

## **'Aadhaar helped save ₹90,000cr'**

**Pankaj.Doyal**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The government on Monday made a strong case for further strengthening Aadhaar, saying that the biometric identity programme had resulted in savings of Rs 90,000 crore by removing fictitious beneficiaries and ensuring that subsidies reach the targeted audience.

The defence comes at a time when the Supreme Court has reserved its verdict on a number of petitions challenging the Aadhaar Act and the use of the biometric programme for various government and non-government services. IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is also in-charge of the law ministry, said that the Aadhaar programme has gained pace under the Modi government and at last count, the country had 121 crore unique ID holders.

Asked whether the controversial programme could be under threat if the Supreme Court's judgement went against it, Prasad dismissed the question as "hypothetical".