

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 408
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2024**

INTERNET SHUTDOWN IN THE WORLD IN 2023

**408 SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:
DR. SHASHI THAROOR:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India witnessed the highest number of incidents of Internet shutdowns in the world in 2023;
- (b) whether it is a fact that this was the sixth straight year that India recorded the highest number of such incidents;
- (c) whether the Internet was snapped 116 times in the country last year;
- (d) whether it is a fact that most of these shutdown orders were applied regionally rather than locally; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of public safety, 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. The details regarding internet suspension orders issued by State Government/ Union Territories (UTs) are not maintained centrally by the Department of Telecommunications.
