

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 100
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15-12-2017

ACCESS OF AADHAAR DATABASE AND ITS ENCRYPTION

100. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Aadhaar database has been accessed by other agencies, including Central Intelligence Agency;
- (b) whether Government has met its target of data encryption of all registered citizens, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) how government plans to prevent misuse/leak of data by the Aadhaar-enabled service providers;
- (d) whether Government has tested the biometric readers certified by UIDAI for liveness detection, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has proposed the approach of dummy Aadhaar numbers to solve the security issues associated with Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM)

(a): No, Sir. Aadhaar data has not been accessed by any unauthorised agency including Central Intelligence Agency.

(b): As on date, more than 119 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated for Indian residents. The relevant data is stored in Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) of UIDAI in encrypted format.

(c): The sharing of Aadhaar information is done only with authorized KYC User Agencies (KUAs)/ Authentication User Agencies (AUAs), through authorized secure applications, after following well established security procedures and protocols. No biometric data is shared by UIDAI with any agency.

The sharing of Aadhaar information is regulated in terms of the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016, framed under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. There has been restriction on sharing of identity information on the Authority as well as requesting entity, and responsibilities have also been cast upon the Agency or entity other than the requesting entity with respect to Aadhaar numbers. Restriction is also there on sharing/circulating/publishing of Aadhaar numbers.

(d) and (e): UIDAI uses “assisted mode” for performing biometric authentication. This means that the process of authentication occurs in the presence of/or supervision of AUA/KUA in the liveness mode. Further, the AUAs/KUAs are obligated by the terms of their contract, Aadhaar Act and its Regulations, circulars, guidelines, directions etc. to perform such authentication as per the UIDAI approved processes. Any violation will render them liable for action under the law of the land.

Moreover, AUA/KUAs are at liberty to use their own additional factors of authentication such as physical verification, additional passwords, their own OTPs etc to enhance their security.
