

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3680
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2018

PROTECTION OF AADHAAR DATA

3680. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect citizen's data stored in Aadhaar Cards; and

(b) the details as to how the Aadhaar cards are being used for purposes of identification of persons below the poverty line to transfer subsidies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and is deploying the necessary technology and infrastructure. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security & privacy in Aadhaar database. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem, manifolds with enactment of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 passed by Indian Parliament which has stringent penalties/ punishments for offenders. In the ibid Act, Chapter VI on Protection of Information (Section 28 – Section 33) & Chapter VII on Offences and Penalties (Section 34 – Section 47), specifically relates to protection of information and related offences and penalties to offenders.

(b): As per the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, the role of UIDAI is limited to issue Aadhaar numbers to the residents of the country and to provide authentication services for establishing identity of the individuals/beneficiaries. The usage of Aadhaar is governed by Section 7 and Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. The usage of Aadhaar for delivery of welfare service benefits for any other purpose and the extent to which Aadhaar is to be used, is to be determined by the Implementing Agencies only, such as the State Governments/Central Ministries and other Agencies.
