

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:277
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
SUBMARINE OFC
Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to establish submarine Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) which envisages internet facilities in Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far and the time by which the work is likely to be executed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is working on a proposal to lay submarine optical fiber cable from Chennai to Port Blair. Submarine cable connectivity will enhance the reliability and enable extension of coverage of telecom network in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) has been asked to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The estimated cost and timelines would be known on receipt of DPR. TCIL expects that the DPR will be prepared by April 2015.

For Lakshadweep islands, the Telecom Commission in its meeting held on 07.11.2014 has accorded 'in principle' approval to undertake a cost benefit analysis and feasibility study for laying submarine OFC in Lakshadweep along with validation of the estimated cost before proceeding ahead.