

to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has prioritised provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area, North Eastern States, Islands and Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) in the first phase.

Compulsory Aadhaar registration for telecom users

1171. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made it compulsory to register Aadhaar Card details of the persons who are using mobile phones, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that TRAI has recommended Department of Telecom to issue necessary guidelines to telecom service providers to obtain Aadhaar Card and KYC details of the present mobile users also, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Department of Telecommunications has issued instructions on 16.10.2014 and 29.12.2014 to the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for collecting 'Aadhaar' numbers along with mobile 'Customer Acquisition Form' and storing the same in the database along with other data by telecom service operators. Further, the Department of Telecommunications has also issued 'Aadhaar based Electronic-Know Your Customer (E-KYC) process for issuing mobile connections to subscribers' on 16.08.2016 in which the customer is biometrically authenticated from the server of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and their demographic details received from UIDAI are stored in TSP's database. This process is an alternative process to existing Proof of Identity/Proof of Address documents based process.

However, recently Hon'ble Supreme Court, while disposing off the Writ Petition No. 607/2016 filed by Lokniti Foundation *V/s* Union of India, *vide* its order dated 06.02.2017 has directed for re-verification of all existing mobile subscribers through Aadhaar based E-KYC process preferably within a period of one year.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) *vide* its reference dated 20.01.2017 has recommended that Department of Telecommunications may work with the TSPs, to evolve a framework to verify the existing mobile subscribers through Aadhaar based E-KYC service in a phased manner and within a defined time frame. Since action is being taken as per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, no further action is required on TRAI reference.