

National Optical Fibre Agency

1775. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a National Optical Fibre Agency (NOFA) to establish broad band network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present number of broadband connections in the country vis-a-vis target fixed for the coming three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide for an open access optical fibre network connecting all habitations with population of 500 and above across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications has received the recommendations made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) dated 8th December 2010 on 'National Broadband Plan' which inter-alia included setting up of National Optical Fibre Agency (NOFA). Government is actively working on formulation of a 'National Broadband Plan'. However, no final decision has been taken in the matter so far.

(c) As on 31st January, 2011 number of Broadband subscribers in the country are 11.21 million. As per National Broadband Policy 2004 target fixed for broadband subscribers are:

Year Ending	Broadband Subscribers
2005	3 million
2007	9 million
2010	20 million

Under the 'Rural Wireline Broadband' scheme of USOF, a total of 2,61,413 broadband connections and 2506 kiosks have been provided till 31.1.2011 in the rural and remote areas of the country against a target of 8,88,832 connections and 28,762 kiosks to be provided by 2014.

(d) TRAI has recommended in its "National Broadband Plan" that a National Broadband Network will be established, which will be an open access optical fibre network connecting all

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?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.