

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:94

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

AADHAAR CARDS

Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the generation/issuance of Aadhaar Cards including its legal validity has been questioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto :

(c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directions to the Government that Aadhaar Cards may not be made mandatory for getting benefits under various social welfare schemes and if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the details of the number of Aadhaar Cards generated/issued and delivered in the country and the funds incurred thereon, State/UT-wise; and

(e) whether non-delivery/delay in delivery/postal loss of Aadhaar Cards has come to the notice of the Government and if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.94 REGARDING AADHAAR CARDS

(a) to (c) The following Writ Petitions have been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court :

(i) W.P No. 494 of 2012; (ii) W.P No. 829 of 2013; (iii) W.P No. 833 of 2013; and, (iv) W.P No. 932 of 2013

These cases have since been tagged together. Two other Writ Petitions, (W.P No. 439 of 2012 filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras and a PIL No. 15 of 2013 filed before the High Court of Bombay) have since been transferred to be tagged and heard along with W.P No. 494 of 2012.

An Interim Order was issued on 23-09-2013 by Hon'ble Supreme Court as under :-

"All the matters require to be heard finally. List all matters for final hearing after the Constitution Bench is over.

In the meanwhile, no person should suffer for not getting the Adhaar card inspite of the fact that some authority had issued a circular making it mandatory and when any person applies to get the Adhaar Card voluntarily, it may be checked whether that person is entitled for it under the law and it should not be given to any illegal immigrant."

Counter Affidavits have been filed by UIDAI as well as Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Subsequently, the State of Jharkhand has also filed an Application for Impleadment in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the above said case.

The matter is sub judice.

(d) As on 30-11-2013, the total number of aadhaar generated was 50,80, 22, 582 and the State/UT-wise details are given at Annexure-I.

As on 30-11-2013, a total of 44.01 Crore Aadhaar letters have been printed and dispatched to the residents through India Post. State/UT wise details of dispatched letters is not maintained.

As on 30-10-2013, total expenditure on all activities of UIDAI including Aadhaar generation, printing and dispatch of Aadhaar letter is Rs. 3555.49 Crore.

(e) In order to address the issues relating to non-delivery/delay in delivery/postal loss of Aadhaar letters, the following remedial measures have been initiated:-

(i) On successful generation, the aadhaar number is communicated through the Short Messaging Service (SMS) to those who have registered their mobile numbers during enrolment.

(ii) UIDAI is doing closer co-ordination with the Department of Posts for ensuring reduction of these numbers.

(iii) Alternatively, Residents can also obtain e-aadhaar letters either directly or through Common Services Centers set up by Department of Electronics and Information Technology.