

Title: Need to improve telephones services in Sunderbans region, West Bengal – laid.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR) : For the people of Sundarbans, telephone link is of vital importance. As Sundarbans comprise a number of islands separated by rivulets, telephone link is the easiest and cheapest mode of communication. This service is provided by the MARR system. Most of the Gram Panchayats, Schools, Hospitals, Post Offices and public places are connected by the MARR Network. But for quite a long time, the system has become totally dysfunctional and people are facing enormous difficulties. Moreover, the MARR Technology has become outdated and it has failed to provide regular, round-the-clock and reliable service. In view of this, there was a proposal to replace the MARR with the WALL system. In addition to this, the Government is also considering to set up smaller telephone exchanges in the Sundarbans.

I suggest that these exchanges should be set up in Mollakhali and Jamtola in South 24 Parganas and Sandesh Khali and Sarberia in North 24 Parganas. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take steps immediately to replace the MARR system with WALL system. At the same time, steps should also be taken for the setting up of smaller exchanges at the earliest.