GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 117
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2017
Security breaches of UIDAI database

117 Shri Husain Dalwai

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

(a) the protocol in place, as a response mechanism, in case of hacking or identity theft in view of the fact that Aadhaar/UID number is being used for multiple authentications;

(b) the details of security protocol and encryption being used to secure the database and whether it is at par with the current industry standards;

(c) whether any security breaches or intrusion attempts of the UIDAI database have been recorded so far; and

(d) if so, the details of each such breach, the number of identities affected and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *117 REGARDING SECURITY BREACHES OF UIDAI DATABASE
…….

(a): Various applications and schemes including Public Distribution System, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Passport, Income Tax return filing, attendance etc. are using Aadhaar based authentication for verification of users, to deliver services and benefits.

To prevent hacking or identity theft, inter alia the transactions with UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) are allowed only through a secure channel, identity data is encrypted using 2048 bit encryption and is digitally signed, residents are provided with facility of biometric lock / unlock as well as email alerts are sent for all biometric / one-time password (OTP) based authentication transactions.

In the event of hacking or identity theft, a detailed protocol defined in Information Security Policy

Manual of UIDAI is followed.

(b): The resident's Personal Identity Information (PII) data is encrypted for both enrolment and authentication transactions using 2048 bit public key of UIDAI. Once encrypted, it can be decrypted only by using UIDAI's private key which is securely stored in Hardware Security Module (HSM) device.

The Key length used for encryption is as per industry standards.

(c): No breach or intrusion attempts of UIDAI database have been recorded so far.

(d): In view of input to point (c) above, does not arise.

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