

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2509**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16-03-2018

**BIOMETRIC FAILURE IN COLLECTION OF AADHAAR DATA**

**2509. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:**  
**SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the biometric method of collection of information has failed many times in States such as Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there have been implications of exclusion due to biometric failures such as fingerprint detection errors, etc.; and
- (c) whether Government shall permit alternative modes to establish one's identity if Aadhaar identification fails in the future, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a): Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) does not maintain state-wise details of authentication failures for identify verification through Aadhaar.

(b) and (c): UIDAI provides various modes of authentication viz Demographic, Biometric (Finger Print + IRIS), One Time Password (OTP) and Multi-factor authentication. The Service Provider may choose suitable mode(s) of authentication.

As per para 14(1)(i) of Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulation 2016, a requesting entity has to implement exception-handling mechanisms and back-up identity authentication mechanisms to ensure seamless provision of authentication services to Aadhaar number holders.

Further, DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat has issued guidelines dated 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 on exception handling for use of Aadhaar in benefit schemes of Government, which inter-alia has stipulated the following mechanism in respect of cases where Aadhaar authentication fails:

- i. Departments and Bank Branches may make provisions for IRIS scanners along with fingerprint scanners, wherever feasible.
- ii. In cases of failure due to lack of connectivity, offline authentication system such as QR code bases coupons, Mobile based OTP or TOTP may be explored.

In all cases where online authentication is not feasible, the benefit/service may be provided on the basis of possession of Aadhaar, after duly recording the transaction in register, to be reviewed and audited periodically.

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