

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2018**

INTERNET SHUTDOWN

*123. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there were 42 reported incidents of internet shutdown in 2017 as compared to 6 in 2014, and that India is one of the top ranked countries in terms of the number of internet shutdowns by Government authorities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons attributed for such shutdowns;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government wants to prevent riots and hate crimes by making shutdowns of internet services and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether due process was followed in approving the said shutdowns and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether punitive or disciplinary action was taken in cases where due process was not followed and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *123 FOR 19TH DECEMBER, 2018 ON “INTERNET SHUTDOWN”.

(a) to (e) In order to streamline the process of internet shutdowns in the Country, the Department of Telecommunications notified “Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017” on 07.08.2017. As per these rules, the directions for temporary suspension of telecom services, including internet services in an area, can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary in case of Central Government or the State Home Secretary in case of State Government, due to public emergency or in the interest of public safety.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that it has not issued any order for temporary suspension of internet services under the provisions of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

State Governments are also empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet services in the State or part thereof under the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. The details about such internet shutdowns ordered by State Governments are not maintained by Department of Telecommunications.

The Department of Telecommunications had received a joint representation dated 08.08.2018 from telecom service providers, wherein, it was intimated that frequent suspension of internet services are being ordered by various State Governments. Accordingly, on 28.09.2018, all State Governments have been directed to sensitize the concerned officials/agencies against precipitate actions leading to shut down of Internet services, and to ensure that the provisions of “Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017” are adhered to.
