

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2320
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.08.2017

PROTECTION OF AADHAAR DATA

2320. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

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

- (a) whether Government protects or intend to protect privacy of citizens when they intend to exchange information with each other or share it on internet, etc.;
- (b) whether Government has allowed private entities, Indian and foreign, access to personal data of individuals stored in Aadhaar and other Government sponsored schemes; and
- (c) if not, whether Government will make arrangement to protect/secure such vast data of the public more effectively?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has recently been mandated to develop a Framework for Data Protection Law for protection of online personal data. A high level committee has been setup to work out the modalities.

(b) and (c): Access to the data repository of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), called the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR), is provided only to authorized agencies (various banks, telecom companies, financial institutions, government ministries/departments etc.) through authorized secure applications after following well established security procedures and protocols based on the consent of Aadhaar holder. Security of data is monitored at all times including storage. UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layer robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain highest level of data security and integrity. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure data security which is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage.

Legal status to UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem with the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 having stringent penalties/punishments for offenders. In the Act, Chapter VI on Protection of Information (Section 28 – Section 33) & Chapter VII on Offences and Penalties (Section 34 – Section 47), specifically relate to protection of information and related offences and penalties to offenders. In pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000, UIDAI-CIDR has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

Centre (NCIIPC). UIDAI has also been certified as per international standard, namely ISO 27001:2013 by STQC in respect of Information Security Management System which has added another layer of IT security assurance.