

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1827
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2023**

COMMUNICATION SHUTDOWNS

1827 SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of instances of telecommunication and internet shutdown in the country, State-wise and year-wise since 2019;
- (b) the details of the instances wherein Central Government and State Governments have ordered the shutdown, month-wise and State-wise;
- (c) if such data of States is unavailable, whether Government intends to create a provision to include them in the Telecommunications bill;
- (d) whether Government intends to include non-official members in the review committee as recommended by the 37th Report of Standing Committee on Communications; and
- (e) whether there are any means to engage in e-governance during such shutdowns?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) As per seventh schedule of the Constitution, police and public order are State subjects. Concerned State Governments are empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet service 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. Permissions granted for internet shutdown to Delhi Police are available on MHA website.
- (c) & (d) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.
- (e) The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens including engagement in e-governance has to be balanced with stopping misuse by anti-social elements requiring temporary internet shutdowns as per the rules based on the assessment by Local (State/UT Government) Authorities.
