

Prasad: Aadhaar data safe, cannot be breached

New Delhi, Jan. 11: Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday said that fingerprint and iris data stored in the Aadhaar system are safe and secure and cannot be breached even by "billions of efforts".

Speaking at an event of Delhi School of Economics, he showed his Aadhaar card to audiences and said, "The (Aadhaar) system contains my fingerprint and iris kept in safe and secure encrypted form which cannot be broken even by billions of efforts. That is an Indian technology." The comments from Mr Prasad come at a time when there have been reports of alleged data breach of Aadhaar subscribers.

The minister said that World Bank has appreciated the Aadhaar technology for inclusion which costs ₹63.66 only but saved ₹57,000 crore of public money.

"Indian technology is today finding resonance. Poor are very happy with Aadhaar," Mr Prasad said.

He said that by linking teachers with Aadhaar around 80,000 fake teachers have been identified by the government.

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Besides, 80 crore bank accounts have been linked with Aadhaar.

"While we respect data privacy, it should be done, but under the garb of privacy you cannot kill innovation," Mr Prasad said.

Based on data analysis, the government was able to detect that post-demonetisation 1.5 lakh people deposited 5 lakh crore, and 17,000 companies deposited ₹35,000 crore out of ₹14 lakh crore cash that flowed into banks, he said, adding that it also struck out over 2.5 lakh companies which operated only during the period of demonetisation.

According to the official data, 17.73 lakh suspicious cases involving ₹3.68 lakh crore have been identified by taxmen in 23.22 lakh bank accounts post demonetisation. Responses from 11.8 lakh people for 16.92 lakh bank accounts had been received by the department online. — PTI