

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4300
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2018**

MOBILE PHONES AT AFFORDABLE RATES

†4300. SHRI HARI MANJHI:
SHRI JANAK RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to provide mobile phones at affordable prices in rural areas by reducing the price and charges; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Government is not aware of any proposal to provide mobile phones at affordable price in rural areas by reducing the price and charges.

Cost of mobile handsets are determined by its features, technology, market trends and competition. The cost of handsets typically go down with time and new launches in the market.

Cost of data and voice call services also depends upon market competition and the quality of services being provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). Due to increasing competition in the market most of the TSPs are offering multiple competitive tariff plans, depending upon the need of customers belonging to various strata of society.
