

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 857
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07-02-2018

FACIAL RECOGNITION FOR AADHAAR

**857. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:
PROF. SAUGATA ROY:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is going to introduce facial recognition in Aadhaar authentication and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a safety assessment of this additional authentication feature of facial recognition has been done and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the security implications from the use of poor resolution cameras in this facial recognition authentication process and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is cognizant of the technologies used to cheat the facial recognition software and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the existing Aadhaar card holders have to replace their existing cards and if so, whether the UIDAI authorities will open camps to start up the face recognition camps all over the country; and
- (f) the main concerns regarding safety of the existing Aadhaar cards/data and the steps the Government is taking in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has decided to introduce facial authentication. Face authentication by itself will not be used for identity verification, instead it is meant for inclusive authentication for those who are not able to authenticate using fingerprint or iris. It shall be used in combination with other mode of authentication like finger/iris or OTP as a second factor of authentication.

UIDAI has been using camera for face capture for all Aadhaar enrolments. All cameras used within Aadhaar ecosystem are regular cameras which are safe for day to day use. Face authentication will also use standard cameras that are deemed safe for day to day use.

Security aspects used in the authentication ecosystem with respect to biometric authentication like encryption, Registered Devices, biometric locking / unlocking, notification etc. shall also apply to face authentication.

(e): No Sir. There is no need to replace existing cards. UIDAI has already captured photo of the face for all the Aadhaar number holders during enrolment and shall be used for face authentication.

(f): UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity in accordance with Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, Aadhaar

(Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016, Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 and Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016.
