

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

SECURITY CONCERNS REGARDING AADHAAR ENCRYPTION

***144. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:**

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance of CAG Report (October 2020) which questioned the procedure and encryption method of Aadhaar Data Vault;

(b) if so, the action taken so far and the details thereof;

(c) the reasons behind the UIDAI advisory asking people not to share the photocopy of Aadhaar card and subsequent retractment of the same;

(d) the precaution people should take regarding Aadhaar;

(e) the total number of duplicate Aadhaar cards that have been cancelled since 2019, State-wise details thereof; and

(f) whether there has been any breach of Aadhaar Data Vault since its creation, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO.*144 FOR 29.07.2022 REGARDING SECURITY CONCERNS
REGARDING AADHAAR ENCRYPTION**

(a): Yes, Sir.

Vide the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), issued in reference to UIDAI Circular dated 25.07.2017 regarding Aadhaar Data Vault (available on the link https://uidai.gov.in/images/resource/FAQs_Aadhaar_Data_Vault_v1_0_13122017.pdf), it has been stated that standards of RSA-2048 for public key encryption and AES-256 for symmetric encryption need to be followed.

Further, Para 5.2.3 of the CAG's Audit Report No. 24 of 2021-(MeitY) on "Performance Audit on Functioning of UIDAI" *inter alia* recommended to ensure implementation of Aadhaar Data Vault and to do periodic audits independently.

(b): Information Security (IS) Audit of Authentication User Agencies (AUA) is done on annual basis by independent auditors.

For the year 2020-21, IS Audit (including ADV) of 156 out of 164 AUAs has been done. Further, for the year 2021-22, so far UIDAI has received IS audit reports of 133 out of 169 AUAs.

(c): UIDAI Regional Office Bengaluru had issued an advisory on 27.05.2022 in the context of an attempt to misuse a photo-shopped Aadhaar card. However, in view of the possibility of the misinterpretation of the same, it was withdrawn on 29.05.2022.

(d): Aadhaar number holders should exercise normal prudence in using and sharing their Aadhaar numbers. Alternatively, a partially-masked Aadhaar which displays only the last 4 digits of Aadhaar number can be used. A resident can also use Virtual Identifier (VID) which is an interchangeable 16-digit random number mapped with his/ her Aadhaar number. Further, UIDAI also provides the facility of Aadhaar locking and biometric locking to residents which ensure greater security and privacy of Aadhaar number.

(e): Total 1,25,454 duplicate Aadhaars have been cancelled since 2019. State/UT-wise list is enclosed as Annexure.

(f): There has been no breach of UIDAI's Aadhaar Data Vault.

State/UT wise cancelled Aadhaars

Name of State/ UT	No. of Aadhaars	Name of State/ UT	No. of Aadhaars
Andaman and Nicobar	63	Madhya Pradesh	13083
Andhra Pradesh	20696	Maharashtra	9788
Arunachal Pradesh	22	Manipur	70
Assam	42	Meghalaya	1
Bihar	10722	Mizoram	17
Chandigarh	226	Nagaland	9
Chhattisgarh	2940	Odisha	3661
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22	Puducherry	242
Daman and Diu	29	Punjab	2671
Delhi	5385	Rajasthan	4313
Goa	74	Sikkim	18
Gujarat	4343	Tamil Nadu	2619
Haryana	3135	Telangana	3025
Himachal Pradesh	591	Tripura	304
Jharkhand	7963	Uttar Pradesh	10590
Karnataka	12552	Uttarakhand	564
Kerala	1076	West Bengal	4591
Lakshadweep	7		

Total: 1,25,454

