

GOVT SEEKS TO ALLAY FEARS ON AADHAAR

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The government on Monday 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 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 very clear on the behalf of the government that no poor shall be denied his subsidy rights at all. Be very clear about that.

Whether it is, a mid day meal or any other benefit, we have said that you come on Aadhaar but no denial will be there," he assured the House. The Opposition has been attacking the government for making Aadhaar mandatory for receiving benefits from the government schemes. Leading the charge was Congress MP Jairam Ramesh who attacked the government on two specific issues — legality of Aadhaar and exclusion due to Aadhaar. Mr Jairam said that there are at least three orders of the Supreme Court which state that Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory for receiving government subsidies.