

IT Min: Aadhaar not mandatory for availing subsidy, benefits & services

NEW DELHI: Government on Wednesday said it is strictly adhering to Supreme Court's order that production of Aadhaar Card will not be a condition for citizens to obtain any benefit due to them. Individuals without Aadhaar number can offer alternate means of identification for availing Government subsidies, benefits and services, it added.

"Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act provides that if an Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service," Minister of State for IT and Electronics PP Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha.

The Supreme Court, in its Interim Order dated August 11, 2015, had directed that the production of Aadhaar Card will not be a condition for obtaining any benefits otherwise due to a citizen. The apex court directed Government that Aadhaar card will not be used for any purpose other than PDS scheme, kerosene and LPG subsidy, which was later extended to include schemes of MGNREGS, National Social Assistance Programme pensions (old age, widow and disability pensions), PMJDY and EPFO, through its interim order dated October 15, 2015. **PTI**