

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1973**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019

**BREACH OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION**

**1973. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to check breach of core biometric information;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to punish the hackers of biometric information?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): Security of biometric information of Indian residents is of utmost importance for Government. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)'s existing security controls & protocols are robust and capable of countering any attempts of breach or hacking. Security of Aadhaar is of critical importance to the Government and UIDAI has given it paramount significance. UIDAI constantly strengthens and reviews its infrastructure and ecosystems in line with the best International security practices and technological standards.

UIDAI has multi-layered security and privacy considerations built into the core strategy of Aadhaar with three basic doctrines of minimal data, optimal ignorance and federated database which give higher level of security.

Various policies and procedures have been defined, which are regularly reviewed and updated thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of secured and well-guarded UIDAI premises, particularly the data centres.

UIDAI data is fully secured/ encrypted at all the times i.e. at rest, in transit and in storage. For, further strengthening of security and privacy of data, security audits are conducted on regular basis, and all possible steps are taken to make the data safer and protected. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard.

UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

(c): There has never been any instance of data breach from Aadhaar database (Central Identities Data Repository), however, it is submitted that The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and

Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 and The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 promulgated on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 have stringent penalties/ punishments for offenders.

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