

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 819
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20-12-2017

MANDATORY AADHAAR LINKAGE

**819. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:
SHRI D.K. SURESH:
SHRI V. ELUMALAI:
SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:**

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

- (a) whether the proposed mandatory Aadhaar linkage to innumerable Government Schemes and for identification has generated a lot of debate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the services for which it is mandated;
- (c) whether it is also true that there are several petitions against the Aadhaar linkage that are being heard in the court;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is taking any steps to mitigate the concerns of the general public about the transparency and genuineness of the use of Aadhaar and if so, the details thereof including action taken on complaints of misuse of data or fraud;
- (e) whether the Government has studied the impact of the Aadhaar linkage with various services on the entire economy of the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether serious concerns have been raised about the security of Aadhaar data and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM)

(a) and (b): Aadhaar based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a significant governance reform initiative to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the public service delivery through effective use of technology. Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (Aadhaar Act), enables use of Aadhaar as condition precedent for services and benefits flowing from Consolidated Fund of India, provided no service/benefit is denied for want of Aadhaar. As per information from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), 252 schemes from various Ministries/ Departments have been notified under this section till 30th November 2017. These notifications also provide mechanism to handle such cases where Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual and instruct implementing agencies to deliver benefits on the basis of alternate identity mechanisms.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Rules 2005 as amended on 1st June., 2017 and subsequently from time to time also require Aadhaar based identification by various

reporting entities including banks, financial institutions and other intermediaries as defined in Prevention of Money laundering Act 2002.

As per section 139AA of the Income Tax, 1961 effective from 01.07.2017, all taxpayers having Aadhaar number or enrolment number are required to link it with PAN number.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The transparency and genuineness of Aadhaar is ensured by providing authentication services as governed by the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016. To ensure transparency and genuineness of the use of Aadhaar, following measures have been taken by UIDAI:

- i. A notification is sent on registered e-mail ID of Aadhaar number holder for every successful or failed biometric and One Time Password (OTP) based authentication transaction.
- ii. UIDAI has also provided a facility on UIDAI portal to view "Aadhaar Authentication History" for all types of transactions, which enables an Aadhaar number holder to view details of all successful and failed transactions performed by him / her in the past few months."

UIDAI has also filed 30 FIRs with Police till date, for violation of the Aadhaar Act 2016.

With regard to concerns of the general public about the genuineness of the use of Aadhaar by Licensed Access Service Providers during the re-verification process of existing mobile subscribers through Aadhaar based E-KYC process, the Department of Telecommunications vide its circular dated 23.10.2017, has directed all the Licensed Access Service Providers not to bundle the other services offered by them like DTH, broadband, bank payments, etc., with the Aadhaar re-verification of the mobile subscribers.

(e): As a result of Aadhaar Based DBT, Ministries/Departments have reported saving of Rs. 57,029 Crore till FY 2016-17.

(f): Concerns regarding security of the Aadhaar data have been addressed through legal, organizational and technological measures. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to address the security concerns related to Aadhaar 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. Security is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage. Security of Aadhaar data is monitored at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. In pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as protected system by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated continually thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of

people, material and data in and out of UIDAI premises, particularly the data centres. Physical security of UIDAI Data Centres is being managed by armed CISF personnel. Further strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process, and all possible steps are taken in this regard. Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016, framed there-under, have been specifically drafted keeping in account the various security requirements in respect of data collected by UIDAI.
