

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2216

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

FEATURES OF UID NUMBER

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Unique Identification (UID) - Aadhaar project;
- (b) the name and number of the agencies engaged for the project in the Centre and States;
- (c) whether some agencies have shown dismal performance resulting in missing of the deadline for issue of UID numbers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against such agencies;
- (e) whether any new deadline has been set in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a): The mandate of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is to issue Unique Identification (UID) numbers (Aadhaar) to all residents of India. The Unique Identification (UID) number called 'Aadhaar' is a 12 digit random number. It does not contain any intelligence. The number will prove only identity and not citizenship. The procedure for enrolment requires that the residents be enrolled into UID database after proper verification of their demographic and biometric information to ensure that data collected is clean and without duplication. No demographic or biometric information will be shared in response to requests for authentication of identity. A set of mandatory, conditional and optional demographic data such as name, date of birth, gender, name of parents, residential address and biometric features such as photograph, all ten finger prints and iris images will together establish and verify the identity of a resident. Aadhaar is an enabler. It aims to provide a soft identity infrastructure which can be used to re-engineer public services so that these lead to equitable, efficient and better delivery of services. Enrolment of residents is voluntary.

(b): Enrolment of residents is carried out by Registrars who collect biometric and demographic data through enrolment agencies. Registrars can be Departments of the State Governments, Public sector banks or financial institutions. There are 68 Registrars at present with whom UIDAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The number of enrolment Agencies empanelled by UIDAI during 2011-12 is 184. Among these, 40 Registrars and 79 enrolment agencies as listed at Annexure I & II are currently active in field level enrolment process.

(c): As of now, the enrolment targets of UIDAI are on schedule. A total of 7.95 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated as on 29.11.11. Efforts are on to ensure that there are no delays in printing and delivery of letters to residents.

(d): The Enrolment agencies are engaged by the Registrars under contractual agreements. The Service level agreements (SLAs) are mutually agreed to by the parties to the agreement and performance of the enrolling agencies against these parameters is monitored by the Registrars and UIDAI.

For printing and delivery of the Aadhaar numbers to the residents Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has an agreement with the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and IT under its Print to Post scheme. However, the pace of printing could not keep up with the increasing enrolments and the Department of Posts was requested to ramp up its printing capacity which was done but still it was not able to match the increasing generation of Aadhaar numbers. To overcome this increasing backlog, UIDAI has also partnered with M/s Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. for printing of Aadhaar letters.

Further, an open tender has been floated on 23rd November 2011 for enhancing printing capacity so as to ensure that there is no delay in the printing of Aadhaar Letters. In addition to the traditional method of printing and deliver, it has been decided to communicate Aadhaar numbers electronically.

(e) & (f): At present, the enrolments through the multiple Registrar model of UIDAI are restricted to 20 crore or up to March 2012.