

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2627**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023

ECONOMIC LOSSES FROM INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

2627. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of internet shutdowns each year during the last five years;
- (b) in what manner do these numbers compare with international records of other countries;
- (c) the estimated economic losses from last year's shutdown in India and who is to bear the losses; and
- (d) the remedial measures being taken to ensure that only the minimal shutdowns take place?

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

(a) to (d) 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. The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens has to be balanced with stopping misuse by anti-social elements requiring temporary internet shutdowns as per the Rules. The Rules provides for a Review Committee that records its findings whether the directions of suspension under the said rules are in accordance with the provisions of section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The Rules also mandate that any order issued shall not be in operation for more than 15 days. Further, all Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of UTs have been directed that all suspension orders be placed in public domain.
