

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 471
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.11.2019

LINKING OF AADHAAR WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

471. SHRIMATI S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact a law for linking Aadhaar with social media accounts of individuals and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has ordered the removal of objectionable online content posted on social media and if so, the details thereof and the details of topics included therein; and
- (c) The steps being taken by the Government to address the privacy concerns about the biometric data stored by UIDAI and leakages of personal information?

ANSWER

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

(a): No, Sir. There is no such proposal with Government for linking Aadhaar with social media accounts of individuals.

(b): Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource : (i) in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign states, (v) public order or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. Year-wise detail of no. of URLs blocked on social media platforms are as follows :

| Year | No. of URLs ordered for blocking |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 2016 | 633 |
| 2017 | 1385 |
| 2018 | 2799 |
| 2019 (till 31 st October 2019) | 3433 |

The order for blocking is issued for the topics mentioned above.

(c): Aadhaar is based on three core principles of minimal information, optimal ignorance and federated database. In its whole lifecycle an Aadhaar database contains only the information that the resident provides at the time of enrolment or updation. The database contains name, address,

gender, date of birth/age, photograph and core biometrics (10 fingerprints and 2 iris scans) of the enrolled resident. The database may also have mobile and email, if provided by the resident, during enrolment or updation. As a matter of policy and by design, UIDAI precludes itself from aggregating information arising from the use of Aadhaar, tracking and profiling individuals, and the system by intent, is blind to the purpose for which Aadhaar may be used at the front end by the resident. Also, the core biometrics is encrypted at the time of enrolment/Updation. It is never kept unencrypted and is never shared.

For security of Aadhaar data, UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layer robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain highest level of data security and integrity. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure data security and privacy which is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage.

Various policies and procedures have been defined and 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. UIDAI data is fully secured/encrypted at all times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. For further strengthening of security and privacy of data, security audits are conducted on regular basis. The security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem has been strengthened with enactment of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 and subsequently the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 which has stringent penalties/punishments for offenders.

UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified with respect to information security which has added another layer of IT security assurance. The core infrastructure of Aadhaar has been notified as protected system under the provisions of section 70 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
