

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 164  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018**

**INTERNET SHUT DOWN**

†164. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a report by UNESCO, 97 incidents of internet shut down between May 2017 to April 2018 in South Asian countries have come to light and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (b) the effective steps taken by the Government to make internet services effective?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) The details about internet shutdowns in South Asian Countries, as reported by UNESCO, is not in the knowledge of Department of Telecommunications.
- (b) In order to streamline the process of internet shutdowns in the Country, the Department of Telecommunications, in pursuance to the provisions contained in Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, has notified "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" on 07.08.2017. As per these rules, the directions for temporary suspension of telecom services can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary in case of Central Government or the State Home Secretary in case of State Government, due to public emergency, or in the interest of public safety.

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