

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3487
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
MULTI-PURPOSE IDENTITY CARDS FOR INDIAN CITIZENS
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government propose to issue Multi-purpose National Identity Cards to Indian Citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have commissioned a detailed feasibility study of National Identity Cards system through a professional consultancy firm;
- (d) if so, the present status of the feasibility study;
- (e) the time by which this card system is likely to be put into effect; and
- (f) the likely utility of the photo identity card presently issued by the Election Commission of India in this context?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (f): Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to Indian citizens, which, apart from providing a credible identification system, would also have multifarious socio-economic uses.

The Government had entrusted the task of preparation of a feasibility study report to a professional consultancy firm for the issue of Multipurpose National Identity Cards to the Indian citizens. The detailed report received from the firm has covered aspects relating to the creation of an identification system of one billion people, streamlining of the machinery for the registration of births and deaths at the Panchayat level and institutional as well as technological options for the creation of an integrated data base of personal identities capable of being continuously updated. The Government will finalise its decision only after an in-depth examination of all relevant issues and after necessary preparations are made for launching the system, including giving legal backing to the scheme.

The photo identity card issued by the Election Commission of India is not a universal system of identification based on compulsory registration of Indian citizens or registration of birth and death.