchange, which is required for functioning the exchange. Thereafter, I requested some people to fill up demands for new connections within their respective exchanges. Accordingly near about six exchanges have achieved its targets but the exchanges have not yet started functioning. Lastly, it is known that the district telephone managers have increased the quota of the exchanges from 30 to 40 telephone connections.

Therefore, I request the government to reduce the quota of Telephone connections fixed for one new telephone exchange or direct the concerned officers to start the exchanges. It is further requested that so far tribal area is concerned, the limitation should be relaxed because the people from tribal area are unable to fill up the demands.