

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1202
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

REVIEW OF 2017 TELECOM RULES

1202 SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 recently, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government is aware that there have been demands to amend Rules to provide more detail on definitions of the grounds for suspension and expand the composition of Oversight Committee, if so, what is being done about demands; and
- (c) whether Government has made any attempts to bring the Rules in tune with changing technology to ensure minimum disturbance to public, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) The Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 has been amended vide Gazette notification dated 10.11.2020.
- (b) & (c) In light of judicial review of Temporary Suspension Rules, 2017 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Anuradha Bhasin Vs UOI (WP No. 1031/2019) and Ghulam Nabi Azad Vs UOI and Anr (WP No. 1164/2019), the Temporary Suspension Rules, 2017 has been amended in consultation with stakeholders wherein it has been mandated that any order issued under these rules shall not be in operation for more than 15 days. Further, vide O.M dated 10.11.2020 to all the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/UTs, it has been directed that all suspension orders be published to enable the affected persons to challenge it before the High Court or appropriate forum and the order must adhere to the principle of proportionality.
