

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2500
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16-03-2018

BREACH OF AADHAAR DATA

2500. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government in controlling the breach of Aadhaar data, including biometric details, in the light of recent violations of data breach incidents in the country; and
- (b) the measures taken/to be taken by Government to improve the information security standards to handle the instances of data breach in future?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): In respect of so-called data breach reported in certain sections of media, it has been clarified that there has been no security breach of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)'s biometric database or Central Identity Data Repository (CIDR).

UIDAI's existing security controls and protocols are robust and capable of countering any such attempts or malicious designs of data breach or hacking. Security of Aadhaar is of critical importance to the Government and UIDAI has given it paramount significance. UIDAI constantly strengthens and reviews its infrastructure and ecosystems in line with the best international security practices and technological standards and have multi-layered security and privacy considerations built into the core strategy of Aadhaar with three basic doctrines of minimal information, optimal ignorance and federated database which give higher level of security.

Various policies and procedures have been defined. These are reviewed and updated continually thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of secured and well guarded UIDAI premises, particularly the data centres.

UIDAI data is fully secured/ encrypted at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. 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 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.
