

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2896
ANSWERED ON 13th AUGUST, 2026**

IMPACT OF INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

2896 DR. MENAKA GURUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment of economic, educational and social impact of internet shutdowns imposed across the country during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to establish uniform guidelines to ensure that such restrictions are imposed only in exceptional circumstances?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 notified under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the competent authority must first explore all reasonable means to address the public emergency or public safety concerns before issuing an order for the temporary suspension of internet services. If such a suspension is deemed necessary by the competent authority, the suspension order is required to be published, clearly stating the reasons, and be limited to defined geographical area and for specified duration.

Since the temporary suspension of internet services is permitted as a measure of last resort to address situations of public emergency or in the interest of public safety, Department of Telecommunications has not conducted any assessment of the economic, educational and social impact of such temporary suspension of internet services.
