

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1562
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021

ERRORS COMMITTED BY AADHAAR CARD SERVICE PROVIDERS

1562. SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK: SHRI RAVI KISHAN: SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any action against the Aadhar card service providers committing errors in the enrolment of Aadhar card;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the nature of the action taken by the Government against such service providers; and
- (c) the details of the problems faced by common people due to the said errors committed by the said service providers and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) takes action on the Registrar or Enrolment Agency or service provider based on the Policy for enforcing of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations 2016, processes, standards, guidelines, data quality and containing corrupt /fraudulent practices, as updated from time to time. The latest policy dated 24.03.2021 is attached as **Annexure-1**.

The action against such Registrar or Enrolment Agency or service provider includes deactivation of Aadhaar operator for retraining, suspension of Aadhaar operator and imposition of financial penalty on the Registrar or Enrolment Agency or service provider. Such details (monthly basis) are available under the link <https://uidai.gov.in/ecosystem/enrolment-documents/sanction-orders.html>

(c): In such cases the Aadhaar enrolment/update request gets rejected and the resident has to re-enroll/ re-update. However, the overall rejection in Quality Check (including operator mistakes) of the enrolment during the last 6 months is approximately 4.78 percent only.

In order to minimize difficulties faced by the residents UIDAI has made provision for two screens in all the Enrolment Kits. The resident enrolling for Aadhaar can check the demographic details being recorded in their Aadhaar on the screen in front of them and ask the operator to enter correct information then and there, if entered wrongly.

In addition to this, the resident gets an acknowledgement slip after enrollment/ update having all the details printed on it. Resident has to give his/ her consent and sign on the acknowledgement slip after Enrolment/ update, which becomes the part of the enrolment packet.

UIDAI takes earnest efforts to minimize such errors by sensitizing its operators by imparting various trainings from time to time.

With Quality check in place, UIDAI ensures that the resident does not get an Aadhaar with incorrect demographic information. In addition, no new Aadhaar /update could be carried out based on invalid / fake documents.

Annexure-I

Policy for enforcing of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations 2016 , processes, standards, guidelines, Data Quality and containing corrupt / fraudulent practices. (Version -3.0 dated 24/03/2021)

Honourable Supreme Court of India while disposing of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 247 of 2017 and others dated 9.6.2017 in PAN- Aadhaar linking case, has inter alia stated that :

“....It is important that the aforesaid apprehensions are assuaged by taking proper measures so that confidence is instilled among the public at large that there is no chance of unauthorised leakage of data whether it is done by tightening the operations of the contractors who are given the job of enrolment, they being private persons or by prescribing severe penalties to those who are found guilty of leaking the details, is the outlook of the Government. However, we emphasise that measures in this behalf are absolutely essential and it would be in the fitness of things that proper scheme in this behalf is devised at the earliest.”

The above security concerns raised by Honourable Supreme Court about biometric as well as other personal data of residents have necessitated tightening of the enrolment process and operation and creating by imposing financial disincentive on Registrars and deactivating/suspending their operators.

The Regulation 26 – “*Liability of Registrars, enrolling agencies and other service providers and action in case of default*” is reproduced below:

“Without prejudice to any other action which may be taken under the Act, for violation of any regulation, process, standard, guideline or order, by a Registrar or Enrolment Agency or any service provider or any other person, the Authority may immediately suspend the activities of such a Registrar or Enrolment Agency or service provider or concerned person, and after holding due enquiry, it may take steps for imposition of financial disincentives on such a Registrar or Enrolment Agency or service provider or any other person and for cancellation of the credentials, codes and permissions issued to them pursuant to the Act or these regulations, or any other steps as may be specifically provided for in the terms of engagement with the Authority.”

1. UIDAI performs various validations & quality checks once the enrollment packet is uploaded to CIDR by Registrar/Enrolment agency. During these processes erroneous packets gets rejected. UIDAI also receives resident feedback/grievances through various channels regarding overcharging of residents for enrolment/update. UIDAI has started taking feedback from enrolled resident by calling/contacting them about their experience during their Aadhaar enrolment / update. Following are the broad objectives and actions proposed for Enforcing of

Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations 2016, processes, standards, guidelines, Data Quality and containing corrupt / fraudulent practices. To ensure that the interests of the UIDAI and the resident are protected, poor data quality and deviations from process norms (herein after called deficiencies) are dis-incentivized. Equally, the disincentives imposed must seek to serve as a deterrent and provide an opportunity for improvement, but must not become an unsustainable liability for the enrolment partners.

2. Specific deficiencies shall attract financial disincentives and administrative actions whereas Performance based periodic review attract administrative action if overall performance is poor for the period under review.
3. All the transactions during the previous month, irrespective of enrolment for new Aadhaar or update shall be considered for assessing the deficiencies
4. The overall financial dis-incentives on account of deficiencies other than corruption charges, in a given month, shall be capped at 10 % of the total amount payable in that month to the registrar – EA combination. The outstanding amount due to capping shall not be carried forward to the next month.
5. The financial disincentive to be imposed against the corrupt practices reported by Regional Office for action as per MOM of the Standard Reconciliation Committee (SRC) meeting will be imposed in full. Considering the UIDAI policy of 0% tolerance against corruption, this shall be applied over and above the deficiency charges mentioned as per para 3 above. The financial disincentive on corruption to be imposed only as per SRC report submitted by RO, including on OBD survey cases. The outstanding amount due over and above the amount payable during the month shall not be carried forward to the next month.
6. UIDAI, while making payment of assistance to Registrars will deduct the amount on account of financial disincentives.
7. In case of any dispute on the financial disincentive imposed against deficiencies or corruption cases, the Registrar may raise the same in the next SRC meeting and action shall be taken based on the decision of the SRC Committee.
8. Various deficiencies & Financial disincentives /administrative actions are as below.

Sl. No.	Criteria	Amount	Existing	Revised
1	Packets to be considered for assessing Deficiency		Only New Enrolment packets considered for calculating deficiency	New Enrolment and update packets to be considered for calculating deficiency
2	Capping on penalty		The maximum penalty capped to 10% of income (including SLA on corruption)	The overall financial disincentives on account of deficiencies other than corruption charges, in a given month, shall be capped at 10 % of the total amount payable in that month to the registrar – EA combination. The 10% capping shall not be applicable for SLA on Corruption and the entire amount shall be deducted from payment. SLA on corruption to be imposed only as per SRC report submitted by RO, including on OBD survey cases.
3	Carry forward		The unrecovered penalty shall not be carried forwarded to the next month	The unrecovered penalty shall not be carried forwarded to the next month
4	Gross violation of the stipulated guidelines with potential intent of fraud-tampering of UIDAI's software (BYPASS of operator/supervisor Biometrics)	Rs 100,000 per machine	Suspension of operator for 5 years	Suspension of operator for 5 years
5	Gross violation of the stipulated guidelines with potential intent of fraud- I. Overcharging resident for UIDAI services/involved in corrupt practices. II. For running unauthorized enrolment center found during inspections III. Found involved in	Rs 50,000 per incident	Suspension of operator for 1 year	Suspension of operator for 1 year

	corrupt practices based on the outbound dialer survey			
6	<p>Biometric Error I (BE-I)</p> <p>I. Full finger prints or full iris incorrectly recorded as missing</p> <p>II. Photo of photo with in a Biometric exception</p> <p>III. Exception photo of a different person</p> <p>IV. Exception photo of an object</p>	Rs 10,000 Per packet	<p>For monthly cumulative BE-I errors</p> <p>I. For 1 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining</p> <p>II. For 5 or more cases suspension of operator for 5 years</p> <p>Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1</p>	<p>For monthly cumulative BE-I errors</p> <p>I. For 1-3 cases suspension of operator for 1 year</p> <p>II. For more than 3 cases suspension of operator for 5 years</p> <p>Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1</p>
7	<p>Photo of photo (POP)</p> <p>I. When a photo is of other photograph /or Non Human</p>	Rs 10,000 Per packet	<p>For monthly cumulative POP errors</p> <p>I. For 1 or more cases suspension of operator for 1 year</p> <p>II. For 5 or more cases suspension of operator for 5 years</p> <p>Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1</p>	<p>For monthly cumulative BE-I errors</p> <p>I. For 1-3 cases suspension of operator for 1 year</p> <p>II. For more than 3 cases suspension of operator for 5 years</p> <p>Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1</p>

8	Document Error (DOE I) I. Fraudulent document II. Missing document	Rs 10,000 Per packet	For monthly cumulative DOE-I errors I. For 1 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining II. For 5 or more cases suspension of operator for 5 years Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1	For monthly cumulative DOE-I errors I For 1-3 cases suspension of operator for 1 year II. For more than 3 cases suspension of operator for 5 years Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1
9	Use of unparliamentarily language/abusive language in residents demographics	Rs 1000 Per packet	For monthly cumulative such errors I. For 1 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining II. For 5 or more cases suspension of operator for 5 years Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is ≥ 1	For monthly cumulative such errors I. For 1 case - disassociation of operator for 3 months. Can be reinstated after retraining. II. For 2-3 cases Suspension of operator for 1 year. III. For 4 or more cases - Suspension of operator for 5 years. Appropriate legal action needs to be taken if cumulative error is > 5
10	Document Error (DOE II) I. Poor quality document II. Invalid document III. Demographic data mismatch	Rs 25 Per packet	For monthly cumulative DOE-II errors For 30 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining	For monthly cumulative DOE-II errors I. For 30-100 cases dis-association of operator for 3 months. Can be reinstated after retraining. II. For 100 or more cases suspension of operator for 1 year.
11	Biometric Error II (BE-II) I. Bad quality photo in exception photo II. Exception not visible in exception photo	Rs 25 Per packet	For monthly cumulative BE-II errors For 30 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining	For monthly cumulative BE-II errors I. For 30-100 cases dis association of operator for 3 months. Can be reinstated after retraining. II. For 100 or more cases suspension of operator for 1 year.

12	Biometric Error III (BE-III) I. Photo not as per guidelines	Rs 25 Per packet	For monthly cumulative BE-III errors For 30 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining	For monthly cumulative BE-III errors I. For 30-100 cases dis association of operator for 3 months. Can be reinstated after retraining. II. For 100 or more cases suspension of operator for 1 year.
13	Demographic Error (DE) I. Gender/Photo mismatch II. Age/Photo mismatch III. Error in Name/incomplete Address IV. Relationship mismatch	Rs 25 Per packet	For monthly cumulative DE errors For 30 or more cases suspension of operator for retraining	For monthly cumulative DE errors I. For 30-100 cases dis association of operator for 3 months. Can be reinstated after retraining. II. For 100 or more cases suspension of operator for 1 year.

***NOTE:**

(i) In case the operator/supervisor is an employee of the Registrar (Banks, post offices and state governments), instead of suspension of operator/supervisor, departmental action be taken by the respective Registrar. In cases of outsourced operators by Registrars, the deactivation/suspension shall continue. However, in cases of grave/gross violations such as tampering of enrolment software, the suspension may be done even if the operator is an employee of the Registrar.

(ii) The retraining of the operators will be done by the concerned Registrar at their premises or at respective Regional Office of UIDAI. The operator will remain deactivated/suspended till retraining and will be reactivated only on the recommendation of Regional reconciliation committee at RO as per existing operators on-boarding process/procedures.

9. Review of EA based on adherence of process guidelines

The EA is required to ensure compliance to processes prescribed by the UIDAI. Non-compliance would attract appropriate action against the agency.

Activities deemed as non-compliant are listed below. This list is indicative and not exhaustive.

- *Enrolling residents using unregistered enrolment stations or tampered software*
 - Sending spurious files to CIDR as enrolment packets
 - Not complying with the enforcement of deactivation/suspension
 - Engaging in activity that is against the process, policy and guidelines of UIDAI.

The review pertaining to adherence to process guidelines could take place either during the periodic review or as a result of complaints received from time to time. Based on the severity and/ or recurrence of such complaints, appropriate action would be taken against the EA and Operator.

Notwithstanding the provisions made above, UIDAI reserves the right to take exemplary action against EAs in case the nature of error/ non-compliance is of great severity.

10. Review of Operator performance based on soft skills.

The Operator is the individual who would interact with the resident. Hence appropriate interaction of the Operator with the resident, is imperative. Departure from this norm could attract action against the Operator.

Actions deemed as inappropriate are listed below. This list is indicative and not exhaustive.

- Rude behaviour or physical/ verbal abuse to the resident
- Charging money from the resident or promoting touts etc
- Miscommunication to residents with missing biometrics, stating that they cannot be enrolled
- Misguiding the resident in any manner that is contrary to the stated guidelines and procedures of UIDAI

The review of Soft Skills would take place during the monthly review or as a result of complaints received from time to time. Based on the severity and/ or recurrence of such complaints, appropriate action would be taken against the Operator.

Notwithstanding the provisions made above, UIDAI reserves the right to take exemplary action against an Operator/ supervisor in case the nature of error/ non-compliance is of great severity.

11. Objection or request for correction by respective Registrars and EAs:

The registrars / Enrolment agencies will be given opportunity for objection or request for correction to standing reconciliation committee decisions at respective Regional Offices as per Registrar/RO mapping. The Registrars are mapped with the UIDAI Regional Office, in whose jurisdiction Registrar's head quarter is located.

12. The responsibility matrix for enforcement of financial disincentive and administrative action shall be as follows:

RESPONSIBILITY MATRIX			
S. No.	Item	Time lines (in days)	Responsibility
Financial Disincentive for specific deficiencies			
1	Monthly Aadhaar generation and deficiencies report in prescribed template by 10 th of every month.	D + 10	Tech Centre, UIDAI
2	Receipt of report from RO level reconciliation committee about corrupt practices & other relevant matters	D + 10	Reconciliation committee at RO UIDAI
3	Issue of release order Assistance to Registrar by EU division HQ by 20 th of every month.	D + 20	E&U Division, UIDAI
4	Submission of objection or request for correction by respective Registrars and EAs to respective regional reconciliation committee by 30 th of every month.	D + 30	Registrars/EAs

5	Recommendation of reconciliation committee on the objections or request for correction by 10 th of following month.	D + 40	Reconciliation committee at RO UIDAI
6	Effecting the recommendation of reconciliation committee along with the next payment cycle.	D + 50	E&U division, UIDAI
Monthly performance review of operators based on data quality			
1	Performance based monthly report of enrolment operators as per methodology for enforcing process guidelines and data quality by 10 th of every month.	D +10	Tech Centre, UIDAI
2	Action of disassociation/suspension of the operator by respective regional offices.	D + 15	Respective Regional Offices, UIDAI
3	Stopping of enrolment by disassociated/suspended operators.	D + 20	Regional Office/ Registrar/ EAs

Monthly Review of operator performance based on soft skills			
1	Review of operator performance based on soft skills	Monthly/case to case basis	Regional reconciliation committee
