

# 'Aadhaar safe, accountable'

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Allaying the fears of Opposition members on the possible sharing of private data of Aadhaar cards, Union Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Aadhaar is "robust, safe and accountable" and would bring down corruption in the system.

Replying to a short duration discussion on "Aadhaar : its implementation and implications" in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the minister assured the House that the government has taken all possible security measures to protect the privacy of card holders. Only minimum information from the Aadhaar system would be utilised for verification, and it did not even share "religion, income, med-

## No poor will be deprived: Govt

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Accusing the Congress of painting Aadhaar as a curse, the government today asserted that no poor person would be deprived of the subsidy benefits by making the Aadhaar mandatory and that privacy of individuals will be protected. Minister of IT and Law Ravi Shankar Prasad

ical history, ethnicity or education", the minister said.

He said the government has been taking stringent action against operators who were violating the norms. So far the government "has blacklisted 34,000 operators, and action was taken against 1,000 such

operators". He said so far nearly 43.4 crore bank accounts, 69.9 crore domestic LPG connections, 17.51 ration cards, 1.04 crore passports and 1.08 crore PAN cards have been linked with Aadhaar cards. The move would help in

plugging leakages in the system.

stated this in the Rajya Sabha while replying to a discussion on Aadhaar against the backdrop of concerns expressed by the opposition over making the biometric-based identification system mandatory for availing of government subsidies. "I want to make it clear that no poor shall be denied his subsidy" PTI

plugging leakages in the system.

Replying to the contention by several members that the linking of Aadhaar card is in contravention with the Supreme Court ruling, Prasad asserted that the Aadhaar Act came into existence in 2016 much after the SC ruling, and hence it stands. He said linking of social welfare schemes with Aadhaar has received acknowledgement and appreciation from World Bank chief Economist and from a UN report.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh attacked the government for violating the SC order which clearly outlined where to use Aadhaar. He said making Aadhaar mandatory for availing subsidies was resulting in exclusion of beneficiaries.