GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 899
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22-12-2017

EMPLOYEES FOUND GUILTY OF LEAKING AADHAAR DATA

899. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
(a)   the steps taken by Government for the protection against leakage of data submitted to Government authorities like Aadhaar data under UIDAI;
(b)   the action taken against employees found to be guilty of leaking data of individuals or citizens to unauthorized persons; and
(c)   whether it is a fact that Government has set up a Committee for data protection
and drafting of Data Protection bill, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM)

(a):   Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and is deploying the necessary technology and infrastructure. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security & privacy in Aadhaar database. Security is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage. Security of Aadhaar data is monitored at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. Unique Identification Authority 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. 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.

Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

There are multiple layers of security at physical level in UIDAI Data Centres and is being managed by armed CISF personnel round the clock. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process, and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. 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 stored in UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).

(b):   As on date, no such incident has been reported to UIDAI.

(c):   Yes, Sir. Government has set up a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) Shri B N Srikrishna to prepare a data protection framework and work out the Data Protection Bill. The Committee has prepared a White Paper on "Data Protection Framework for India" which has been published on Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) website soliciting public comments by 31.12.2017. The White Paper has sought public response and views on all relevant issues including security standards related to protection of personal data. Based on the request from various stakeholders, closing date has now been extended till 31.01.2018.

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