

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.518
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2016**

TELECOM AND INTERNET IN LAKSHADWEEP

518. MOHAMMED FAIZAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to improve Telecommunications and Broadband Internet facilities in Lakshadweep;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken and the result achieved as a result thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c)

(i) The Department proposes to enhance the existing satellite bandwidth capacity linking mainland and Lakshadweep islands from 102 Mbps to 318 Mbps, which will require capital investment of Rs. 46.53 Crore. The work has been awarded to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The project is likely to be completed by December 2016.

(ii) Work of setting up 10 mobile towers in Lakshadweep Islands has also been given to BSNL. BSNL has prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and cost estimates.

(iii) As a long term measure to improve connectivity in Lakshadweep islands, the Department is studying the feasibility of laying submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Kochi and Lakshadweep islands. Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) has been entrusted to carry out the study.
