

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5046
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2019**

OPTICAL FIBRE BETWEEN CHENNAI AND PORT BLAIR

5046. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of laying of optical fibre cable from Chennai to Port Blair as sanctioned by the Government; and
- (b) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) The project for provision of submarine OFC connectivity between Mainland (Chennai) and 8 Islands of Andaman & Nicobar, being funded by USOF and executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The work provision of submarine OFC connectivity was awarded by BSNL to M/s NECTI on 26.06.2018. Construction work for 9 Cable Landing Stations (CLS) is under progress by BSNL and expected to be completed progressively between August 2019 to December 2019. Marine and Land survey has been completed by M/s NECTI. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) / Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance has been received from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for four Islands in Andaman & Nicobar. The EIA/CRZ clearance for remaining four Islands is awaited from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The project is targeted to be completed by June 2020.
