UIDAI and data safety

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, the UIDAI is getting involved in a controversy almost once every week. A few days ago, the UIDAI Helpline popped up on millions of Android phones in India, again, causing a big controversy. Sir, there are two issues with the UIDAI. One is the privacy issue which incidents like these bring to the fore and the other, of course, Sir, is the deprivation issue, where the marginalised, the poor, the women, senior citizens, all of them should be getting benefits, but it does not happen. On the privacy issue, Sir, I want to thank you first. You have now allowed MPs like us to submit our Zero Hour subjects also on e-mail. But, there, again, I am getting scared because if you submit, then, again, you are exposing your personal details. So, we need to be very careful, Sir. Last week also, it happened with a private citizen, who happens to be an MLA, and a Trinamool MLA, Ms. Mahua Moitra. The Government was trying to bring about a social media communication hub and appoint a social media agency, which was, basically, like a big brother watching you. We are very happy that a few days ago, they were thrown out. ... (Interruptions)... The Supreme Court threw it out, Sir. So, this big brother is watching you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been clarified.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: बड़े भाई की निगाह आपके ऊपर है। At least, we all have to be very careful about this, Sir. It is not only a privacy issue, as I said, it is also an issue about the deprived. Sir, -I have one other quick point on this. Now, Google have come in and said something. But, whenever we are giving our data, we are getting alert. I don't know, my wife, who lives in America, she gets a mail from the Prime Minister. How they got the ID, we don't know!

Sir, my last point is that we have another big database. I want to bring it up today linking it with the UIDAI, so that later we don't have a problem — which is the IRCTC, railway database. That is one core element. Now, every time when someone buys a railway ticket, he or she is exposing his or her data to that. So, Sir, there are two issues here. One is, please guard our data, so the big brother is not watching you. Two, do not make the Aadhaar compulsory. For example, to get a farmer loan also, you have to produce your Aadhaar. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA (NCT of Delhi): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, we all associate with it. It is a serious matter.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MANISH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.G. KENYE (Nagaland): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Elamaram Kareem. Neither the big brother nor the younger brother should be allowed to see.

Need to resume operations of wide bodied aircrafts from Calicut Airport

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I have to raise a very serious issue pertaining to the demand for reinstatement of operation of wide body aircrafts from Calicut Airport. Till 2015, wide body aircrafts were operated from Calicut Airport. For recarpetting and certain maintenance works, it was stopped as a temporary measure. After restoring the runway and installing the safety measures, the airports authority demanded from the DGCA to restart the operation of wide body airlines, but the decision is yet to come. This position has badly affected the interests of lakhs of non-resident Keralites, who are residing in and around the Calicut Airport. More than this, the fare of the airlines flying from Kerala to West Asian countries has been hiked four to five times. During the festival periods, Onam and Bakrid, lakhs of Keralites come to Kerala from West Asian countries and go back. They are afraid that they cannot travel back to the West Asian countries due to the hike of air charges. I urge the Government to intervene in the matter and take necessary steps to restart the wide body aircrafts from Calicut Airport and reduce the air fare to a genuine rate. Thank you.