

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1791
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

GENDER GAP IN MOBILE OWNERSHIP

1791. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has conducted any studies on the gender gap in mobile ownership and the use of mobile services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Ministry to identify the access barriers for women and any action plan that has been formulated to address those barriers?

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 Department of Telecommunications has not conducted any study on the gender gap in mobile ownership and the use of mobile services. However, gender-segregated data on mobile subscriptions was collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). As per the data submitted by the TSPs, the percentage of mobile subscription by women was 17.40% of all mobile subscriptions in the country, as on 31.03.2017.

(c) The Government is committed to ensure that the benefits of development in telecom infrastructure and services accrue to all citizens of the country in a non-discriminatory manner. Recognising the importance of participation of women in realising Government's vision to emerge as a digitally empowered economy and society, the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP)-2018, notified on 22nd October 2018, seeks to ensure inclusion of uncovered areas and digitally deprived segments of society by channelizing the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for marginalised communities, women and persons with disabilities.
