

Why aren't MPs objecting to making Aadhaar a must for PAN, asks apex court

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The Supreme Court on Wednesday put a poser as to why there was no objection from lawmakers on the government's decision to make Aadhaar mandatory for making PAN cards, a move which was given effect by the latest Budget from July 1.

"542 persons are sitting in Parliament, why do they not object to it? If they are not objecting on it, why should we go into it," a Bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan said.

When it was told that the Centre has earlier made a statement in the apex court that they would not make Aadhaar mandatory, the Bench said, "they cannot be bound by it. It cannot preclude Parliament from enacting a statutory provision."

The apex court was hearing three petitions challenging the constitutional validity of section 139AA of the Income Tax (IT) Act.

During the hearing, the Bench also observed that tax evasion existed in India and it was a "shame" that citizens do not want to pay taxes. There was no doubt that Aadhaar should be voluntary but the government could bring in new statute to stop such "leakage".