

Handling of Aadhaar database by public and private agencies

*182.SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Aadhaar database of tens of thousands of citizens is handled in an irresponsible manner by various public and private agencies;

(b) whether Government has noticed that news-items are often appearing in media regarding leakages of Aadhaar data; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the threat posed by mishandling of Aadhaar database, both to the security of the nation and privacy of the individuals?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) does not share its data with anyone except as per the provisions of Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Regulations framed thereunder.

Sharing of information or seeding of Aadhaar information with the authorised agencies is governed as per the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.

Section 29 (1) of the Aadhaar Act 2016 read together with Regulation 3(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 categorically states that no core biometric information, collected or created under the Aadhaar Act, shall be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under the Act.

Regulation 4(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 provides that core biometric information collected or captured by a requesting entity from Aadhaar number holder at the time of authentication shall not be shared for any reason whatsoever.

Further, Section 30 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 applies the rigours of the IT Act, 2000 and the rules thereunder whereby Biometric Information is deemed to be Sensitive Personal Information.

Additionally, Chapter VII of the Act lays down monetary penalties and imprisonment for unauthorized sharing of residents' identity information. Any violation to the provisions of the Aadhaar Act is a criminal offence.

(b) Aadhaar has built digital trust among people at large and some devious elements are trying to spread misinformation.

Aadhaar is one of the key enablers for the 'Digital India' movement in general and 'Jandhan, Adhaar, Mobile (JAM) Trinity' in particular, when it comes to service delivery with enhanced efficiency. Aadhaar has also evolved as an instrument for promoting good governance and enabling the poor to rightfully secure their due benefits by availing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to their Aadhaar linked bank accounts which number about 95 crore as on 20.07.2018.

Aadhaar has helped in weeding out fake, ghost and duplicate beneficiaries. Benefits/gains from DBT and such other Governance Reforms are estimated to be ₹ 90,012.71 crore upto March 2018. With Aadhaar, services to beneficiaries have become more meaningful, transparent and corruption-free through direct deliveries without middlemen. Hence, Aadhaar inspires more confidence and trust between person to person and person to system transactions than any other identity document in India. Truly, Aadhaar is a game changer for the poor.

In respect of so-called data leak reported in certain sections of media, it is to clarify that there has been no security breach of UIDAI's database or Central Identity Data Repository (CIDR). The said media news reports are not based on proper comprehension of the facts.

UIDAI database is encrypted, safe and robustly secure. There has not been a single case of identity theft leading to any financial loss reported till date.

(c) There has been no case of mishandling of UIDAI database till date.

Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and has deployed the necessary technology and infrastructure to secure Aadhaar database. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security and privacy in Aadhaar database.

UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and

integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Further, Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("The Aadhaar Act") and the Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 framed there under have been specifically drafted keeping in account the various security requirements in respect of data collected by UIDAI. Security Audits are conducted on regular basis by Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, which is an attached office of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I had gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister very carefully and constrained to say that his reply deeply disappointed me. Sir, it is not about misinformation. It is not about some unruly elements. The truth is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your supplementary. You cannot make a statement. This is Question Hour.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, people's perception is that Aadhaar has become *niradhaar*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was my phrase once upon a time. If they become *niradhaar*, then they will, ultimately, become *janadhaar*. वह आगे जाकर जनाधार होगा।

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: The task is to give them *aadhaar*, not to make them *niradhaar*. The present Aadhaar regime is making them *niradhaar*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, I cannot allow speeches to go on record during Question Hour. I will go to next question.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, my question is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you ask your question?

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: It is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: See, this is not the way. You are a new Member. I thought you will understand how questions are asked by looking at others. I will go to the next supplementary.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, my second supplementary is this.

Sir, Srikrishna Committee has talked about 'critical information' and 'non-critical information.' What is the approach of the Government on this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: See, how simple the question is. This is important.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, with great respect, Aadhaar was *niradhaar*, because there was no law earlier to back it up. When we came to power, we gave *aadhaar* to Aadhaar by an Act of Parliament. Therefore, now, there is a proper Act of Parliament to back Aadhaar. That is one thing.

The second part is, Srikrishna Report on data privacy and data law is a draft Report. It is in public domain. Let the Government, stakeholders and other people concerned have the widest consultation possible. Consultation was done in the past and consultations will be done again. But, as far as Aadhaar is concerned, the core biometrics is a very much critical component which is completely safe and secure that even the billionth of the time you try, you cannot crack it. I can only say one thing. People have got a right to have information about Aadhaar. But, today, Aadhaar operation has led to empowerment of the poor people. There has been a saving of ₹ 90,000 crores.

श्री हरिवंश: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा, मेरा सवाल दो फैक्ट्स रखकर है, कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की जो खुली लूट चलती थी, जिसके बारे में सरकार के ग्रामीण विकास के एक पूर्व सचिव ने कहा कि अगर यह राशि सीधे मनी ऑर्डर से गरीबों को भेज दी जाए तो 10 वर्ष में इनकी गरीबी खत्म हो जाएगी। वर्ष 1985 में एक पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि 100 पैसे चलते हैं तो 15 पैसे पहुंचते हैं। मेरा सवाल है कि इस लूट को रोकने में पहली बार आधार सफल हुआ है, ऐसी खबरें आती हैं और आधार के खिलाफ ऐसे काम में लगे ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आपका सवाल क्या है?

श्री हरिवंश: उनके संरक्षक हर संभव अभियान चला रहे हैं, इससे कितनी बचत हुई? इसके बारे में मंत्री जी बताएं।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: महोदय, एक डायरेक्ट बेनिफिट ट्रांसफर कार्यक्रम चलता है, जिसमें गरीबों के लिए कल्याणकारी योजनाएं जैसे 'पहल' व अन्य हैं। इनकी सबकी सब्सिडी का पैसा सीधे गरीबों के बैंक अकाउंट में जाता है। जन-धन के 31 करोड़, आधार के 121 करोड़ और बाकी मोबाइल फोन से कनेक्ट करके जाता है। जैसा कि मैंने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि 90,012.17 करोड़ रुपए इसमें बचे हैं, जो बिचौलिये खा जाया करते थे। यह सच्चाई है, यह एक उपलब्धि है, इसे देश को सेलिब्रेट करना चाहिए।

श्री सन्तियुस कुजूर: मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि असम में अब तक आधार कार्ड इश्यू करने का काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि असम में आधार पर कार्ड इश्यू करने का काम कब से शुरू होगा और इसके लिए मंत्री महोदय ने क्या कदम उठाया है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it was stopped in Assam.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: असम में आधार का काम National population register के कारण नहीं हुआ, जो प्रश्न आप माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से पूछ रहे थे। कालिता जी जानते होंगे, यह चर्चा का विषय था, लेकिन वहां के मुख्य मंत्री ने अब सक्रियता दिखाई है, बैठक हुई है और मुझे लगता है कि इस दिशा में जल्दी ही कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए।

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, my specific question, since the hon. Minister has asserted that it is absolutely secure and foolproof, is that day-before-yesterday, the TRAI Chairman had made public his Aadhaar Card. It was immediately hacked; his bank accounts were tracked; and, money was deposited in the bank account of TRAI Chairman. So, please do not assert it. There is a need to make it secure. The Minister must look into that and explain as to how it happened.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as far as that particular case is concerned, the UIDAI has given a public statement that the claim was wrong. Also, the UIDAI has issued a public advisory not to unnecessarily disclose things.

But, Sir, I would like to put a question here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot put a question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I want to put a question in reply. Mr. Anand Sharma is a distinguished national leader and also the Deputy Leader of his party. His mobile phone is available on the website of the Rajya Sabha. In this digital world, you leave footprints while being in public life. But what is important is the 'core biometrics'.

So, this and the iris should never be broken and have never been broken. And, we are consciously undertaking audit to issue guidelines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 183. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no need to stand. ...*(Interruptions)*... All names are being noted. And, then, as I told you, I would look into certain things, like, area, party, importance of the question, whether you had been given opportunity yesterday also, etc., etc. All these things are to be kept in mind. I have a system also.

Low returns on farm produces

*183. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lower returns on farm produces is the main reason behind farmers' distress;
- (b) whether it is a fact that bargaining power of farmers has declined in the past few years;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that real MSPs have been stagnant under the present Central Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Farmers' distress is caused by multiple reasons including crop loss inflicted by natural calamities, infestation by pests and debt (loan) etc. In order to enhance farmers' return for their farm produce and thereby improve their bargaining power, DAC&FW has adopted multipronged strategy such as improving the productivity, reducing cost of production as well as improving production, market structure and efficiency and value addition. In order to improve the marketing system for farmers to get better remunerative prices for their produce and for improving their bargaining power, Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) Launched e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) and e-trading platform to facilitate farmers to realise better price through online, transparent competitive bidding system.