

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

**LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

1305. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government does not maintain records relating to telecom services/ internet shutdowns ordered by State Governments, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government recognises that the non-maintenance of such data prevents the Government from ascertaining whether the shutdowns have been made in accordance with the 2017 Suspension Rules and the order by the Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has made no efforts to maintain such data in spite of the rules having been framed in 2017, and with numerous internet suspensions having been imposed across the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, the Union Government does not maintain records relating to telecom services/internet shutdowns ordered by the State Governments.
- (b) The Review Committee chaired by Chief Secretary of the respective State Governments is mandated through Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 to ascertain that the shutdowns have been made in accordance with the said Rules.
- (c) The Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 does not mandate the Central Government to maintain any centralized data of internet suspensions.
