

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 707  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**TELECOM AND INTERNET SHUTDOWNS**

**707. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telecom and internet shutdowns that have been put in place under the Telecom Suspension Rules, State-wise, in the last three years;
- (b) the average duration of these telecom and internet shutdowns;
- (c) the proportion of different reasons for which internet shutdowns have taken place;
- (d) the different ranks of authorities which have authorized telecom and internet shutdowns;  
and
- (e) the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

**(a) to (e)** 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. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that records pertaining to internet shutdowns ordered by States/UTs are not centrally maintained by MHA. Further, copies of the permissions granted by Ministry of Home Affairs for Temporary Shutdowns of telecom services are available on MHA website i.e. mha.gov.in.

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