

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1558
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2018

LEAKAGE OF AADHAAR DATA

1558. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for the protection against leakage of data submitted to the Government authorities like UIDAI;
- (b) the action taken against employees found guilty of leaking data of individuals or citizens to unauthorized persons; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a Committee for Data Protection and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) data is fully secured/ encrypted at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. For, further strengthening of security and privacy of data, security audits are conducted on regular basis and all possible steps are taken to make the data safer and protected. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process.

UIDAI's existing security controls and protocols are robust and capable of countering any attempts or malicious designs of data breach or hacking. Security of Aadhaar is of critical importance to the Government and has given it paramount significance. UIDAI constantly strengthens and reviews its infrastructure and ecosystems in line with the best International security practices and technological standards. UIDAI has multi-layered security and privacy considerations built into the core strategy of Aadhaar with three basic doctrines of minimal data, optimal ignorance and federated database which give higher level of security.

Various policies and procedures have been defined, which are regularly reviewed and updated thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of secured and well-guarded UIDAI premises, particularly the data centers.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem manifold with enactment of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 which has stringent penalties/ punishments for offenders. In the ibid Act, Chapter VI is on Protection of Information.

UIDAI is ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

(b): There have been no incidents/cases where Aadhaar data was leaked/ breached from UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).

(c): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is in process for bringing a Personal Data Protection Bill for protections of personal data of Indian Citizens'. In this regard, MeitY, on 31st July 2017, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) B N Srikrishna. A White Paper outlining key data protection issues and international best practices was released by the said committee

to solicit public comments. Inputs were received. The committee deliberated on various inputs & has submitted its report along with draft Bill to MeitY.

The Draft Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill-2018 was published on MeitY website and comments were solicited from General Public, Central Ministries, State governments and UTs. Responses have been received from a wide spectrum of stakeholders, which are presently under analysis after which the said PDP Bill, 2018 is intended to be laid in the parliament as soon as possible.
