

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

1660. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise details of cases of Internet shutdowns in the past five years where the duration was more than seven days;
- (b) the alternative steps that were taken to provide connectivity to students applying for or appearing in exams; and
- (c) whether the number of shutdowns for longer duration are increasing and if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Central Government has not issued any order of internet shutdown under the provisions of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

Police and public order are State subjects as per the Constitution and States are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes through their law enforcement machinery. Concerned State Governments are empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet services to maintain law and order in the State or part thereof under the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. Records related to internet shutdowns ordered by State Governments are not maintained by the Department of Telecommunications.

DoT had received a joint representation dated 08.08.2018 from telecom service providers, wherein it was intimated that frequent suspension of internet services were being ordered by State Governments. Accordingly, on 28.09.2018, all State Governments have been advised to sensitize the concerned officials/agencies against precipitate actions leading to shut down of Internet services, and to ensure that the provisions of "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" are adhered to.

In temporary shutdown of internet services in a region, only internet/data services are suspended temporarily, and other communication means/services like voice calling and Short Message Service (SMS) remain available during the suspension period of internet services, through which people in the region can communicate.
