

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 709
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN 2023

709 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has maintained any records/data about the number of internet shutdowns in the country in 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons behind the alarming rate of growing internet shutdowns in the country;
- (d) whether Government has followed the amendment made in Telecom Suspension Rules, prohibiting Government from suspending the internet indefinitely and limited shutdowns to fifteen days or less, by continuing the extension of shutdown; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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. 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.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has mandated the publication of suspension orders in public domain; and all orders for suspension of Telecom Services must adhere to the principle of proportionality; and must not extend beyond the necessary duration. The said directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court have been communicated to all Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of States/ Union Territories (UTs) on 10.11.2020. As per Hon'ble Supreme Court orders, the information may be reviewed on the respective State/ UT website.
