

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2719
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024**

AMENDMENT TO TELECOMMUNICATION, ACT 2023

2719. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering amendments to the Telecommunications Act, 2023 to repeal Section 20 or introduce safeguards to prevent its potential misuse;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure transparency by maintaining and publishing records of all orders issued under Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act and the Telecom Suspension Rules, 2017;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to release quarterly compliance reports detailing internet shutdown orders and their adherence to the laws in force;
- (d) whether the Government has evaluated the need for an independent inquiry into the economic, social and community-wide impacts of internet shutdowns in the country; and
- (e) the measures being taken to assess and address the consequences of frequent internet shutdowns on country's economy and societal well-being?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No Sir, there is no proposal to amend Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. In the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024, necessary safeguard to prevent potential misuse of this section have been provided.
- (b) As per seventh schedule of the Constitution, Police and public order are State subjects and States are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of such crime through their law enforcement machinery. Concerned State Governments are 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 Telecommunications (Temporary suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 issued under section 20 (2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The Rules requires that the order issuing authority shall publish such orders.
- (c) No Sir.
- (d) & (e) No Sir. The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens has to be balanced with stopping misuse by anti-social elements requiring temporary shutdowns as per the rules based on the assessment by Local (State/UT Government) Authorities.
