

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 235  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**USE OF LANDLINE TELEPHONES**

**†\*235. DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:  
SHRIMATI QUEEN OJA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the use of landline telephones has decreased considerably and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed/ascertained the reasons for the same and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote the usage of landline telephones by lowering the landline tariff on the basis of zero rental or on the lines of mobile phone rates so as to restore/enhance the faith of the people in landline phones and also to utilise the established infrastructure of the Department/ telephone exchanges; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*235 FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019 ON “USE OF LANDLINE TELEPHONES”.**

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. With the increase in coverage of mobile networks, availability of affordable handsets and low mobile tariff, there has been a decrease in use of landline phones over the years. The details for the last four years are as follows:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Wireline Subscribers (in Millions)</b>
1.	31.03.2016	25.22
2.	31.03.2017	24.40
3.	31.03.2018	22.81
4.	31.03.2019	21.70

(c) & (d) As per existing tariff framework, fixing of phone tariffs by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is under forbearance. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have a flexibility to design and offer tariff as per prevalent market conditions, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory framework and regulatory principles. TRAI has, however, reduced the termination charges for local and national long distance calls for wireline services to zero paisa per minute.

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