

O.I.H.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4435
ANSWERED ON 28/03/2023

AADHAAR CARD MANDATORY UNDER MGNREGS

4435. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Aadhaar Card has been made mandatory to take benefit under the MGNREGS, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of the verdict of the Supreme Court holding that Aadhaar Card is not mandatory for welfare schemes; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for taking policy decision in contravention of the directions of the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (c): After final Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petition (Civil) No.494, wherein the Hon'ble Court has further clarified the interpretation of Section 7 of the Original Aadhaar Act, the matter was taken up with the UIDAI to clarify as to whether Aadhaar is required to avail the wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) which has mandate under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005. UIDAI clarified that the benefit provided under the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005 (in the nature of wage and employment) can be validly brought under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. Government of India issued a Notification dated 3rd January, 2017 vide which Aadhaar was made mandatory for all beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Aadhaar Based Payment system (ABPS) has therefore been made mandatory w.e.f. 1st Feb, 2023. However, as per the request made by several State Governments, it has been decided by the Ministry that till 31st March, 2023, the wage payment of the beneficiaries may be made either using ABPS or through the existing system of Account-based payment.
