

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ
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**BJP, oppn clash
over J&K net
curbs at House
panel meeting**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on information technology headed by Shashi Tharoor saw a sharp exchange between BJP and opposition over whether "national security" issues can be taken up in the context of suspension of internet and telecom services, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee proceedings saw home secretary Ajay Bhalla writing to the panel saying rule 270 of conduct of business of Lok Sabha allowed the government to withhold a document if it was judged to be prejudicial to the interest of the state. He said it was verified from the Lok Sabha secretariat that the committee intended to primarily discuss J&K. It is understood that BJP MPs Rajyavardhan Rathore, Nishikant Dubey, Anil Agarwal and Sanjay Seth argued that area-specific internet clampdown, as was done in the case of J&K was a "law and order issue" and a state subject and was further pending in the Supreme Court, and could not be taken up by the committee.

Tharoor, however, overruled the objections on grounds that this was an ongoing discussion and that the committee had heard depositions from both ministries on October 16. This led to a heated discussion with Dubey saying that central rule in J&K was repeatedly extended from 1990 to 1996 and it was understood that the situation there was extraordinary.