

# Labor dispute slows India telecom sector

November 21 2005

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India says the ongoing labor dispute in the Communications Ministry has caused infrastructure expansion to grind to a halt.

The Indian Telecom Service Association said at a news conference Monday there was no end in sight for the six-week standoff that has cost the industry \$464 million.

At issue is the transfer of more than 2,200 India Telecom Service engineers to the telecom company Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., a move staunchly opposed by the civil servants because it would result in a pay cut.

The ITSA said in a recent letter to the prime minister that the situation was disrupting telecom expansion efforts and insulting ITS engineers. The organization urged the government to cancel the plan.

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