

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 708
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

SUSPENSION OF INTERNET SERVICES

**†708. SHRI BABU SINGH KUSHWAHA:
SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA:
SHRI LALJI VERMA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government and local administration impose ban or suspend internet services for short or long durations in various cities from time to time for maintaining law and order and for certain other reasons;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that suspension of internet services causes serious difficulties to employees working in multinational and national companies, salaried persons, businessmen, students, candidates preparing for competitive examinations and those engaged in online work;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to ensure uninterrupted internet connectivity; and
- (d) whether the Government has any data regarding the financial losses incurred due to internet shutdowns during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Central Government or State Governments are empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet as per the provisions contained in the Telecommunication (Temporary suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 under section 20 (2) (b) of Indian Telecommunication Act, 2023.
- (b) & (c) Generally, during the temporary suspension of telecommunication services in a region, only internet services are suspended and other telecommunication services like voice calling and Short Message Service (SMS) remain available through which people in that region can communicate and access emergency services.

As per the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024 notified under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the competent authority must first explore all reasonable alternatives to address the public emergency and public safety concerns before issuing an order for the temporary suspension of internet services. If such a suspension is deemed necessary, then the suspension order must be published clearly stating the reason and be limited to defined geographical area and specified duration.

- (d) No such data is available with the DoT.
