

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

PROTECTION OF AADHAAR DATA

575. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring a law for data protection of Aadhaar card holders;
- (b) if so, by what time;
- (c) if not, the measures taken to protect the data of Aadhaar card holders;
- (d) whether any awareness campaign is launched to inform the public that Aadhaar card is not compulsory for school admissions, opening a bank account or for getting mobile connections; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is in process for bringing a Personal Data Protection Bill. In this regard, MeitY, on 31st July 2017, vide OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) B N Srikrishna. A White Paper outlining key data protection issues and international best practices was released by the said committee to solicit public comments. Inputs were received. The committee deliberated on various inputs & has submitted its report along with draft Bill to MeitY.

The Draft Personal Data Protection Bill-2018 was published on MeitY website and comments were solicited from General Public, Central Ministries, State governments and UTs. Responses have been received from a wide spectrum of stakeholders, which are presently under analysis. After appropriate modifications, said PDP Bill-2018 is intended to be laid in the parliament as soon as possible.

(c): UIDAI data is fully secured/ encrypted at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. For, further strengthening of security and privacy of data, security audits are conducted on regular basis and all possible steps are taken to make the data safer and protected. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard.

UIDAI's existing security controls and protocols are robust and capable of countering any attempts or malicious designs of data breach or hacking. Security of Aadhaar is of critical importance to the Government and has given it paramount significance. UIDAI constantly strengthens and reviews its infrastructure and ecosystems in line with the best International security practices and technological standards. UIDAI has multi-layered security and privacy considerations built into the core strategy of Aadhaar with three basic doctrines of minimal data, optimal ignorance and federated database which give higher level of security.

Various policies and procedures have been defined, which are regularly reviewed and updated thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of secured and well-guarded UIDAI premises, particularly the data centers.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem manifolds with enactment of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits And Services) Act, 2016 passed by Indian Parliament which has stringent penalties/ punishments for offenders. In the ibid Act, Chapter VI on Protection of Information.

UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further 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.

(d) and (e): The contents of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement has been suitably published on various social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook etc. and the fact about Hon'ble Supreme Court's verdict including the permitted use of Aadhaar in various sectors has also been highlighted in the media interaction of CEO, UIDAI , in different medium like press, TV interviews/debates etc.

The entire ecosystem has been apprised by way of communications on the SC judgement to Bank, Post Offices etc.
