

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1171**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2023/ AGRAHAYANA 22, 1945
(SAKA)**

DIGITAL/BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY IN ISLAND UNION TERRITORIES

1171 # SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

the details of benefits to the Public from the improvement done in digital/broadband connectivity in the island Union Territories?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

Previously, the two Island Union Territories of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep were connected through satellite bandwidth of about 4.1 Gbps and 1.7 Gbps respectively. Thus, only limited bandwidth was available in these strategically located remote Islands. In recent years, a large number of initiatives have been taken by the Government of India to improve digital/broadband connectivity in these two Union Territories. Some of the major initiatives in this regard and benefits to the public are as under:

The Chennai Andaman Nicobar Islands (CANI) Optical Fiber Cable Project, which was commissioned in the year 2020 at a cost of about Rs 1,224 Cr, has revolutionized internet connectivity in the UT. Under this project, a submarine cable was laid from Chennai to Port Blair, and further to seven other islands, covering about 85% of the UT's population. As a result of this project, the bandwidth utilization has increased from 4.1 Gbps to 70.31 Gbps in the Islands. Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) services, which provide high broadband speeds directly to home and offices, have increased to about 34,500, internet speed has increased from 100 Kbps to upto 300 Mbps and total mobile connections have increased to about 7 lakh from 4.7 lakh in the Union Territory. 5G services were also launched in the islands, and there are 112 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) at present in the UT. As a result, the Islanders have benefitted significantly through greater access to online Government to Citizen (G2C) services, tele-medicine, online education, development of tourism, e-commerce, enhanced participation in the digital economy (the number of digital transactions have increased from about 10 lakh to 2.2 crore) etc.

The Kochi Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Cable Project (KLI Project), with a cost of about Rs 1,072 Cr, has connected the

mainland (Kochi) and all the inhabited Islands of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep through submarine cable. The KLI Project is designed to offer speeds upto 100 Gbps and support 4G as well as 5G networks. Trial traffic has been fed in the network. At present 3,972 FTTH connections have been provided through this network. The KLI Project is expected to benefit the public significantly through enhanced online access in the fields of education, tele-medicine, e-commerce, digital governance, tourism etc.
