

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4518
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2011
RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN UID SCHEMES

4518 Dr. SOLANKI KIRITBHAI PREMAJIBHAI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether adequate safeguards have been provided in the Aadhaar Scheme to ensure individual's right to privacy and confidentiality of information;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether there are specific provisions to compensate individuals in cases of misuse of personal information;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the UK National Identify Card Scheme was cancelled and the US Real ID Act is opposed by many States on grounds of threat to privacy and data security; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government in view of the ongoing UID scheme in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a): Yes, Madam. Adequate safeguards have been provided to ensure individual's privacy and confidentiality of information.

(b): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) collects five demographic details i.e. Name, Age, Gender, Address & Name of the Father/ Mother/Spouse/Guardian. In order to ensure that the confidentiality of the data is maintained, UIDAI will not allow download of the data from its Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) and will answer the queries only in 'Yes' or 'No'.

A number of processes have been put in place to ensure that the data collected by UIDAI is not accessed in unauthorized manner. These include the encryption of data at source, immediately on completion of enrolment; transfer of data to the data centre in encrypted and zipped format which is tamper proof; putting standard security infrastructure such as virtual providers, firewalls and intrusion prevention system in place and limiting physical access to UIDAI infrastructure and data to authorized personnel only. UIDAI has also issued data protection and security guidelines for Registrars, Enrolment Agencies, Logistics Service Providers, UIDAI Employees, Authentication User Agencies, and Data Centre Service Providers. UIDAI will continue to engage with experts and Stakeholders to further ensure protection of privacy and confidentiality of information.

(c) & (d): For misuse of personal information there is no provision for monetary compensation to the individual. The offence will continue to attract provisions of relevant laws.

(e): It is correct that the UK National Identity Card and the Identification Card for European economic area (EEA) nationals ceased to be valid legal documents on 21.1.2011. In U.S.A, the States have been given time till January 15, 2013 to ensure that driver's licenses and identification cards issued by States meet the security requirements of the REAL ID Act.

(f): Different countries have various forms of identity systems based on the country specific needs. The motivation and rationale for identity systems in different countries are specific to the country and cannot be generalized. The UID project in India has been envisioned to provide a unique identity to every resident of the India which will be the foundation for better delivery of public services and targeted subsidies. The project has a basis in the developmental agenda of promoting more inclusive growth. Therefore the comparison of UID with these projects may not be appropriate.