

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 911
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

KLI-SOFC PROJECT

**911. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Connection (KLI - SOFC) project has been completed and dedicated to people by the Government recently and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether for the first time since independence, Lakshadweep has been able to be connected through Submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the dedicated submarine OFC will ensure a paradigm shift in communication infrastructure in the Lakshadweep islands, enabling faster and more reliable internet services, telemedicine, e-governance, educational initiatives, digital banking, digital currency usage, digital literacy, etc.; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands (KLI) Submarine Cable project was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on Jan 3, 2024. Submarine cable connectivity has now been provided from Mainland (Kochi) to eleven Lakshadweep Islands namely, Kavaratti, Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra through this project.
- (b) Lakshadweep Islands were earlier connected to mainland only through satellite. With the commissioning of Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands (KLI) Submarine Cable project, Lakshadweep Islands are now connected to mainland through submarine OFC bandwidth of 200 Gbps.
- (c) Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands (KLI) Submarine Cable project was completed within 1000 days of announcement of the project by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji in his 74th Independence Day (2020) Speech. The project has been completely funded by the Government of India with a total outlay of Rs.1072 crore (excluding taxes).

(d) Submarine OFC connecting Lakshadweep Islands to mainland will act as the backbone for all existing and future expansion of telecom connectivity in Lakshadweep Islands. This will enable faster internet services through mobile networks and FTTH broadband services. This will help in boosting tourism and create new employment opportunities. The project will play a significant role in achieving the objective of 'Digital India' and 'National Broadband Mission'.

(e) The bandwidth created under the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands (KLI) Submarine Cable project will be available to Telecom Service Providers. 5353 internet connections through optical fibre have already been provided in Lakshadweep Islands through this. Government has sanctioned 37 4G mobile towers in Lakshadweep. 5G services have also been launched in Lakshadweep by using the bandwidth provided by (KLI) Submarine Cable project.
