

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2703
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014
PROVISION OF TELECOM FACILITIES
Roy Prof. Saugata

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive telecom development plan to connect the sparsely located Islands in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been requested to give its recommendations for a comprehensive telecom development plan for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands after making a gap analysis and assessing the investment required. TRAI after detailed consultations with the Union Territory Administrations and the Telecom Service Providers operating in these islands has submitted its recommendations on 'Improving Telecom Services in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep' to the Government on 22.07.2014. The recommendations would be examined by Government for implementation based on feasibility and availability of financial resources.

In a meeting held at Planning Commission on 02.05.2014, it has been decided to plan for a direct communication link through a dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is to be provided from Chennai Cable Landing Station (CLS) to Port Blair CLS. The project is to be implemented in two phases:

Phase-I: Provision of submarine OFC from Chennai to Port Blair and to two other islands Car Nicobar and Little Andaman.

Phase-II: Provision of submarine OFC to Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar Islands to be taken up on completion of the first phase.

The work of preparation of a detailed project report (DPR) on the above lines has been assigned to Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL).