

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1017
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2023**

ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO INTERNET SHUTDOWN

1017 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that India has the highest number of internet shutdowns in the world;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that such shutdowns have resulted in severe economic loss to the country, including loss of foreign investment, job losses, etc.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps in this regard and issued any advisory/guidelines to the States?

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

- (a) No such authentic information is available with Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- (b) & (c) No authentic study or report is available with DoT to assess or estimate the economic loss incurred due to internet shutdowns.
- (d) 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 & 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; and all orders for suspension of Telecom Services must adhere to the principle of proportionality and must not extend beyond the necessary duration.
