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Title: Regarding internet connectivity through undersea Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) from Puri in Odisha to Diglipur (North and Middle Andaman)

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) Optical Fibre Cable system between Chennai and Port Blair started on 10th August 2020 which facilitated seamless net connectivity in seven different Islands. Aspiring industrialists in IT and ITeS sector are concerned over any sudden breakdown or failure of the existing CANI OFC network which will paralyze the IT and ITeS industries besides other digital services like banking, trading, procurement and education. Even a single day of outage over breakdown of CANI OFC would prove costly for the industry as feared by the industry veterans. As such, additional connectivity would insulate the industry against temporary outages and connectivity failure and boost the investors' sentiment. A second OFC Cable will also cater to the employment requirements of thousands of local educated unemployed youths who migrate to mainland cities like Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bangalore for IT and related jobs. I request the Government to provide a parallel internet connectivity through undersea OFC cable to A&N Islands from Puri in Odisha to Diglipur (North and Middle Andaman), a shortest route in addition to the existing CANI OFC cable which will ensure uninterrupted connectivity even if the other grids have failed due to any an unforeseen reason. Further, this will lead to economic growth of the region.

