

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:108
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
UTILITY OF UID
De Dr. Ratna

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government has conducted any study during the last six months to allay the fears on the utility of the UID number from various quarters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the nature of apprehensions expressed in this regard and the other measures being taken to remove such apprehensions?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 108 REGARDING UTILITY OF UID BY DR. RATNA DE (NAG) TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2012

(a) to (c): The UIDAI project was rolled out on September 29, 2010. Questions by different stakeholders have been raised from time to time in the past regarding utility of Aadhaar. The Standing Committee on Finance has, inter alia, given its observations on giving number to every resident and not restricting the Unique Identification scheme to citizens, reliability of technology, privacy issues, legislative safeguards for data protection and duplication of work with the National Population Register exercise.

The Government has initiated the UIDAI project to create a robust platform for public service delivery. The utility of Aadhaar or the UID number as an identity infrastructure and the foundation over which multiple services and applications can be built is widely appreciated and recognized. Many of the concerns raised by the Standing Committee have been already taken care of by the Government. The issue of duplication between RGI and UIDAI has been addressed by the Cabinet. The observations and recommendations of the Standing Committee are being considered by the Government with a view to taking suitable action.

The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) was awarded a study by UIDAI on July 19, 2011 to conduct Cost Benefit estimation of the Aadhaar Programme. NIPFP has submitted its findings on March 15, 2012. The Cost Benefit estimation carried out by the NIPFP indicates that Aadhaar would have significant intangible and tangible benefits. According to the study, the greatest intangible benefit of the programme would be that it would make every individual identifiable biometrically and empower the beneficiaries of Government Programmes to hold the service provider accountable for their rights and entitlement. As regards the tangible benefits, the cost benefit analysis indicates that even a partial application of Aadhaar to welfare programmes such as MGNREGS and PDS would result in the Aadhaar programmes benefits outweighing its costs significantly.