

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3600
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019

IDENTITY THEFT

3600. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

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

- (a) the system available in the form of action mechanism in case of hacking or identity theft keeping in view the fact that the Aadhaar/UID number, is being used for various types of authentication;
- (b) the details regarding security mechanism and encryption method being used for security of data and whether it is as per the existing industry standards and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any attempts has been recorded for breach in security or theft of data of Unique Identification Authority of India; and
- (d) the details regarding each incidence of such security breach and affected identification number along with the action taken thereon ?

ANSWER

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

(a): Hacking is only possible on Information Technology assets if they are not properly secured and configured. It is submitted that no incidents of hacking or identity theft have been reported so far in respect of Aadhaar data from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)'s Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).

Aadhaar is based on three core principles of *Minimal information, Optimal ignorance and Federated database*, and therefore, in its whole lifecycle, an Aadhaar database contains only that much information that resident gives at the time of enrolment or updation. It has resident's name, address, gender, date of birth/age and photograph and core biometrics (10 fingerprints and 2 iris scans). It also has mobile and email, if the resident opts to give. Aadhaar does not receive or store any information such as bank account or PAN or SIM etc during linking or verifying any of the services with Aadhaar. Also, the core biometrics are encrypted at the time of enrolment/ updation, are never kept unencrypted and are never shared. When people use Aadhaar for accessing various services, their information remain in silos of federated databases so that each agency remains optimally ignorant.

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 UIDAI 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 Centres.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem manifolds 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 on Protection of Information (Section 28 – Section 33) & Chapter VII on Offences and Penalties (Section 34 – Section 47), specifically relates to protection of information and related offences and penalties to offenders.

(b): It is submitted that, at UIDAI, Aadhaar data is fully encrypted at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. Aadhaar data is stored in CIDR of UIDAI in encrypted format.

Aadhaar data including biometrics is encrypted by 2048 bit encryption key (best in class as per industry standards) at the time of enrolment, transit and thereafter at storage. It is worth mentioning that it may take the fastest computer on the earth, billions of years to break this encryption key by brute force.

(c): No, Sir. No incidents of breach in security or theft of data have been reported so far in respect of Aadhaar data from UIDAI CIDR.

(d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.
