

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4214
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
EXPANSION OF BANDWIDTH
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides funds for expansion of bandwidth in isolated and far flung areas in Lakshadweep as part of a national project to improve connectivity;
- (b) if so, the proposals received from the Lakshadweep Administration regarding the same;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that apart from Kavaratti which has bandwidth of 8mbps, the remaining islands have 2mbps only, which is not sufficient for ATMs, mobiles and internet;and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the bandwidth allocation is increased in the isolated islands?

Answer

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

(a)& (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that it has received a proposal from Lakshadweep Administration (LDA) for enhancing bandwidth for BSNL network and State Wide Area Network (SWAN) as per details given below:

Sl.No. Name of Island Existing bandwidth Proposed by LDA
(Mhz) (in Mhz)

BSNL SWAN BSNL SWAN

1 Kavaratti 26 8 28 36

2 Mincoy 8 2 26 6

3 Agathi 8 2 19 5

4 Androth 6 2 28 7

5 Kadmath 8 2 14 5

6 Amini 8 2 19 8

7 Chetlat 2 2 5 5

8 Bitra 2 2 1 2

9 Kiltan 6 2 10 4

10 Kalpeni 2 2 11 4

(c)&(d) BSNL has reported that the available bandwidth in Lakshadweep is not sufficient for providing internet connectivity in Androth, Chelet, Bitra and Kelpani, In other Islands BSNL is providing internet services with minimum bandwidth. The existing bandwidth is sufficient for mobile connectivity and for providing ATM connectivity. BSNL has further reported that additional bandwidth is required for expansion of mobile network and for providing internet.

Government is working on a comprehensive telecom development plan for Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are awaited.