

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2091
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN THE COUNTRY

2091 SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has the data regarding the number of Internet shutdowns in the country over the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which Government ensures that these shutdowns do not disproportionately impact businesses, students and emergency services; and
- (d) whether Government will consider legal reforms to regulate and limit the arbitrary use of internet shutdowns?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (b) As per seventh schedule of the Constitution, police and public order are State subjects. Accordingly, the details regarding internet suspension orders issued by State Government/ Union Territories (UTs) are not maintained centrally by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The permissions granted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for temporary suspension of telecom services are available on MHA website: <https://www.mha.gov.in/en/notifications/circular/archive-circular>.

(c) & (d) Generally, during the temporary suspension of telecommunication services in a region, only internet services are suspended and other telecommunication services like voice calling and Short Message Service (SMS) remain available through which people in that region can communicate and access emergency services.

The Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 notified under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 have been superseded by the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 notified under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. In these rules, necessary checks and balances have been introduced for limiting the use of internet shutdowns. As per these rules, the competent authority must first explore all reasonable alternatives to address the public emergency and public safety concerns before issuing an order for the temporary suspension of internet services. If such a suspension is deemed necessary, then the suspension order must be published clearly stating the reason and be limited to defined geographical area and specified duration.
