

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF PLANNING**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO-340**

**ANSWERED ON-02.12.2010**

ISSUING OF UID NUMBERS .

340 . SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT

- (a) whether the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has started the process of issuing unique identification numbers to citizens;
- (b) the purpose behind issuing unique identification numbers to all citizens;
- (c) the numbers of UIDs that would be issued over the next five years and the estimated cost of the same;
- (d) whether such identification numbers would be made mandatory for all citizens;
- (e) whether such identification numbers would be made mandatory for access to Government schemes /programmes; and
- (f) if so, the Government schemes/programmes where UID would be mandatory?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.340 REGARDING ISSUING OF UID NUMBERS RAISED BY SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2010

- (a): The mandate of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is to issue Unique Identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all residents in the country. The number will prove identity and not citizenship. The enrolments have started and 1, 53,791 Aadhaar numbers have been generated as of 25.11.2010.
- (b): Inability to prove identity is one of the biggest barriers preventing the poor from accessing benefits and subsidies. The purpose of the UIDAI is to issue a unique identification number (UID) to all Indian residents that is (a) robust enough to eliminate duplicate and fake identities, and (b) can be verified and authenticated in an easy cost effective way.
- (c): UIDAI has planned to enroll 600 million residents by March, 2014. The total approved estimated cost of the Phase-I and Phase-II of the project spread over five years is Rs.3170.32crore. This includes the cost of 10 crore enrolments by March, 2011. The Budget for Phase-III of the project will be brought before the Government in due course.
- (d): Enrollment of residents is voluntary and is not mandatory.
- (e) & (f): Aadhaar is an enabler. The context of the Unique Identification Programme (Aadhaar) lay in the fact that the poor and marginalized in India largely get excluded from access to social welfare schemes and programmes meant for them for want of identity documents. Aadhaar aims to provide a soft identity infrastructure which can be used to re-engineer public service so that these lead to equitable, efficient and better delivery of services.