

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1058
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2023

AADHAAR ENROLLMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED CITIZENS

1058. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) whether Government acknowledges the fact that a lot of differently abled citizens are being left out of the Aadhaar enrollment because they cannot provide biometric information like fingerprints;
- (b) if so, the special provisions formulated by Government to make their enrollment in the Aadhaar scheme feasible, if any, and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken into consideration other technical issues that the Aadhaar data collection procedure is marred with, if so, details thereof; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to overcome those technical difficulties?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): No, sir. Regulation 6 of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016 provides that for residents who are unable to provide fingerprints, only iris scans shall be collected. It further provides that for residents who are unable to provide any biometric information contemplated by the regulations, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) shall provide for handling of such exceptions in the enrolment and update software, and such enrolment shall be carried out as per procedure specified by the Authority for this purpose. As per the Biometric Exception Enrolment Guidelines, dated 1.8.2014 issued by the Authority, provision exists for enrolling residents who may be lacking in some of the essential biometrics. For such residents, the demographic details of the resident are to be captured as is done in case of normal enrolment, the missing biometrics are highlighted in the software for enrolment while capturing the remaining biometrics, a picture of the resident's face is taken with both hands raised to highlight the exception, and a person in the role of supervisor validates such enrolment as an exception enrolment.

(c) to (d): UIDAI has informed that every data collected during enrolment has to pass through a robust, well-established data quality checking procedure, which includes both automated and manual checking, to ensure the integrity of the information collected. It has further informed that it endeavours to continuously monitor the enrolment systems and processes and improve the resident-centricity and accuracy of the data in the Aadhaar database.
