

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4368
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN 2024

**4368. DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:
DR. AMAR SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of internet shutdowns ordered by the Government in 2024, along with the breakdown and duration of each shutdown, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons cited for these shutdowns and their extensions, if any, particularly in cases where they were imposed as preventive measures;
- (c) whether any shutdowns coincided with key examination dates, business operations, or emergency services and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any assessments on the impact of such shutdowns on instances of cheating in said exams, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure that internet shutdowns are imposed only as a last resort and in adherence with guidelines set by the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) 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: <https://www.mha.gov.in/en/notifications/circular/archive-circular>.

(c) & (d) 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.

DoT has not conducted any assessments on the impact of such shutdowns on instances of cheating in said exams.

(e) In order to ensure that internet shutdowns are imposed only as a last resort and in adherence with guidelines set by the Supreme Court, following steps have been taken by DoT:

- i. The directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 10.01.2020 passed in W.P. (C) no. 1031/2019 & W.P. (C) no. 1164/2019, were communicated to all Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of States/ Union Territories (UTs) on 10.11.2020.
- ii. The Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024, notified vide G.S.R. 724 (E) dated 22.11.2024, contains such necessary checks and balances.
