

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1824  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**INTERNET SHUTDOWNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

1824. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of internet shutdowns in the past five years, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to engage with the States where cases of internet shutdowns are comparatively high; and
- (c) whether Government made any arrangement for alternative means of communication and transaction for the people in the region or not?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Central Government has not issued any order of internet shutdown under the provisions of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

Police and public order are State subjects as per the Constitution and States are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes through their law enforcement machinery. Concerned State Governments are empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet services to maintain law and order in the State or part thereof under the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. Records related to internet shutdowns ordered by State Governments are not maintained by Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

- (b) DoT had received a joint representation dated 08.08.2018 from telecom service providers, wherein, it was intimated that frequent suspension of internet services were being ordered by various State Governments. Accordingly, on 28.09.2018, all State Governments have been advised to sensitize the concerned officials/agencies against precipitate actions leading to shut down of Internet services, and to ensure that the provisions of "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" are adhered to.

- (c) In temporary shutdown of internet services in a region, internet/data services are suspended temporarily only and other communicating means/services like voice calling and Short Message Service (SMS), remain available during the suspension period of internet services, through which people in the region can communicate.

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