

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1422**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020/MAGHA 22, 1941 (SAKA)**

**COMMUNICATION SHUT DOWN**

**1422. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:**

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

**(a) whether the Government has held consultations with relevant authorities after communication services were suspended in Jammu and Kashmir to assess the possible inconveniences caused to people due to communication shut downs and the manner in which the same will be mitigated;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof along with the manner in which the following problems for people were mitigated:**

**(i) Not being able to access emergency health services,**

**(ii) Not being able to access banking services,**

**(iii) Not being able to pay bills for services,**

**(iv) Students not being able to apply for scholarships, exams etc.,**

**(v) Students studying outside Kashmir running out of money as their parents were unable to send money,**

**(vi) Business owners not being able to conduct business online or pay their creditors etc.; and**

**(c) if no such consultations were held, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) to (c) The Parliament had taken certain major decisions relating to Article 370 thereby removing all constitutional ambiguities such as Article 35A etc. and applying all provisions of the Constitution of India while reorganizing the**

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**erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh.**

**Considering the past history of terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir being proactively supported from across the border, concerned authorities of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir who are competent to impose restrictions, as specified under various laws of the land has imposed the restrictions on communication services, to prevent loss of human life and property and maintain law and order, in view of the misuse of internet for propagation of terror activities, coordination of activities inimical to the security of the State & Public order, transmission of fake news and rumours and circulation of inflammatory material to incite the general public.**

**Concerned authorities of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have been regularly reviewing removing/imposing restrictions based on the ground situation.**

**As of now, there are no restrictions on Voice calling services and SMS facility, both on post-paid and pre-paid mobile services. Mobile data services and internet access through fixed line has also been restored with certain restrictions.**

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**Government offices and all other utility services including Hospitals etc. are fully accessible to the general public.**

**In order to provide for all such communication needs to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, 1,144 terminals with internet facilities, 74 special counters, e-kiosks etc. have also been established.**

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