

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1366
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.12.2017

BAN ON MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES

1366 SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) state/UT -wise details of ban on mobile internet services, since 2014 till date;
- (b) whether banning of internet services is a decision of State or Central Government or taken-up jointly, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details regarding the reasons for banning of mobile internet services?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM)

(a), (b) and (c) : The police and public order are state subjects and section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 empowers a District Magistrate, a Sub-Divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate specially empowered by the State Government to issue prohibitory orders in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger. Further, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has notified "*Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017*" on 07.08.2017 under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per these rules, the direction to suspend the telecom services including internet in an area can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary or the State Home Secretary, as the case may be, due to public emergency or public safety. Government does not maintain records of internet shutdowns ordered by the State Governments.
