

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4563
ANSWERED ON-17.05.2012

Disagreement between UIDAI and Home Ministry

4563 . SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI

- (a) whether Government is taken any concrete steps to provide Aadhaar cards to the citizens;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far for providing Aadhaar card at the earliest;
- (c) whether any hurdles are being faced in providing Aadhaar cards;
- (d) whether there is any disagreement between the Unique Identification Authority of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs on the issue of accepting Aadhaar Cards for all purposes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken for sorting out the issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES

(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (b): The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has been mandated to generate & issue unique identification numbers (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India. UIDAI was authorized to enroll, through Multiple Registrars, upto 200 million residents by March 2012. The initial phase of enrolling 200 million residents has already been completed. The Cabinet Committee on UIDAI has given its approval for enrolment of additional 400 million residents by March 2014 through Multiple Registrars in 18 States/UTs as per Annexure-A. The enrolments are expected to be covered by March 2014, i.e. 18 to 24 months.

(c): Initially, there was inadequate printing and dispatch capacity due to which a backlog in printing and dispatch of Aadhaar letters was resulting in delays in delivery. The creation of additional printing facilities has improved the situation since 15th April 2012 and presently, no hurdles are being faced in the delivery of the Aadhaar letters.

(d) & (e): The Registrar General, India (RGI) is creating a National Population Register (NPR) of persons residing in India under the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 read with the Citizenship Act, 1955. UIDAI is issuing Unique Identification Numbers (called Aadhaar numbers) to all residents as a developmental initiative. RGI is one of the Registrars of UIDAI. Earlier, there was a difference of opinion between the Home Ministry and the Unique Identification Authority of India regarding acceptance of biometric data of persons for the UIDAI eco-system. Now this difference of opinion has been resolved during the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on UIDAI held on 27th January 2012. In order to streamline biometric data collection of the residents, the Government has decided that in States where UIDAI has made good progress or where States/UTs Governments have given consent for Aadhaar enrolments and are planning to integrate with various service delivery applications, Aadhaar enrolments through non RGI Registrars will continue. Accordingly, certain States have been specified where UIDAI will continue to be the Registrar. It has also been decided that the NPR enrolment will continue as envisaged, but if in the course of enrolment

indicates that he/she is already enrolled for Aadhaar, the biometric data will not be captured by RGI. Instead, number/enrolment number will be recorded in NPR and biometric data will be given to the RGI by UIDAI. It is decided that in the event of any discrepancy between NPR and UIDAI database, NPR data will prevail.

Aadhaar is an enabler. The genesis of the Unique Identification Programme (Aadhaar) lay in the fact that the marginalized in India may get excluded from access to social welfare schemes and programmes and meant for them due to want of identity documents. Aadhaar aims to provide a soft identity infrastructure which can be used to re-enroll them in services so that these lead to equitable, efficient and better delivery of services.