

## PAN will not be invalidated if not linked with Aadhaar: govt

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**T**he government on Wednesday clarified to the Supreme Court that permanent account number (PAN) will not be invalidated retrospectively for not linking it with Aadhaar.

“It will be invalid from 1 July 2017 and not from when you had applied for a PAN number,” the government’s top law officer attorney general Mukul Rohatgi said.

According to the provisions of Finance Act 2017, the Aadhaar number or Aadhaar enrolment number will be mandatory to file income-tax returns and to apply for a new PAN.

Further, an existing PAN can be declared void if the taxpayer does not link it with Aadhaar within the period that will be notified by the government.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the law is arbitrary and has no nexus with its objective of curbing black money.

“Aadhaar linkage is only for an individual assessee and not for companies, firms etc. The consequences of non-compliance are draconian,” he said. Datar also argued that Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory for any scheme or service by the government.