

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:415

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

PHALGUNA SAKA ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY CARDS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received proposals from various quarters for the issuance of Unique Identity Card and Resident Identity Card based on the National Population Register (NPR) in the country including nearly 130 border districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such cards are likely to be issued;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check duplicacy in the issuance of such cards;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to link the cards being issued under the NPR with that of the Aadhar Cards being issued by the UIDAI to check duplication of efforts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The requests have been received from various security agencies to complete the National Population Register (NPR) and issue Resident Identity Cards based on NPR in the country. There have also been requests to complete the process on a priority basis in border and coastal areas. As one of the measures to strengthen coastal security, the Government has already approved a scheme of creation of National Population Register(NPR) in 3331 coastal villages in 13 Maritime States/ Union Territories and issuance of Resident Identity (smart) Cards (RICs) to all usual resident of age 18 years and above in these villages at an estimated cost of 216.31 crore. More than 62 lakh cards have been produced and personalised for these areas. As an extension of this, the Government has approved the scheme of creation of NPR in the country at an estimated cost of 6649.05 crore and the same is under implementation. Presently, the proposal for issuance of Resident Identity (smart) Cards to all the usual residents in the country who are of age 18 years and above under the scheme of creation of NPR has been appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and recommended. The Union Cabinet, in its meeting on 31.01.2013, has considered the proposal and referred the same to a Group of Ministers (GoM).

(c) to (e) As per the approved methodology, three biometrics collected under NPR (photographs, 10 finger prints and 2 IRIS prints) are sent to Unique Identification Authority of India(UIDAI) for de-duplication based on biometrics and assigning of Aadhaar number to each resident. This would ensure that there are no duplicates in the NPR. The Aadhaar Number would be printed on the Resident Identity Card. The mandate of the Unique Identification Authority of India(UIDAI) is to issue Unique Identity Numbers(Aadhaar) to all residents of the country and not a card. The UIDAI is generating Aadhaar numbers and communicating it to the residents through a letter which is referred to in common parlance as the "Aadhaar Card". The proposed Resident Identity Card on the other hand is a Plastic Smart Card, which would not only be durable but also enable field authentication of identity without dependence on any external media like internet or mobile connectivity. Given the security threat perception in the country, this Smart Identity Card would greatly enhance the capability of agencies involved in counter-terrorism, anti-insurgency and border control to check identity of persons on the spot.