

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2586
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 2021**

IMPACT OF INTERNET SHUTDOWN

2586. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the number of instances of internet shutdown imposed in the country during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise and the specific reasons behind the said internet shutdown;
- (b) whether the Government has estimated the economic and other impacts of internet shutdowns on the lives of the citizens in these areas and if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;
- (c) whether the economic output of the regions that have suffered internet shutdowns have seen a noticeable decline during the period of the shutdown and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether there has been any assessment by the Government about the impact that the lack of internet access has had on the availability of essential facilities like healthcare, education and employment to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) Police and public order are State subjects as per seventh schedule of the Constitution and States are responsible and empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet service 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. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that records pertaining to internet shutdowns ordered by States/UTs are not centrally maintained by MHA. Further, the permissions granted for internet shutdown to Delhi Police have been made available on MHA website.
- (b) (c)& (d) Department of Telecommunications has no mechanism to assess socio-economic impact of internet shutdown. The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens has to be balanced with social media platforms being misused by anti-social elements requiring temporary shutdowns as per rules based on the assessment by Local (State/UT Government) Authorities.
