Aadhaar cards for NRIs

2874. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a)   whether any Non-Resident Indian (NRI) or foreign citizens living in India can apply for Aadhaar number/card, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b)   whether the intelligence agencies in the country have raised objection over the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) issuing the Aadhaar cards to foreigners and refugees from other countries;

(c)   if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d)   the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the concerns raised by the intelligence agencies and also to generate Aadhaar numbers to all residents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) : (a) to (d) As per instructions issued by the Government, mandate of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) includes generating and assigning Unique Identity Numbers (Aadhaar numbers) to residents of India. For the purpose of enrolment, the Government have decided that UIDAI shall undertake enrolment for aadhaar in 22 States/Union Territories (UTs), in addition to enrolment under the National Population Register (NPR) process. In the remaining states/UTs, enrolment is being undertaken exclusively under the NPR process. The Government further decided that in the event of any discrepancy between the NPR and UIDAI database, the NPR data will prevail.

In undertaking enrolment of residents, UIDAI follows a definition of "resident" based on the definition of "population register" provided in rule 2(1) of the citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Card) Rules 2003, *i.e.*, "resident" means an individual usually residing in a village or rural area or town or ward or demarcated area (demarcated by the Registrar General of Citizen Registration) within a ward in a town or urban area in India. Both UIDAI and NPR are enrolling the same category of persons, *i.e*., residents.

Collection of demographic data by UIDAI is undertaken in accordance with verification procedures recommended by the Committee on Demographic Data Standards and verification Procedure (DDSVP), which was headed by Shri N. Vittal, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner (India), and included representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information Technology, Ministry of Telecommunications and Department of Post, in addition to representatives of various state Governments. Verification of demographic data of applicants is undertaken: (i) based on supporting documents; or (ii) based on introducer system; or (iii) based on National Population Register (NPR) process of public scrutiny.

In response to the draft record of discussion received from the Ministry of Home Affairs stating that the Intelligence Bureau has proposed that a strong mechanism be put in place for enrolment of residents particularly for enrolments through introducer system, it is informed that adequate safeguards are already in place in the introducer-based enrolment procedure.

The total number of introducer based enrolments is about 2.1 lakh presently, based on recommendations made by about 3700 introducers appointed by registrars, all of which introducers are Aadhaar number holders and have furnished written documentation relating to such introductions. Introducer-based enrolment thus works out to less than 0.04% of the total number of Aadhaars generated, which stands at 57.6 crore as on 31.01.2014. In the last 3 months, over 10 lakh Aadhaar numbers have been generated by UIDAI everyday on an average.

Number of Aadhaar cards prepared

2875. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a)   the number of Aadhaar cards prepared all over the country till 31st December 2013, State-wise details thereof;

(b)   the amount spent for preparation of Aadhaar cards till 31st December, 2013 ;

(c)   whether Aadhaar cards have been declared to be not mandatory, if so, the reasons therefor; and