

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 2457
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2025

INCIDENT OF AADHAAR DATA BREACH

2457. SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of reported incidents of Aadhaar data breach and the details of these incidents;
- (b) whether any agencies or organizations have been held accountable for the breach;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any investigation, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the penalties or corrective measures imposed on the offenders;
- (e) the strategies and technologies adopted by Government to enhance the security framework protecting Aadhaar database; and
- (f) the protocols that govern the use of Aadhaar data by Government bodies and the manner in which accountability is ensured in cases of mishandling or unauthorized access?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (f): Aadhaar is the world's largest biometric identity system comprising more than 133 crore individuals and completed more than 13,000 crore authentication transactions. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the organisation entrusted to issue Aadhaar, has comprehensive measures in place to protect the personal data of Aadhaar number holders. It has implemented multi-layered security infrastructure with defence-in-depth concept to protect its database and continuously reviews/audits the same to protect its systems. It uses advanced encryption technologies for protecting data during transmission and storage. Further, UIDAI is declared as a protected system and hence the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) continuously provide security advices to maintain its cybersecurity posture. An independent audit agency is engaged for the creation of the Governance, Risk, and Compliance and Performance (GRCP) framework for the Aadhaar ecosystem and oversight for adherence to the same. Till date, no breach of Aadhaar card holders' data has occurred from the UIDAI database.

The use of Aadhaar data by Government bodies is governed by section 4 (authentication services under any law made by Parliament or for the prescribed purposes under Aadhaar authentication of Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules) and section 7 (provisioning of subsidy, benefit or service when the expenditure is from the Consolidated Fund of India or State) of Aadhaar Act, 2016. Under these provisions, Government bodies may become Authentication User Agency (AUA) for using Aadhaar authentication facility by fulfilling technical and administrative requirements, including a audit report carried out by a CERT-In empanelled auditor of UIDAI. Further, the AUAs are required to get additional audit certificates by CERT-In empanelled auditor and UIDAI appointed GRCP-Service provider auditor, within a period of one year. The accountability of AUA is ensured through AUA agreement wherein relevant clauses of confidentiality, data protection, security and use of information and imposition of financial disincentives have been put in place.
