

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2627**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

**FUNCTIONING OF UIDAI**

**2627. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:**

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

- (a) whether Government has achieved the task of providing UIDAI cards to the citizens across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) details of the challenges being faced by Government in enrolment of people;
- (d) whether there is little awareness about Aadhaar Enrolment Centres among the people;
- (e) remedial measures being taken by Government to increase awareness;
- (f) whether Government has taken note that Aadhaar Card is still treated as only an additional document as compared to ration card and driving license for authentication; and
- (g) the reasons therefor and the measures taken to make it an equally important document?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits And Services) Act, 2016 is an act to provide for, as a good governance, efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of the State to individuals residing in India through assigning of unique identity numbers (Aadhaar number) to such individuals.

Any individual who has resided in India for a period or periods amounting in all to one hundred and eighty-two days or more in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application for enrolment or an NRI holding valid Indian passport are eligible for Aadhaar enrolment on providing valid documents at the enrolment centre within the country.

As on 28th February, 2021, a total of 128.57 Crore Aadhaar have been generated against the projected population (2020) of about 137.05 crore. However, the actual number of Aadhaar holders is lesser due to deaths. Hence, the concept of “Live Aadhaar” has been introduced to estimate the number of persons holding Aadhaar who are alive. It is estimated that the

number of 'Live Aadhaar' stands at 124.24 crore. Overall Aadhaar (live) saturation in the country is 90.66%.

As on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, around 56000 Aadhaar counters are operational which includes 26,301 of State Registrars, 12188 of Banks, 10673 of India post, 5803 of CSC e-Gov, 506 of UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendras, 457 of BSNL & 22 of UTITSL.

The details of Aadhaar Enrolment & Update Centres is made available to general public on the official website of UIDAI at the link <https://appointments.uidai.gov.in/easearch.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> and on the mAadhaar App. In order to spread awareness about the centers, UIDAI has constantly been providing information through various platforms of Social Media.

(f): Aadhaar number is a twelve-digit identification number which enables an Aadhaar number holder to establish his/ her identity.

As per Section 4(3) of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, every Aadhaar number holder to establish his identity, may voluntarily use his Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form by way of authentication or offline verification or in such other form as may be notified, in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

Section 4(6) of the Act above provides that every Requesting entity to whom an authentication request is made by an Aadhaar number holder under Section 4(3) of the Act shall inform to the Aadhaar number holder of alternate and viable means of identification and shall not deny any service to him for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo authentication.

Further, as per section 4(7) of the Act, mandatory authentication of an Aadhaar number holder for the provision of any service shall take place if such authentication is required by a law made by Parliament.

(g): As evident from reply to part (f) above, it is the prerogative of the concerned Central/ State Government Ministry/ Department or Regulator, whosoever is the owner of a particular service, benefit or subsidy being provided to resident, to determine the category of documents to be accepted for the purpose of providing that service, benefit or subsidy to the resident. Further, the Act accords freedom to the resident also to use his/ her Aadhaar number on voluntary basis except for a purpose where Aadhaar authentication has been made mandatory by a law made by Parliament.

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