

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1700
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09-03-2018

SIPHONING OFF SUBSIDY FUNDS OF SUBSCRIBERS

1700. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM :

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

(a) whether the UIDAI has slapped a notice on a private telecom operator for misusing the Aadhaar encryption details to siphon off subsidy funds meant for its subscribers to its own account;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of the telecom operator in collecting subsidy funds into its own bank account, outsmarting the UIDAI oversight/monitoring mechanism; and

(c) whether any legal action has been initiated by UIDAI against the errant telecom operator?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has issued notice to telecom operator Airtel and Airtel Payment Bank, for opening bank Accounts in Airtel Payments Bank while issuing new SIM card or verifying existing SIM card based on Aadhaar Authentication and also linking the newly opened bank account with NPCI Aadhaar Payment Bridge mapper for direct benefit transfer.

There was no misuse of Aadhaar encryption or impact on UIDAI oversight/monitoring mechanism.

(c): UIDAI vide its Interim Order dated 15.12.2017 suspended the e-KYC License Key of Airtel and Airtel Payment Bank with the direction to stop this practice. UIDAI also imposed financial disincentives of Rs. 1.27 crore each on Airtel and Airtel Payment Bank.

For ensuring compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order in Lokniti case, UIDAI vide its Interim order dated 21.12.2017, temporarily restored the e-KYC License Key of Airtel and directed as under:

“Airtel shall use the e-KYC and authentication service only for the purpose of re-verification and issuance of SIM cards and shall not use it for obtaining consent of the Aadhaar holder for opening bank accounts, wallet, DTH or any other goods or services. Airtel shall communicate to all its customers via SMS that their bank accounts linked with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) Aadhaar Payment Bridge mapper for direct benefit transfer have been duly reverted from Airtel payment bank account to their previous bank accounts on the Aadhaar Payment Bridge mapper. Airtel shall also communicate to all its customers via SMS that the

direct benefit transfers received in their Airtel payment bank accounts have been duly reversed to their previous NPCI mapper bank accounts.”
