DoT, UIDAI STATEMENT

Mobiles issued with Aadhaar: ‘No threat of discontinuation’

‘Users can opt for a change in authentication with alternative proof of identity’

EN Economic Bureau
New Delhi, October 18

SUBSCRIBERS who have mobile connections on the basis of Aadhaar-based identification need not fear. Neither do they need to get themselves re-verified based on paper-based identification documents nor will their SIMs be disconnected. The government on Thursday clarified that subscribers who have enrolled based on Aadhaar e-KYC need not get themselves re-verified using alternate paper-based documents. Only if such users want their Aadhaar details deleted, they need to get themselves re-verified. There won’t be any disconnection of SIMs as was reported in a section of the press.

Debunking reports that over 500,000 mobile SIMs in the country, faced disconnection, the department of telecommunications and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in a joint statement said that mobile phone users at their choice can seek a change of their Aadhaar-based authentication done in the past with an alternate proof of identity without any disconnection of the number.

An alternate form for buying new SIMs through a mobile app that will capture a photograph of the person along with an ID proof such as Aadhaar card, voter ID or passport is in the works, it said. “The Supreme Court in its judgment in the Aadhaar case has nowhere directed that the mobile number which has been issued through Aadhaar e-KYC has to be disconnected,” it said.

Terming reports on disconnection as “completely untrue and imaginary”, the government said there is no reason for panic or fear at all. “People should not believe in such rumors,” it said.

The apex court has also not asked for deletion of the electronic-KYC (a means of establishing the identity of the person) data of telecom customers after six months, the statement said.

“What the apex court has asked is that UIDAI should not keep authentication log for more than six months. The restriction of not keeping authentication log beyond six months is on the UIDAI and not on the telecom companies. Therefore, there is no need for telecom companies or AUA (an authentication user agency of UIDAI) to delete authentication logs at their end,” it added.

The AUA is an authentication user agency (AUA) and UIDAI is the KVC user agency (KVA).

Meanwhile, DoT-UIDAI said that telecom companies are required to keep authentication logs at the end as per Aadhaar regulations to resolve any consumer grievances.

“In the light of the SC verdict if anybody wishes to get his/her Aadhaar e-KYC replaced by the fresh KYC, he/she may request the service provider for delinking or authenticity data or his/her Aadhaar by submitting a fresh e-KYC documentation,” it said.

The Supreme Court, it said, has prohibited the issue of new SIM cards through the Aadhaar e-KYC authentication process due to lack of a law. “There is no direction to deactivate the old mobile phones,” the statement added.

The telecom department and UIDAI are in the process to bring out a completely hassle-free and digital process for issuing new SIM cards through a mobile app, which will be fully compliant of the Supreme Court judgment. PE

‘Telcos to erase Aadhaar data if customer gives alternative KYC docs’

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MOBILE SERVICE customers who want to get their Aadhaar details deleted from records of their telecom operators can do so by providing other valid documents for verification, industry body COAI said Thursday.

“Telcos had a meeting with the Department of Telecom and they have been clarified that customers willing to get their Aadhaar details deleted from telecom operator data base should be allowed to do so against valid identity and address proof,” COAI Director General Rajan S Mathews said.

He said that telecom operators will need some time to verify documents shared by customers but his connection will continue to work as till the documents are verified.

“Customers will need to call their operators to check about point of sales or service where they need to go with request for deletion of Aadhaar records,” Mathews said.