AADHAAR FOR GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

691. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

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

(a) whether the Government has made Aadhaar mandatory for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families to participate in Government schemes and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) the biometric information collected by the Government and private entities under various initiatives related to the scheme, State/UT-wise especially for the State of Tamil Nadu;
(c) whether citizens consent has been obtained before collecting various information under such schemes and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the data collected under such schemes is being stored in a secure and confidential manner;
(e) if so, whether there is a clear and transparent process for citizens to access and correct their data collected under such schemes and if so, the details thereof; and
(f) whether the Government has established clear guidelines for the use and sharing of data collected under such schemes and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): Under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act"), Government may require that the recipients (including from BPL families) of a subsidy, benefit or service under any Government scheme financed from the Consolidated Fund of India/State either undergo authentication or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number, or apply for Aadhaar enrolment and furnish alternate identification, to establish their identity as a condition for receipt. Details of schemes in respect of which establishment of identity in such manner has been required are available on the website of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) [uidai.gov.in/images/resource/section7GoInotifications.pdf   and uidai.gov.in/images/resource/section7StateGovtnotifications.pdf].

(b): Collection of biometric information for Aadhaar enrolment is done by UIDAI for generating Aadhaar number. In case identity of an Aadhaar number holder is established by a scheme-implementing Government or private entity through authentication by providing Aadhaar number and biometric information, such information is encrypted and secured at the time of capture itself and transmitted to UIDAI using secure protocols, in accordance with UIDAI's specifications.

(c): Yes, sir. The Aadhaar Act requires that Aadhaar number be used only with the informed consent of the Aadhaar number holder.

(d):   Yes, sir. Aadhaar-related information provided by the Aadhaar number holder to scheme-implementing entity is encrypted and secured at the time of capture itself and transmitted to UIDAI using secure protocols, in accordance with UIDAI's specifications. Further, UIDAI has comprehensive measures in place to protect the personal data of Aadhaar number holders:

(i) It has implemented multi-layered security infrastructure with defence-in-depth concept to protect its Aadhaar database and continuously reviews/audits the same.
(ii) Advanced encryption technologies are used to protect the data in transmission and storage.
(iii)UIDAI's Information Security Management System is ISO 27001:2013-certified. Further, UIDAI is also certified against the ISO/IEC 27701:2019 (Privacy Information Management System) standard.

(e): To access demographic information, an Aadhaar number holder may—

(i) use the "Login" tab on the homepage of the myAadhaar portal (myAadhaar.uidai.gov.in) or the home screen of the mAadhaar app (available on Google Playstore and iOS app store), submit his/her Aadhaar number followed by the one-time password received on the mobile number registered by him/her with UIDAI, and then use the "Download Aadhaar" tab to review his/her demographic information; or
(ii) visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre and use the "Print Aadhaar" service to obtain a print of the Aadhaar letter containing his/her demographic information.

To update the identity information furnished by him/her to UIDAI, he/she may undergo the update process at any Aadhaar enrolment centre. Further, in case of update of address, he/she may also use myAadhaar portal or mAadhaar app.

(f): Clear provision has been made under law for the use and sharing of Aadhaar-related information and date in a secure manner in Chapter VI of the Aadhaar Act and the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016, the Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016, Chapters II, IV and V of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016 and Chapters II, III and IV of the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021 made by UIDAI.

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