

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th MARCH, 2018**

SUBMARINE OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE

*165. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of laying of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Chennai to Port Blair; and
- (b) the expected time limit for completion of the project?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) & (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *165 FOR 7TH MARCH, 2018 ON "SUBMARINE OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE".

(a) The present status of laying of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Chennai to Port Blair is as follows:

On 21.09.2016, the Government approved the proposal for provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Port Blair, and five other Islands of Andaman & Nicobar, i.e., Car Nicobar, Little Andaman, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar Islands. The total capital cost of this project is Rs. 880.03 Crore to be funded from USOF, and operating cost of Rs. 44.47 Crore per year to be borne by MHA/UT. Further on the basis of need communicated by the UT Administration, the Submarine OFC connectivity to two more Islands, Rangat and Long Island, was also included in the project with the approval of competent authority on 22.08.2017. The total additional capital cost for these two Islands is Rs. 51 Crore. BSNL has been nominated as the Project Execution Agency, while TCIL has been nominated as Technical Consultant. After consultation with Ministry of Defence, BSNL floated the tender on 07.07.2017 for Design, Engineering, Procurement, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of four Fibre Pair Submarine Cable System between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands on Turnkey basis. Tender has been opened on 06.02.2018 and is under evaluation.

(b) The timeline for the completion of Project is two years from the award of work.
