

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2784
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2023

ISSUE OF AADHAAR NUMBER

2784. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:
SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the number of people who are yet to be issued Aadhaar number by UIDAI in the Country especially in Gujarat;
- (b) the efforts being made to bring these people under the ambit of Aadhaar in Gujarat especially in the district of Kutch Lok Sabha Constituency along with the details of the outcome in this regard;
- (c) whether there is any data of the citizens without hands or without visible fingerprints who are still not issued Aadhaar number and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the provisions made for issuing Aadhaar numbers to people without hands or visible fingerprints; and
- (e) the provision made by the Government to registered people who do not have hands or have lost their fingerprints due to leprosy or any such disease for Aadhaar card?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Unique Identification Authority of India provides digital identity (Aadhaar) and digital identity authentication services to all the residents of India. Under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, every resident and Non Resident Indian (NRI) is entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number by submitting the requisite information and undergoing the enrolment process. Accordingly, every resident and NRI who is desirous of obtaining an Aadhaar number and who undergoes the enrolment process by submitting the requisite information is issued an Aadhaar number. As on 30.11.2023, after adjusting for estimated deaths, the estimated number of living Aadhaar number holders is 131.21 crore across India, including 6.57 crore enrolled in the State of Gujarat.

(b): As on 30.11.2023, over 60,957 Aadhaar centres were operational across India, including 3,187 centres in the State of Gujarat. In addition, the facility of enrolment of children below the age of five years was available through around 27,718 handheld tablets (including 1,111 in the State of Gujarat) operated by postmen, hospital staff, etc. The details of such centres and tablets available in the Kachchh and Morbi districts, areas of which comprise Kachchh Lok Sabha constituency, are as under:

District	Active Aadhaar centres	Active handheld tablets	Total
Kachchh	91	45	136
Morbi	59	29	88

In addition to enrolment at the centres and through handheld tablets as above, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) organises enrolment camps through Registrars authorised/recognised by it for Aadhaar enrolment. During the financial year 2023-24, more

than 78,902 applicants were served in 1,853 and 639 such camps held in the districts of Kachchh and Morbi respectively.

(c) to (e): In line with Government's commitment to ensure inclusion for digitally enabled access to benefits and services, UIDAI has made special provision in its regulations and has issued Biometric Exception Enrolment Guidelines dated 1.8.2014, laying down the procedure for enrolling persons who have missing fingers, the biometrics of whose fingers cannot be captured due to any reason (such as a cut, bruise, bandage, worn-out or bent fingers due to old age or leprosy), or the biometrics of whose irises or both fingers and irises cannot be captured due to any reason. A person who is eligible for Aadhaar but unable to provide fingerprints may enrol using only iris scan. Similarly, an eligible person the biometrics of whose irises cannot be captured due to any reason may enrol using only her/his fingerprint. Further, an eligible person who is unable to provide both finger and iris biometrics may enrol without submitting any of the two.

For such persons, under the Biometric Exception Enrolment Guidelines, the name, gender, address and date/year of birth are to be captured along with the available biometrics while highlighting the missing ones in the enrolment software, a photograph is to be taken in the manner specified in the Guidelines to highlight the unavailability of finger(s) or iris(es) or both, and the Supervisor of the Aadhaar enrolment centre is to validate such enrolment as an exceptional enrolment. Thus, every eligible person who undergoes the enrolment process by submitting the required information may be issued an Aadhaar number, irrespective of any inability to provide biometrics.

UIDAI has also issued an advisory to enrolment Registrars and agencies to take all necessary steps to ensure that all Aadhaar enrolment operators are aware of the exceptional enrolment procedure, follow the same, and render the persons undergoing such enrolment necessary assistance.

Till date, UIDAI has issued Aadhaar numbers to nearly 29 lakh persons who had missing fingers or were otherwise unable to provide finger or iris or both biometrics.
