

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2480
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
BIOMETRIC IDENTITY CARD
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether photo identity cards containing biometric details similar to those given in the Aadhaar Cards are to be issued by the Census Commissioner;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds required by the Census Commissioner and the UIDAI for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to coordinate the work of the two separate authorities to avoid duplication and thereby reduce the expenditure for issuing photo identity cards based on biometric based Aadhaar number; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such cards are likely to be issued to the citizens of the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. 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. The Resident Identity (smart) Cards (RIC) bearing the Aadhaar number would be issued by the Registrar General of Citizen Registration. The RIC would enable both online and offline authentication of identity in a secure manner and will complement the efforts of Aadhaar. 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 at an estimated cost of Rs. 5552.55 crore. The Union Cabinet, in its meeting on 31.01.2013, has considered the proposal and referred the same to a Group of Ministers (GoM). The GoM has since been constituted.

(c) to (d): To minimize the duplication of efforts between NPR and UIDAI, the Government has decided that the NPR enrolments will continue as envisaged but if in the course of enrolment, a person indicates she/he is already enrolled for Aadhaar, the biometric data will not be captured for NPR. Instead the Aadhaar number will be recorded in NPR and the biometric data will be sourced from the UIDAI.