

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2195
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2025**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

**2195. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:
SHRI MADHAVANENI RAGHUNANDAN RAO:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and the details of internet shutdown orders issued under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 between January 2023 and January 2025, month and district-wise;
- (b) whether there is any assessment of the economic and social impact of internet shutdowns in the country;
- (c) whether orders to suspend services or block internet access have been published as per the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 10 January 2020 in WP(C) No.1031 of 2019 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number and findings of the meetings held by the Review Committee formed by the Union Government under Rule 5 of the said Rules; and
- (e) whether such orders have been published as per the order of the Supreme Court dated 23 February 2024 in MA No.1086/2020 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its order dated 10.01.2020 in WP(C) No.1031 of 2019, 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).

No assessment of the economic and social impact of internet shutdowns in the country has been conducted by the DoT.

The Review Committee constituted by the Union Government under Rule 5 of the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 has held 10 meetings. The permissions granted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for temporary suspension of telecom services are available on MHA website.
