

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:624
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
SUBMARINE CABLE LINKS
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to lay submarine cable links connecting Kolkata to Port Blair and to Singapore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost and sanctioned amount for the project;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and
- (d) the details of the proposal, if any, to connect various locations/islands through submarine cable in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

- (a) Millennium Telecom Limited (MTL), a joint venture company of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to lay a submarine Cable from Digha in West Bengal to Singapore & Malaysia. Government has proposed to lay an spur route through branching submarine cable to connect Port Blair and other four islands from main cable.
- (b) The estimated cost of the main cable planned by MTL is USD 234 million. The estimated cost of the spur route proposed by Government under budgetary support is Rs. 522.06 crores.
- (c) The scheme is likely to be completed in a period of 30 months from the date of award of contract.
- (d) Besides Port Blair, it is proposed to connect four other islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands namely Hutbay, Carnicobar, Kamorta and Campbellbay through the branching submarine cable.