

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4252
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL CALL TRAFFIC
Nayak Smt. Archana

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

- (a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have any plan to build their own infrastructure to carry their international call traffic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the government proposes to lay undersea cable to Hong Kong and Singapore to carry their international call;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the amount likely to be spent by the Government to use the cable of private companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) MTNL intends to lay a submarine cable from India to South East Asia by forming a joint venture with BSNL. It has a proposed outlay of Rs.33 crores in 2005-06 for International Long Distance (ILD) operations in India.
- (c) There is no plan to lay under sea Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) up to Hong Kong at present. However, there is a proposal to lay under sea optical fibre cable up to Singapore.
- (d) The details of the proposal Indo-Singapore undersea OFC are as follows: -
 - i) Initial capacity - 20 Gbps
 - ii) Ultimate capacity - 320 Gbps
 - iii) Types of systems - Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) System with Repeaters
 - iv) Number of fibres in Cable - 4 Fibres
 - v) Approximate cost of Project - Rs. 1800 crores

The project is now at initial stage. Technical survey of the route is to be conducted before taking a decision.

- (e) MTNL is likely to spend Rs. 12.50 crores for procuring International bandwidth from private companies to meet the requirement of International traffic.