

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
UNDER SEA CABLE SYSTEM
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether there is a proposal to link India with other countries through under sea cable system;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the project is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) Madam, the International Long Distance (ILD) telephony was thrown open to private participation in the year 2002 and since then the ILD service license is granted to eligible Indian companies for providing international long distance services. As per terms and conditions of the ILD license, ILD Service licensees are authorised to establish telecommunication links with other countries through undersea cable or satellite media. As on date, there are 25 ILD service licensees in India. ILD service licensees in India are already having telecommunication links established with other countries through undersea optical fibre cables namely SMW3, SMW4, i2i, TICS, FLAG, IMEWE cables etc. Almost all the international telecom traffic to/from other countries are carried over the undersea cables.

As such, there is no specific proposal of Government for establishing such links. Further, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as an ILD service licensee, has a proposal to become consortium partner in EIG undersea cable being established by an international consortium to link India with Europe.

(b) & (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.