

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015

Laying of Submarine Cable

Kambhampati Dr. Hari Babu

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

- (a) whether the proposal for laying submarine cable connectivity to Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status of the work undertaken thereof; and
- (c) if not, the time by which the final decision likely to be taken on these matter?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) Government has decided to lay submarine optical fibre cable from Chennai to Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar islands. Detailed project report (DPR) based on desktop survey (DTS) has been prepared by M/s Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL). The project is expected to be approved by the competent authority by December 2015. While accepting the need to provide robust and reliable telecom connectivity to Lakshadweep islands, Telecom Commission in its meeting held on 07.11.2014 has accorded an '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.
