

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2103
ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2026**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

2103 DR. MENAKA GURUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of internet shutdowns imposed in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for such shutdowns;
- (c) the estimated economic impact of these shutdowns; and
- (d) the safeguards in place to prevent unnecessary disruption of digital services?

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, details in respect of orders issued for temporary suspension of internet issued by State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs) are not maintained centrally by Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The orders issued for temporary suspension of internet by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are available on MHA website: <https://www.mha.gov.in/en/notifications/circular>.

(c) & (d) As per the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 made under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the competent authority to issue temporary suspension orders of internet must first explore all reasonable alternatives to address the public emergency or public safety concerns. If such a temporary 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.

Since the temporary suspension of internet is permitted as a measure of last resort to address situations of public emergency or public safety, the DoT has not undertaken any assessment of the economic impact of such suspension.
