

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 185  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**SUBMARINE OPTICAL FIBER**

185. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the status of implementation of submarine optical fiber cabling between Kochi and Lakshadweep ( KLI) project;
- (b) the present status of intra Optical Fiber cabling in Lakshadweep islands; and
- (c) the details of the status of ongoing expansion project of 4G saturation?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) The Cabinet approved the KLI project on 18.12.2020. Accordingly BSNL, the project implementation agency, awarded the tender to M/s NEC Corporation India Private Limited (NECCIPL) on 28.09.2021. Since then, the Marine survey for laying of submarine cable has been completed in April, 2022. The environmental and Coastal Regulatory Zone clearance for the project has been taken. The equipment for the project has been manufactured and are being transported to respective islands. The submarine cable is manufactured and shall be laid from Jan, 2023 to May, 2023. The project is targeted for commissioning as per the schedule.
- (b) At present 44.9 KM of intra Optical Fiber cable has been laid in Lakshadweep Islands by BSNL.
- (c) 18 new sites and up gradation of 19 existing sites have been planned under 4G Saturation Project. Site identification and Land acquisition for 14 out of 18 new sites has been completed for the project.

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