GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1944
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019

LINKING OF SIM CARDS WITH AADHAAR NUMBER

1944. SHRI M. SELVARAJ:
SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has issued directions and made it mandatory for all mobile users in the country to link Aadhaar number with mobile SIM cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason and purpose to link Aadhaar number with mobile SIM cards; and

(d) the total number of mobile SIMs are linked with Aadhaar number as on date, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. No directions were issued by Department of Telecommunications for making mandatory for all mobile users in the Country to link Aadhaar number with mobile SIM cards. However, the Aadhaar based E-KYC (Electronic-Know Your Customer) process was adopted as an alternative mechanism of KYC for issuance of new mobile connections on 16.08.2016 and a method of re-verification of existing mobile subscribers on 23.03.2017.

Subsequently, in pursuance of Hon’ble Supreme Court’s judgment & order dated 26.09.2018 in W.P. (C) No. 494 of 2012 in the matter of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Rtd.) & Anr. Vs UoI & Ors., the Department of Telecommunications, vide its order dated 26.10.2018 (copy available at the link: http://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Discontinuation%20of%20E-KYC%20Order%20dated%2026.10.2018.PDF), had discontinued the use of Aadhaar based E-KYC service of UIDAI for issuing new mobile connections to subscribers and re-verification of existing mobile subscribers. However, subsequently vide an ordinance, it has been allowed on a voluntary basis to be used.

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