

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Law Commission has forwarded a questionnaire on Uniform Civil Code to elicit opinion on various issues to religious scholars, political groups and others; and

(c) if so, whether the Law Commission has received their inputs in this regard, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):  
(a) and (b) The Law Commission of India had prepared a questionnaire on uniform civil code and the same was uploaded on its website <http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in> on the 7th October, 2016 along with an Appeal, soliciting the views/opinion of the public at large. Besides this, the questionnaire was sent to media through Press Information Bureau and also circulated to the heads of National and State level political parties and Chief Ministers of all States for wide publicity. The Law Commission has informed that though the questionnaire has not been sent directly to any religious group, information about various religious groups in the country has been obtained by them. The Law Commission had also held some meetings/discussions with certain stakeholders.

(c) The Commission have received about 70,000 responses through post/e-mail and is still receiving responses, which are being examined.

#### **Difficulties faced by senior citizens in Aadhaar Validation**

\*14. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the difficulties in Aadhaar validation by using finger prints for senior citizens and other sections of population due to worn out finger prints and hardening of hand fingers due to hard occupation in which some people are engaged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring in any change in Aadhaar validation, particularly for senior citizens and some sections of population, who are facing difficulties in Aadhaar validation by using finger prints;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) to (e) Aadhaar Authentication using fingerprint depends upon number of factors viz. quality of fingerprint, network connectivity,

placement of finger etc. However, few senior citizens, persons engaged in manual labour or individuals with specific disabilities may face difficulties in fingerprint authentication.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) provides various modes of authentication viz. demographic, biometric (Fingerprint/IRIS) and One Time Password (OTP). The user agencies, depending upon their needs and user conditions, can choose any of the above modes of authentication.

In addition, as per Regulations 14(1) (i) of Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations 2016, all requesting entities are required to implement exception-handling mechanisms and back-up identity authentication mechanisms to ensure seamless provision of authentication services to Aadhaar number holders.

#### **Direct procurement of agricultural produces of farmers**

\*15.SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether buying farm produces directly from farmers by Government helps farmers a lot and thereby avoid middlemen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NITI Aayog recently recommended that Government should buy farm produce directly from farmers;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendation and whether any legislation to this effect is going to be introduced in Parliament;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any consultations have been held with States in this regard, if so, the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government notifies Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 25 commodities covering both Kharif and Rabi seasons for Fair Average Quality (FAQ). Procurement is done at MSP primarily from farmers through Central/State agencies as and when prices fall below the MSP and proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories. The payments to the farmers are made through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque by the procuring agencies. However, if producer/farmers gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market. The objective of procurement at MSP is to intervene