

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:220

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010

ISSUANCE OF MULTIPURPOSE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pilot project for issuing of Multipurpose National Identity Card/ Unique Identity Card/Biometric Identity Cards to all the citizens of the country has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted for issuing of these identity cards;
- (c) if not, the details of the constraints being faced in the implementation of the said projects;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any committee to look into such issues;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the report of the committee and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (f) the time by which such cards are likely to be provided to all the citizens in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (f): A Pilot project on Multi-purpose National Identity Card (MNIC) was implemented in the selected areas of 12 States and one Union Territory viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry. Under this project, 12.88 lakh identity (smart) cards were issued to citizens of 18 years of age and above. The Pilot project was closed on 31.03.2009.

Based on the experience of the pilot Project, the government has decided to create a National Population Register (NPR) in the country along with Houselisting and Houseing Census 2010. For the NPR, details on specific characteristics of each individual shall be collected along with photographs and finger biometrics of all those who are 15 years of age and above.

However, as one of the measure to strengthen coastal security, NPR for the coastal villages in 9 Maritime States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and 4 Union Territories (UTs) of Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry will be created during 2009-10. It is envisaged that in this phase around 120 lakhs population would be covered. The scheme for coastal areas also envisages identity cards to be given to all the usual residents who are 18 years of age and above.