

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4812
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.03.2023

CUTTING OF INTERNET FACILITY

4812. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has cut the internet facility to various States during the last nine years and if so, the details thereof along with the period in which internet facility was cut including the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented the order of the Supreme Court regarding the restoration of the Internet facility and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;
- (c) the details regarding the alternate arrangement made by the Government for the smooth functioning of banks and Government offices depending on internet for their daily work during the period in which internet facility was banned;
- (d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that cutting of internet adversely affect the privacy of the citizen; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government to protect privacy?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a), (b) and (c): 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. Centralized database in this regard is not maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, copies of the permissions granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs for Temporary Shutdowns of telecom services are available on MHA website i.e. mha.gov.in. Internet Shutdowns are imposed for managing law & order situation for the specified period only and suspension is revoked as and when the situation comes under control.

(d) and (e): No such study has been undertaken by the Government.
