

(b) The new hand pumps have been installed by two agencies namely M/s G. S. Engineering and Shri P. R. Madan. Out of the total cost of Rs. 7,000.00, Rs. 3,100.00 have so far been spent.

(c) and (d) These hand pumps are in working condition and conform to C.P.W.D. specifications. Their performance is, however, still being watched by the CPWD's staff. Full amounts will be paid to the contractors only after the performance and quality of the hand pumps is found fully satisfactory.

**Post Offices in Villages in West Bengal**

52. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNI-

CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many villages in West Bengal do not have post offices;

(b) if so, the number of those villages, district-wise; and

(c) steps so far taken by Government to open Post Offices in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) District-wise information of villages that do not have post offices is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of villages which do not have P.Os.
1.	Burdwan	2008
2.	Bankura	3123
3.	Birbhum	1842
4.	Coochbehar	886
5.	Darjeeling	385
6.	Hoogly	1486
7.	Howrah	508
8.	Jalpaiguri	507
9.	Midnapore	9164
10.	Malda	1355
11.	Murshidabad	1464
12.	Nadia	924
13.	Purulia	2081
14.	West Dinajpur	2829
15.	24 Paraganas	2742

(c) Rural Post offices are being opened in a phased manner in accordance with the targets laid down in the successive Five Year/Annual Plans and with reference to the norms prescribed by the Government. In so far as the current year 1980-81 is concerned, it is proposed to open about 250 rural post offices in West Bengal Circle.

**Direct Link between Asansol and Delhi Trunk Automatic Exchanges**

53. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:  
SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the direct link between the Asansol Trunk Automatic Exchange and the Delhi Trunk Automatic Exchange; and