

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6000
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH APRIL, 2018**

GPS ENABLED MOBILE PHONES

6000. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for mobile manufacturers to provide GPS on all mobile phones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations from handset makers objecting to the norm and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with response of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) DoT has made GPS mandatory for all smart phone handsets but not for feature phones. Department of Telecommunications has issued an amendment through Gazette Notification No. 946 of G.S.R. 1441 (E) dated 23.11.2017 with title "Panic Button and Global Positioning System facility in all mobile phone handsets (Amendment) Rules 2017" stating that "with effect from 1st January, 2018 no smart phone handset manufacturing company shall sell the new smart mobile phone handset in India without the facility of identifying the location through Satellite based GPS". At present there is no proposal to make GPS mandatory in feature phones.

(c) Indian Cellular Association (ICA) had submitted to Department of Telecommunications that introduction of GPS facility in feature phones will substantially increase the cost of feature phones which are generally used by the population below poverty line. ICA has also mentioned following technical issues in implementing GPS in feature phones:

- (i) No third party configurable Operating System (OS).
- (ii) Cannot download & run applications (Apps).
- (iii) Software cannot be upgraded over the air.
- (iv) Feature phones have no intelligence, are not programmable and have limited Memory.

Government has considered the views expressed by ICA while taking the decision for amendment through Gazette Notification No. 946 of G.S.R. 1441 (E) dated 23.11.2017 with title "Panic Button and Global Positioning System facility in all mobile phone handsets (Amendment) Rules 2017".
