

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2341
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.3.2023

OVSEs

2341. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
SHRI ARUN SAO:

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

- (a) the total number of Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) operating in the country, State / UT-wise;
- (b) whether certain OVSEs are performing verification of Aadhaar without explicit consent of Aadhaar number holders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the current steps taken by the Government to ensure that OVSEs adhere to Aadhaar usage hygiene and also are courteous to the residents?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per information received from the Unique Identification Authority of India, OVSEs are not required to register themselves with or obtain licence from the Authority and data regarding the number of OVSEs operating in the country is not maintained.
- (b) and (c): Sub-section (2) of section 8A of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 provides that every OVSE shall obtain the consent of the Aadhaar number holder before performing offline verification. The Authority has informed that it is not in receipt of any complaint from a resident regarding consent not having been taken for performing offline verification.
- (d): The Authority has made the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021, which lay down the obligations of OVSEs regarding obtaining of consent of the Aadhaar number holder, using Aadhaar verification for the purpose specified at the time of verification, storing and sharing of offline Aadhaar data, etc. The Authority has also issued a circular dated 31.10.2022, communicating the do's and don'ts for OVSEs, which include among the do's being courteous to residents and ensuring proper hygiene of the authentication devices being used so that there are minimal authentication failures.
