

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2289
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2021**

IMPACT OF INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

2289. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government maintains data pertaining to internet shutdowns, the corresponding reasons for shutdowns and duration, by States;
- (b) if so, the State-wise and year-wise details of internet shutdowns from May 2016 to November 2021;
- (c) whether Government has calculated the impact of internet shutdowns on freedom of speech, dissemination of information and online socialisation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) Police and public order are State subjects as per seventh schedule of the Constitution. Department of Telecommunications notified “Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 on 07.08.2017 under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 under which, the directions to suspend the telecom services, including internet in an area, can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary or Home Secretary of State Government concerned as the case may be, due to public emergency or public safety. Further, copies of the permissions granted by Ministry of Home Affairs for Temporary Shutdowns of telecom services are available on MHA website i.e.mha.gov.in.

(c) & (d) The contribution of internet for the well-being of citizens has to be balanced with public order and well-being of citizen.
