

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2609**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

**INTERNET SHUTDOWN IN MANIPUR**

**2609. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:**

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that internet services have been shut down in Manipur since May 3, 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of times Government has extended the internet shutdown in Manipur till date;
- (d) the composition of the committee reviewing extension of internet shutdown; and
- (e) the steps proposed by Government to handle the consequences of internet shutdown and ensure that essential services, education, healthcare and commerce are not adversely impacted by this?

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

**(a) to (e)** As per seventh schedule of the Constitution, police and public order are State subjects. The State government is 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. As per the Rules, the State level review committee consists of Chief Secretary, Secretary Law (or Legal Remembrancer) and a Secretary to the State Government who shall be other than the Home Secretary. The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens has to be balanced with preventing misuse by anti-social elements requiring temporary internet shutdowns as per the Rules.

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