

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23-03-2018

VULNERABILITY OF AADHAAR DATA SECURITY

3293. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

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

- (a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the matter of Aadhaar data security, which has become vulnerable to cyber crime;
- (b) whether Government has made any investigations on the security of Aadhaar, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to make Aadhaar details cyber-proof and secured?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Unique Identification Authority of India (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.

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.

Additionally, there are multiple layers of security at physical level in UIDAI Data Centres and is being managed by armed CISF personnel round the clock. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard.

In addition, the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 stipulates 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.
