

COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 30 villages have been identified in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh to provide telecom facility on satellite phones. Names of these villages are:—

District	Name of the Village
Solan	Boral, Sakora, Parle Kiyar
Sirmour	Milha Mangal, Bakras, Kathuar, Chandni, Kanti Mishwa
Kangra	Kothi Koha, Bada Gran, Bara Bangal
Chamba	Devi Kothi, Chanju, Deyola, Bchnota, Salera Bari, Charori
Kinnaur	Charang, Nesang, Sumra, Ropa, Chhitkul
Simla	Diudi
Lahaul Spiti	Sumod, Dankhar, Giu, Mud, Thiroth Koksar
KuUu	Marhi

(b) The scheme to provide satellite telephones in 30 villages of Himachal Pradesh has been approved during the current financial year. These villages are expected to be covered by satellite phones within the next three months.

ISD/STD/PCO facilities in Rural and Adivasi areas of Maharashtra

474. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ISD/STD/PCO facilities have been extended to all the rural and adivasi areas in Maharashtra State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) by when these facilities will be made available to those rural and adivasi areas where these facilities have not been extended in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No Sir. Out of 42060 villages in Maharashtra State, 31005 villages have been provided with VPTs. 45 VPTs have been provided with STD/ ISD facilities. Out of 2882 exchanges operating in Rural areas including Adivasi areas, 1456 exchanges are having STD/ISD facilities. Government plans to provide STD/ISD in the remaining exchanges by the year 2001.

Losses due to Telecom Bailout Package

475. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of comments offered by CAG on telecom bailout package; and

(b) how much loss Government have suffered as a result of the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A Draft Audit Para titled "package of concessions to existing Cellular and Basic Telephone Service Operators" was received from Director General of Audit, Post and Telecommunications. Salient aspects of Audit observations on the Package offered to existing Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licensees for migration to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-1999) regime are enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Any loss of revenue would have to be seen in a complete context. Government's view in the matter indicating the problems of the existing licensees under old policy framework, the new policy framework of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99),