

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3418**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 01<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2019/ PAUSHA 11, 1940 (SAKA)**

**SHUT DOWN OF INTERNET UNDER SECTION 144 OF CRPC**

**3418. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) the number of instances in which Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was invoked to order internet shutdowns during the last three years and the current year, location and State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;**

**(b) the reasons for using multiple rules and sections to order internet shutdowns;**

**(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Safety or Public Emergency) Rules, 2017 are implemented in every order issued for Internet shutdowns; and**

**(d) whether the Government has undertaken any alternative reforms for controlling situations of law and order at the national level?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d): Police and Public order are State subjects as per schedule VII of the Constitution, and States are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes through their law enforcement machinery. In order to streamline the process of internet shutdowns in the Country, the Department of Telecommunications 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, including internet services in an area, 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. Central database of such orders is not maintained. Central Government has not issued any order for suspension of internet services during last three years.**

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