

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1211
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

PROTECTION OF AADHAAR DATA

1211. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether some IT experts have raised serious doubts over the security of Aadhaar data which can be misused and leaked in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the protection of Aadhaar data?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and is deploying the necessary technology and infrastructure. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security & privacy in Aadhaar database. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

UIDAI data is fully secured/ encrypted at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. UIDAI's existing security controls and protocols are robust and capable of countering any such attempts or malicious designs of data breach or hacking. For, further strengthening of security and privacy of data, security audits are conducted on regular basis, and all possible steps are taken to make the data safer and protected. Further, there are multiple layers of security at physical level in UIDAI Data Centres and is being managed by armed CISF personnel round the clock. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem, manifolds with enactment of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 passed by Indian Parliament which has stringent penalties/ punishments for offenders. In the ibid Act, Chapter VI on Protection of Information

(Section 28 – Section 33) & Chapter VII on Offences and Penalties (Section 34 – Section 47), specifically relates to protection of information and related offences and penalties to offenders.

UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.
