

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1405

ANSWERED ON:20.09.2020

Detention under Public Safety Act

Rahul Gandhi

- (a) the details of political leaders detained under the Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019 and the period of detention;
- (b) the details of the detainees yet to be released;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to restore 4G services in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (d) if so, the timeline for restoration of 4G services;
- (e) whether the Government has examined the impact of restriction of 4G services on the provisioning of essential services and online education during the COVID-19 pandemic in Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reported that in view of the constitutional changes effected by the Parliament with regard to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in August, 2019, various measures were taken to maintain public order which included preventive detention of certain persons. As on 11.09.2020, 223 persons are under detention.

(c) & (d) The telecom/internet services are regulated under the Indian Telegraph

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Act, 1885 and the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. The restrictions are imposed in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State and for maintaining public order, as provided under section 5 (2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

The internet services are already available in Kashmir on fixed line (without any speed related restrictions) as well as Mobile Data services (at 2G speed) since 24.01.2020. Restrictions on accessing Social media sites were also lifted on 04.03.2020. Further, from 16.08.2020, high speed mobile data services too have been commenced in the districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur. The regulation of internet has been undertaken, for limited duration, with orders being issued from time to time, after due assessment, in accordance with the law and with strict adherence to the principles laid down and directions contained in the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(e) & (f) The businesses have had access to internet through fixed line connectivity without any speed restrictions. Prior to that, internet kiosks were opened in large numbers across the Valley. However, due to the pandemic, economic activities have been impacted to some extent.

The 2G mobile internet speed is not an impediment in covid control measures including dissemination of information to the general public as well as health workers. Also, e-learning apps and education /e-learning websites of the

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Government are accessible over 2G internet for downloading e-books and other study material. The restriction on high speed mobile internet services has not been an impediment in the administration of justice; the Courts have taken special measures to conduct their proceedings during the pandemic by providing video links/URLs to the lawyers and the litigants.

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