

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*182
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03-08-2018

HANDLING OF AADHAAR DATABASE BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

***182. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Aadhaar database of tens of thousands of citizens is handled in an irresponsible manner by various public and private agencies;
- (b) whether Government has noticed that news-items are often appearing in media regarding leakages of Aadhaar data; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the threat posed by mishandling of Aadhaar database, both to the security of the nation and privacy of the individuals?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.
*182 FOR 03-08-18 REGARDING HANDLING OF AADHAAR DATABASE BY PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE AGENCIES**

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(a): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) does not share its data with anyone except as per the provisions of Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Regulations framed thereunder.

Sharing of information or seeding of Aadhaar information with the authorised agencies is governed as per the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.

Section 29 (1) of the Aadhaar Act 2016 read together with Regulation 3(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 categorically states that no core biometric information, collected or created under the Aadhaar Act, shall be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under the Act.

Regulation 4(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 provides that core biometric information collected or captured by a requesting entity from Aadhaar number holder at the time of authentication shall not be shared for any reason whatsoever.

Further, Section 30 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 applies the rigours of the IT Act, 2000 and the rules thereunder whereby Biometric Information is deemed to be Sensitive Personal Information.

Additionally, Chapter VII of the Act lays down monetary penalties and imprisonment for unauthorized sharing of residents' identity information. Any violation to the provisions of the Aadhaar Act is a criminal offence.

(b): Aadhaar has built digital trust among people at large and some devious elements are trying to spread misinformation.

Aadhaar is one of the key enablers for the 'Digital India' movement in general and 'Jandhan, Adhaar, Mobile (JAM) Trinity' in particular, when it comes to service delivery with enhanced efficiency. Aadhaar has also evolved as an instrument for promoting good governance and enabling the poor to rightfully secure their due benefits by availing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to their Aadhaar linked bank accounts which number about 95 crore as on 20.07.2018.

Aadhaar has helped in weeding out fake, ghost and duplicate beneficiaries. Benefits/gains from DBT & such other Governance Reforms are estimated to be Rs. 90,012.71 crore upto March 2018. With Aadhaar, services to beneficiaries have become more meaningful, transparent and corruption-free through direct deliveries without middlemen. Hence, Aadhaar inspires more confidence and trust between person to person and person to system transactions than any other identity document in India. Truly, Aadhaar is a game changer for the poor.

In respect of so-called data leak reported in certain sections of media, it is to clarify that there has been no security breach of UIDAI's database or Central Identity Data Repository (CIDR). The said media news reports are not based on proper comprehension of the facts.

UIDAI database is encrypted, safe and robustly secure. There has not been a single case of identity theft leading to any financial loss reported till date.

(c): There has been no case of mishandling of UIDAI database till date.

Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and has deployed the necessary technology and infrastructure to secure Aadhaar database. 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.

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. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly

which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Further, Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (“The Aadhaar Act”) and the Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 framed there under have been specifically drafted keeping in account the various security requirements in respect of data collected by UIDAI.

Security Audits are conducted on regular basis by Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, which is an attached office of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. 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.
