

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025**

GLOBAL INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

3197. SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country has recorded 84 internet shutdowns, the highest among democratic nations, with 21 occurring in Manipur alone in 2024, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a report by Access Now (published in February 2024) confirmed that India accounted for nearly 60% of all documented global internet shutdowns for the sixth consecutive year and a statement by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in December, 2024 admitted that no impact assessment has been conducted to evaluate the economic or social consequences of these shutdowns, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not undertaking comprehensive evaluations of the consequences of internet shutdowns by the Government given the significant implications for access to information, economic activities and digital rights; and
- (d) the plans of the Government to implement oversight mechanisms to prevent arbitrary suspensions in the future?

ANSWER

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

- (a) 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). The permissions granted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for temporary suspension of telecom services are available on MHA website.
- (b), (c) & (d) No such authentic report is available with the DoT. DoT has not conducted any study to evaluate the economic or social consequences of internet shutdowns in the country.

The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens has to be balanced with the misuse of social media platforms by anti-social elements which may require temporary internet shutdowns as per the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024. These Rules provide oversight mechanism through review committee constituted at the central and state government level.
