

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1513

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015

Leasing of International Bandwidth

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

- (a) whether North-Eastern States of India are likely to get high speed uninterrupted Internet connectivity through an international gateway from Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, whether an agreement between BSNL and Bangladesh Submarine Cable company was signed during Indo-Bangladesh summit for leasing of international bandwidth;
- (c) if so, the details and the terms and conditions thereof;
- (d) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned and the total cost likely to be incurred on this project; and
- (e) the extent to which the facility is likely to help people of north-east?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) An agreement has been signed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd. (BSCCL) on 06th June 2015. As per the agreement, BSCCL will provide international internet bandwidth to BSNL at International Border Agartala. BSCCL will make arrangements of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Bangladesh from Cox's Bazar to International Border Agartala and BSNL will arrange the OFC in India upto International Border Agartala. The initial bandwidth capacity will be 10 gigabits per second. BSNL will install an international internet gateway at Agartala. BSNL has informed that the project is likely to be completed by 31st Jan 2016. The estimated capital cost of the project is Rs. 19.14 Crore. After completion of this project, alternate connectivity for Internet will be available for North East Region which would enhance the capacity as well as reliability of internet services of BSNL in the North East.