Use of websites and mobile apps for making fake Aadhaar cards

*9. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to check the use of websites and mobile apps to make fake Aadhaar cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of cases of fake Aadhaar cards being generated and used, detected since 2014, year wise?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) As genuineness of Aadhaar card can be confirmed anytime, anywhere due to its online as well offline QR code, question of fake Aadhaar Cards does not arise. All Departments and Agencies requiring Aadhaar as a proof of identity can verify the authenticity of Aadhaar Card through online or offline QR code verification. However, it was found that some websites and mobile applications were providing un-authorized Aadhaar related services such as downloading online Aadhaar letters, providing status of Aadhaar generation, printing Aadhaar letters on PVC cards etc. to residents. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) lodged an official complaint to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT) and M/s Google India in this regard. The illegal/un-authorised websites, as mentioned above, were blocked by Department of Telecommunications, while the un-authorised mobile applications were removed from the Google PlayStore.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) As per sub-section (3) of section 4 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, "an Aadhaar number, in physical or electronic form subject to authentication and other conditions, as may be specified by regulations, may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose." Hence, question of fake Aadhaar, if used as per above provisions, does not arise. UIDAI has provided online authentication facility whereby any Aadhaar can be authenticated anywhere anytime. Further, an online facility has also been provided for verifying an Aadhaar, available at *https:// resident.uidai.gov.in/aadhaarverification.*