

- (ii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (iii) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance as a preventive measure;
- (iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;
- (v) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities; Similar instructions have been issued by the Central Government on 16th June, 2009 advising the State Governments to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;
- (vi) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;
- (vii) Issue of Citizens Charters;
- (viii) Acceptance of the First Report of the Group of Ministers to consider measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption;
- (ix) Introduction of the Lokpal Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha;
- (x) Ratification of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC);
- (xi) Introduction of the Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha;
- (xii) Introduction of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010 in the Parliament;
- (xiii) Placing of details of immovable property returns of all Members of the All India Services and other Group 'A' officers of the Central Government in the public domain.

Special Central assistance to Western Odisha Development Council Region

2549. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government consider to give special Central Assistance to Western Odisha Development Council Region which is the most backward region of the State as well as most backward region of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): The districts covered under Western Odisha Development Council Region are already being allocated Additional Central Assistance on 100% grant basis under various components of Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) *i.e.* (i) Four districts, namely, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Sonepur are being allocated Additional Central Assistance under Special Plan for the KBK Districts of Odisha (ii) Nine districts, namely, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsugada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Sonepur and Sundargarh are being allocated Additional Central Assistance

under the District Component of BRGF; and (iii) Seven districts, namely, Bolangir, Deogarh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Sonepur and Sundargarh are being allocated Additional Central Assistance under Integrated Action Plan (IAP).

Target to issue Aadhaar card

†2550. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the target set to issue Aadhaar card to all the citizens in the country by Unique Identification Authority of India;
- (b) whether Government is considering to make Aadhaar card mandatory while applying for any Government licence, passport, driving licence, ration card, pan card, CGHS card, Government Identity card etc.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The mandate of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is to issue unique identification numbers (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India. UIDAI does not issue a card. The number is a proof of identity and not citizenship. UIDAI is at present authorized to enroll, through multiple registrar model, up to 20 crore residents or March, 2012, whichever is earlier.

(b) and (c) Enrolment for obtaining Aadhaar number is voluntary and not mandatory. A resident is entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number on providing demographic and biometric information. Aadhaar number is an enabler and the purpose is to ensure better delivery of benefits and services based on establishment of identity of the resident. The State Government and Central Government Ministries have been advised to review the various schemes for service delivery and utilize and leverage Aadhaar as a platform for service delivery.

Aadhaar number has been recognized as an officially valid document as Proof of Identity and Proof of Address for opening bank accounts, obtaining mobile telephones connections and new LPG connections. Some of the State Governments have recognized Aadhaar number as Proof of Identity and Proof of Address for their resident centric schemes.

(d) The Government had approved an outlay of Rs. 147.31 crore and Rs. 3023.01 crore respectively for Phase I and Phase II of the UID Project. The estimates for Phase III are yet to be approved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.