

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1196
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

1196 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted any repository and maintains it to count and document the number of Internet shutdowns across the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of Internet shutdowns in the last five years;
- (c) the salient features of the proposed Telecommunication Bill; and
- (d) whether the bill proposes to give wide powers of interception to the Central Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) Under the “Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 notified under the India Telegraph Act, 1885, the directions to suspend the internet services in an area, can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary or Home Secretary of State Government concerned, as the case may be, due to public emergency or public safety. In light of the Hon’ble Supreme Court judgment dated 10.01.2020 in W.P.(C) no. 1031/2019 and 1164/2019, Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 has been amended vide Gazette Notification dated 10.11.2020. The said amendment has been forwarded to all Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/UTs emphasizing that Hon’ble Supreme Court has mandated the publication of suspension orders.

(c) & (d) The Bill seeks to replace three laws: the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950. The draft Indian Telecommunication Bill was placed in public domain for comments of stakeholders.
