

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.486  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

**INTERNET SHUTDOWN**

486. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry maintains records of details pertaining to the suspension of internet services in the country during law and order situations, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken any necessary steps to ensure that people have access to emergency communication services during internet shutdowns; and
- (c) 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) Central Government has not issued any order of internet shutdown under the provisions of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

Police and public order are State subjects as per the Constitution and States are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes through their law enforcement machinery. Concerned State Governments are empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet services to maintain law and order in the State or part thereof under the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. Records related to internet shutdowns ordered by State Governments are not maintained by the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) & (c) In temporary shutdown of internet services in a region, only internet/data services are suspended temporarily, and other communication means/services like voice calling and Short Message Service (SMS) remain available during the suspension period of internet services, through which people in the region can communicate and access emergency communication services.

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