

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3299**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23-03-2018

**ERROR RATE OF AADHAAR BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION**

**3299. SHRI MANISH GUPTA:**

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

- (a) whether there have been any studies on the error rate of Aadhaar biometric authentication;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that individuals are not denied Government and other services due to errors in biometric authentication outside their control?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): Biometric authentication accuracy Proof of Concept (PoC) was conducted during 2012 and as per the PoC report accuracy was 98% & 99% for fingerprint authentication and iris authentication respectively.

(c): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) provides various modes of authentication viz Demographic, Biometric (Finger Print + IRIS), OTP and Multi-factor authentication. The Service Provider may choose suitable mode(s) of authentication.

As per para 14(1)(i) of Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulation 2016, a requesting entity has to implement exception-handling mechanisms and back-up identity authentication mechanisms to ensure seamless provision of authentication services to Aadhaar number holders.

In addition, DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat has issued guidelines dated 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 on exception handling for use of Aadhaar in benefit schemes of Government, which inter-alia has stipulated the following mechanism in respect of cases where Aadhaar authentication fails:

- i. Departments and Bank Branches may make provisions for IRIS scanners along with fingerprint scanners, wherever feasible.
- ii. In cases of failure due to lack of connectivity, offline authentication system such as QR code bases coupons, Mobile based OTP or TOTP may be explored.

- iii. In all cases where online authentication is not feasible, the benefit/service may be provided on the basis of possession of Aadhaar, after duly recording the transaction in register, to be reviewed and audited periodically.

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