GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*39 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20-07-2018

FIR IN ALLEGED LEAKAGE OF AADHAAR DETAILS ON A SOCIAL MEDIA APP

*39. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 5, Starred Question 155, Unstarred Question 1690 and Starred Question 421 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2 February, 2018, 9 March, 2018 and 6 April, 2018 respectively and state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Minister of State, Home Affairs has informed that the name of journalists finds mention in the FIR on reports on leakage of millions of Aadhaar details on WhatsApp for Rs. 500/- only;

(b) if so, the basis on which the Ministry concluded that no FIR has been filed against journalists; and

(c) the basis on which UIDAI claims that there is no leakage of Aadhaar details without investigation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*39 FOR 20.07.2018 REGARDING FIR IN ALLEGED LEAKAGE OF AADHAAR DETAILS ON A SOCIAL MEDIA APP

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(a): The complaint is detailed and self-contained.

The Minister of State, Home Affairs had responded to Un-starred Question No. 3763 in the Rajya Sabha on 28.3.2018 as follows:

"Delhi Police has reported that on the complaint of Deputy Director (Logistics and Grievance Redressal), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a case vide FIR No. 09/2018 dated 05.01.2018 u/s 36/37 The Aadhaar Act 2016, u/s 419, 420, 468, 471 IPC and u/s 66 of Information Technology Act, Police Station Crime Branch, has been registered wherein the name of journalist of 'Tribune Newspaper' finds a mention. During the course of investigation, information related to the case has been asked from UIDAI."

(b): Based on available inputs, the UIDAI gave a factual complaint and the police authorities indicated details of suspect accused as "unknown" because that is a matter to be investigated and we are awaiting the outcome of the investigation. This act of consciously mentioning the person as unknown is normal practice because at the time of the incident the exact accused was not known. This shows that the UIDAI was not prejudged in its opinion while filing the complaint.

(c): There are no proven instances of leakage of Aadhaar biometric data from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
