

habitations with population of 500 and above. Government is working on a formulation of a National Broadband Plan. However, no final decision has been taken in this matter so far.

**Financial assistance for establishment of call centres**

†1776. SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any demand for financial assistance from States, including Maharashtra to establish call centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) by when they are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Department of Information Technology (DIT) had received requests in the form of concept notes on establishment of Contact Centres from the States including that of Maharashtra to assist them for preparation of a detailed implementation plan, guidelines and financial assistance for establishing the same. DIT is not setting up any Call Centre, however, DIT has initiated a Proof of Concept (PoC) for Citizen Contact Centre, which envisages creation of a call centre with a single contact number for non-emergency Governmental information services to the citizens. The PoC is being carried out in six States i.e. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir.

**Village public telephone and landline telephone facility in rural areas**

1777. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 322 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11 November, 2010 and state:

- (a) whether Village Public Telephones (VPT) have been provided to awaiting 25856 villages, including 5039 villages of Left Wing Extremism Affected districts, in the country and landline telephones to awaiting nine blocks of Jharkhand and four blocks of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.