

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1073**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th JULY, 2018/SHRAVANA 2, 1940 (SAKA)

RUMOURS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

**1073. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether social media especially, whatsapp has been mostly used in spreading rumours in the country during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether internet facility has been stopped by the Government several times to maintain law and order in the country;

(d) if so, the number of times the Government suspended internet facility during the said period along with the period of time for which this service was suspended, State-wise;

(e) whether any legal action has been taken against any person for spreading rumours during the said period;

(f) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(g) whether the Government has identified the phone numbers through which rumours using social media/whatsapp have been spread and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) to (g): Government is aware of the misuse of social media for circulation of misinformation and malicious content to spread rumours.

National Crime Record Bureau does not maintain specific data on such incidents. Police and Public order are State subjects as per the

Constitution of India and States are primarily responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of such crime through their law enforcement

machinery. Concerned State Government issue orders for temporary suspension of internet services to maintain law and order in the State under the provisions contained in Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 and takes legal action against offenders as per the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, 2000.
