

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3341
ANSWERED ON-09.12.2010

PROBLEMS IN IDENTIFYING THE FEATURES OF CHILDREN

3341 . SHRI R.C. SINGH

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Universal Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is facing problems in identifying the features of children as they have unstable biometric features till they attain the age of 15 years;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that iris too does not fully develop till 8 years of age; and
- (c) if so, in what manner the UIDAI is handling these challenges and issuing UIDs to them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSION

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) conducted a Proof of Concept (PoC) study, wherein, biometric capture of children between 5 to 15 years of age was undertaken. The results of the exercise showed that biometrics of the children can be captured as in the case of adults for both fingerprints and Iris. Further the minutiae / templates were extracted from the captured biometrics and it was found that the children's biometrics is usable for UID enrolment as well as authentication.

(c) UID of children below 5 years will be allocated on the basis of demographic information and facial photograph linked with the UID of their parents. These children will need to provide their biometrics comprising ten fingers, iris and facial photograph, when they turn 5. All children will need to update their biometrics once they turn 15. The instructions in the original Aadhaar letter carry a note to this effect, wherever relevant.