

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2739  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**INTERNET SHUTDOWN**

**2739 SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:  
SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:  
SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MEENA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that India has reported the highest number of government-implemented internet shutdowns in the world;
- (b) district-wise, month-wise details of internet shutdown orders issued under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 between 2018 and 2024;
- (c) whether the government has conducted any assessments to understand the economic and social impact of internet shutdowns in India;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Department of Telecommunications is undertaking any consultation with civil society, activists, subject matter experts and researchers regarding the framing of rules for internet suspension under the Telecommunications Act, 2024 and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (b) On the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Government or State Governments are empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet service as per the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has mandated the publication of suspension orders in public domain; and all orders for suspension of Telecom Services must adhere to the principle of proportionality and must not extend beyond the necessary duration. The said directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court have been communicated to all Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of States/ Union Territories (UTs) on 10.11.2020. As per seventh schedule of the Constitution, police and public order are State subjects. Accordingly, the details regarding internet suspension orders issued by State Government/ Union Territories (UTs) are not maintained centrally by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). However, permissions granted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for temporary suspension of telecom services are available on MHA website.

(c) to (e) No.

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