

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1524
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
SUBMARINE OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether the proposal for laying of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been implemented as recommended by the Standing Committee of Island Development Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the project is likely to be functional by the end of financial year 2013-14;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for delay, if any, in implementation of the project?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Madam, Planning Commission, conveyed their "in principle" approval in April, 2011 to Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration for connecting Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) with a submarine Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) through a branching cable. Planning Commission also decided that the scheme is to be implemented by A&NI Administration
- (c) to (e) As per time line of scheme, the project is to be completed in eighteen months from date of award of contract after the financial approval for the scheme. For financial approval of the scheme, an Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memorandum has been submitted by A&NI Administration on 07.08.2013 to the Department of Telecommunications and same is under consideration.