

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 400
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2018

FAILURE RATE OF BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION

400. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

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

- (a) the details of failure rate of biometric authentication since 2013, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether pilot studies were conducted to determine failure rate of biometric authentication before nation-wide launch of Aadhaar;
- (c) if so, the details of pilot studies conducted and result of failure rates for biometric authentication during these studies;
- (d) if not, the basis on which decision was made to mandate biometric authentication even for the elderly; and
- (e) the special measures implemented to ensure that differently-abled people, who may be visually impaired or prevented from registering their biometric, are not being excluded from welfare schemes for want of Aadhaar?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA)

(a), (b) and (c): In Aadhaar authentication, resident's identity information viz. demographic/biometric/OTP is matched with the information available in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database and accordingly Yes/ No or e-KYC response is provided. A "No" response does not amount to failed authentication because it confirms that the identity information submitted by the resident does not match with the information available with UIDAI and this could be inter alia due to impersonation, wrong placing of fingerprints, wrong feeding of Aadhaar number, wrong entry of OTP etc. The year-wise authentication transactions in which the biometric got matched are as follows:

Year	Biometric Matched %
2013	93.8%
2014	95.0%
2015	90.9%
2016	91.1%
2017	94.5%
2018 (till 31.03.2018)	93.5%

The state-wise details are not maintained by UIDAI.

Biometric authentication accuracy Proof of Concept (PoC) was conducted during 2012 and as per the PoC report accuracy was 98% & 99% for fingerprint authentication and iris authentication respectively.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): As per Regulation 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.

Various Govt. Departments like DBT Mission (Cabinet Secretariat), Department of Revenue, etc. have issued notifications/guidelines on exception handling for use of Aadhaar in various schemes.
