

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6679
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
SATELLITE BANDWIDTH TO A N
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal from BSNL for providing financial support for satellite bandwidth for connectivity to inhabited Islands of A&N Group;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the present 440 MHz of Satellite capacity is unable to provide connectivity to the remote inhabited Islands;
- (d) if so, whether the Telecommunication Department has received any proposal from A&N administration to extend the said financial support to BSNL for the same;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal at Ministry level and A&N administration level; and
- (f) if not, the action proposed to be taken and the likely date of extending financial support to BSNL for the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.(SMT.) KILLI KRUPARANI)

(a) & (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has received a request dated 3rd January, 2013 from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for providing financial support for bridging the viability gap cost of satellite bandwidth for providing connectivity to inhabited Islands in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI). BSNL has stated that in the financial year 2011-12 its expenditure was Rs. 102.61 crore including charges for satellite bandwidth whereas the total revenue earned by it was Rs. 48.98 crore.

(c) to (f) As per information provided by BSNL, the existing satellite bandwidth of about 440 MHz being used by it is not sufficient to provide connectivity to all remote inhabited Islands of A&NI. DoT has not received any proposal from A&N Administration to extend financial support to BSNL for this purpose. However, DoT has requested the A & N Administration to provide funding to BSNL for augmentation of satellite bandwidth. As per information from A & N Administration, financial support to BSNL of Rs 49 crore for satellite connectivity has been provisioned by it in its annual plan for 2013-14.