

1	2	3	4
23.	Kumbakonam Branch	Thanjavur	482
24.	Thanjavur Branch	Thanjavur	381
25.	Charing Cross Branch	The Nilgiris	181
26.	Thenibranch	Theni	221
27.	Tiruvallur Branch	Thiruvallur	323
28.	Tiruvarur Branch	Thiruvarur	108
29.	Tiruchirappalli Branch	Tiruchirappalli	344
30.	Palayankottai Branch	Tirunelveli	330
31.	Tirupur Branch	Tiruppur	349
32.	Tiruvannamalai Branch	Tiruvannamalai	468
33.	Kovilpatti Branch	Tuticorin	346
34.	Tuticorin Branch	Tuticorin	295
35.	Tirupattur Branch	Vellore	568
36.	Villupuram Branch	Villupuram	308
37.	Virudhunagar Branch	Virudhunagar	281
TOTAL			11876

Suspension of internet services

1989. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of instances where internet services were suspended, 2014 onwards along with details of reasons for ordering suspension, places where it was suspended, duration of suspension and the law invoked to suspend services, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether, in future, such suspensions would be ordered by invoking the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017;

(c) if so, the consultations that were held with stakeholders, civil society, etc., before finalising these Rules; and

(d) how these Rules are an improvement over the earlier rules/laws using which, internet services could be suspended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) The Section 5 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 empowers Central/State Government, on occurrence of public emergency or in the interest of public safety, to take temporary possession of licensed telegraphs and to order interception or detention or non-transmission of messages.

In pursuance of these provisions of Indian Telegraph Act and in order to streamline the process of temporary suspension of telecom services, the Department of Telecommunications has 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 or the State Home Secretary, as the case may be, due to public emergency, or in the interest of public safety. These directions are then reviewed by the Review Committee constituted in the Central or State Government under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary or Chief Secretary, as the case may be, within five working days of issue of such directions.

Before finalizing these rules, inter-ministerial consultations were held with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog.

Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that it has not exercised its power under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 till date. State Governments are also empowered to issue the directions for temporary suspension of telecom services, including internet services. Records related to temporary suspensions of telecom services by State Governments are not maintained by Department of Telecommunications.

Cool EMS service between India and Japan

1990. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's 'Cool EMS Service' between India and Japan has been implemented and is running;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits that would accrue there from along with its working mechanism;