

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2022

LINKING OF VOTER ID WITH AADHAAR

1660. **Shri Ritesh Pandey:**
Shri Pradyut Bordoloi:
Shri Syed Imtiaz Jaleel:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of voter IDs linked with Aadhaar since the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into force;
- (b) whether linking of voter IDs is voluntary and linked after taking consent from voters and can also be deleted if a voter takes back the consent details thereof indicating the manner in which the consent is obtained from voters;
- (c) whether election officers have been given any targets to link voter IDs, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set any deadline for linking the voter IDs, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the name of the voters whose voter IDs are not linked with Aadhaar will be struck off from the voter list, if so, the details and grounds thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has taken steps to protect voter database from being misused, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) to (b): The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, allows Electoral Registration Officers to require the existing or prospective elector to provide the Aadhaar number for the Purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis. The Election Commission of India (ECI) *vide* its instruction dated 4th July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1st August, 2022 in all States and UTs. It is voluntary to link Aadhaar with Voter ID and consent is obtained from the elector for

Aadhaar authentication in Form 6B. There is no provision for withdrawing the consent.

- (c): Linking of Aadhaar is process driven and no targets have been given for linking Aadhaar with EPIC.
- (d): The notification number S.O. 2803(E), dated 17th June, 2022 specifies the 1st April, 2023 as the date on or before which every person whose name is included in the electoral roll may intimate his Aadhaar number in accordance with section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- (e): No sir.
- (f): The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), under the Aadhaar(Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 and the regulations made thereunder, has made it compulsory for the centralised storage of all Aadhaar numbers in a different repository known as 'Aadhaar Data Vault'. The ECI strictly follows the guidelines prescribed by UIDAI and does not store the Aadhaar numbers in its database. The Aadhaar number is used only for authentication purposes and ECI does not retrieve any personal information from the UIDAI Aadhaar data base.
