

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2499
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16-03-2018

HACKING OF AADHAAR INFORMATION

2499. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that all confidential data such as mobile number, E-Mail ID, the documents or bank accounts linked to Aadhaar number can be easily accessed by hackers by using certain commands on the computers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that hackers have been selling this data in the underground market at the rate of 50 paise per information and it goes upto Rs. 2.50; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a): No, Sir. Aadhaar database and Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) is not accessible to anyone. Aadhaar is based on three core principles of minimal information, optimal ignorance and federated database, and in its whole lifecycle an Aadhaar database contains only that much information that the resident provides at the time of enrolment or updation. The database contains name, address, gender, date of birth/age, photograph and core biometrics (10 fingerprints and 2 iris scans) of the enrolled resident. The database may also have mobile and email, if provided by the resident, during enrolment or updation. Aadhaar does not receive or store any information such as bank account or PAN or SIM details etc. during linking or verifying any of the services with Aadhaar. As a matter of policy and by design, UIDAI precludes itself from aggregating information arising from the use of Aadhaar, tracking and profiling individuals, and the system by intent, is blind to the purpose for which Aadhaar may be used at the front end by the resident. Also, the core biometrics is encrypted at the time of enrolment/Updation. It is never kept unencrypted and is never shared. When people use Aadhaar for accessing various services, their information remain in silos of federated databases so that each agency remains optimally ignorant. For example, a person may use his/her Aadhaar number for obtaining a SIM card, opening a bank account, and receiving his/her PDS benefits. Even though Aadhaar number is used by the individual for all the three purposes, Telecom Company will not have any information about the bank details or PDS benefits received by the resident. Similarly, the bank will not know SIM cards details and PDS benefits received by the resident. As far as UIDAI is concerned it will not have any of the above mentioned information viz. bank details, SIM cards details, and PDS benefits details of the resident.

(b) and (c): Does not arise in view of (a) above.
