

operational costs, customer services, trunk and local call efficiencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) In Para 13 of Chapter 4 of the report of C&AG of India for the year ended March 98, which was placed before the House on 29.10.99, C&AG of India has made certain observations about performance parameters of Calcutta Telephone District. Facts and figures mentioned in the report are being verified with Calcutta Telephone District and their comments sought so that remedial measures may be initiated, where necessary.

Telelink Facilities in West Bengal

680. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country enjoying telelink till now;

(b) how many of these villages belong to the State of West Bengal at present;

(c) the number of villages proposed to be linked by the end of this fiscal year in the country; and

(d) how many villages in West Bengal would come under telelink benefits by this year end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The status as on 1.11.99 and the plan for the current fiscal are as under:

	Country as a whole	West Bengal
No. of Villages	607,491	38,337
No. of Villages having Telecom. Facility (1.11.99)	344,508	16,552
Plans (Targets) for the current fiscal.	45,136	5,5000