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Title: Need to rationalize telephone rentals for rural and urban areas in the country. – Laid.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (ICHALKARANJI) : Sir, at present telephone rentals are calculated for urban area on the basis of equipped capacity of entire taluka and for urban area, individual exchange capacity is considered. Usually rural exchange is having 360 capacity. If number of connections exceeds 360, then 1K capacity is to be installed. Thus, as soon as capacity becomes 1K, the rentals jump from Rs.100 to Rs.200 bimonthly. Thus by mere addition of 100 or more customers, the entire rural customers are penalized through higher rent. Despite all infrastructure remaining same, rentals are increased only on the basis of capacity addition. When cost of electronic switch is on a decreasing trend, the rental should not be associated with exchange capacity as well as entire taluka capacity.

Similarly, rental for urban area will depend on entire Tehsil capacity. If total Tehsil capacity exceeds 1,00,000 the rentals jump from Rs.360 to Rs.500 in urban area. Thus, mere addition of one exchange in remote part of the Tehsil will have effect on urban rentals. Thus, the co-relation of rental with Tehsil capacity is not justified on any ground.

Sir, I, therefore, request the Union Government that rentals may be fixed based upon urban and rural areas and it should not be linked up with either exchange capacity or total capacity of Tehsil.