

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.

- (iii) Regulation 4(2) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 provides that identity information available with a requesting entity shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified to the Aadhaar number holder at the time of submitting identity information for authentication and shall not be disclosed further without the prior consent of the Aadhaar number holder.
- (iv) Regulation (5) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 ensures the responsibility of any agency or entity other than requesting entity with respect to Aadhaar number and subsequent Regulation (7) states that any contravention of the above-mentioned regulations shall constitute a violation of sub-section (2) of Section 29 of the Act.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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.

#### **Life-threatening online challenges on social media**

1376. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of dangerous, life-threatening online challenges spread through social media, *e.g.*, the Momo challenge, etc.;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Ministry to lessen their harm; and
- (c) the preventive measures undertaken by the Ministry to curb these challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) There had been media reports about alleged suicides/attempted suicides due to dangerous, life-threatening online challenges like Blue Whale Challenge game, Momo Challenge Game etc. Government has taken several steps and preventive measures to curb these challenges. These, *inter alia*, include:—

- (i) Government issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools *vide* circular dated 18.08.2017.
- (ii) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued advisories on “Blue Whale Challenge Game” as well as “Momo Challenge Game”. Minister of Women and Child Development, wrote to all the schools in India warning them about such games and to take immediate steps within the schools to prevent students from falling prey to these. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) also wrote to all the institutions affiliated to CBSE detailing the precautions to be taken on an online game.
- (iii) MeitY and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) interacted with service providers of social media regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games. Government has asked popular social media sites not to host any such dangerous online games and immediately remove the same as and when detected.
- (iv) Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc.

#### **Draft Data Protection Bill**

1377. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, responding to the draft Data Protection Bill drafted by justice Srikrishna Committee, the European Union (EU) has suggested that India should not stress on localization of data storage;

(b) whether the EU has termed the move as unnecessary and potentially harmful to the cause of data protection, apart from creating unnecessary costs, difficulties and uncertainties that would hamper business and investments; and