GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1494
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015
USE OF AADHAAR FOR DIGITAL INDIA
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to bring the administration of AADHAAR card under Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to utilise AADHAAR card for the purpose of Digital India and make it mandatory to every citizen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the AADHAAR card is useful for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) and (d): The Government proposes to utilise AADHAAR card for the purpose of Digital India. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is mandated to issue unique identification numbers (called Aadhaar), for which the enrolment is voluntary. Service providers are free to leverage Aadhaar as a means to verify the identity of resident. This is a policy matter of the service provider. In taking their decision to leverage Aadhaar the following properties of Aadhaar are pertinent:

(i) Uniqueness: The Aadhaar platform using the world's most sophisticated technology ensures that every resident gets one and only one number. In case, the resident enrols more than once, ONLY ONE Aadhaar number shall be generated as the uniqueness is achieved through the de-duplication process involving the biometrics. This is done to an accuracy of above 99.9% and Aadhaar can be used for identifying the beneficiaries and eliminating duplicates and ghost entities.

(ii) On-line verification (also called as authentication): Aadhaar platform allows on-line verification of a person's identity anywhere in the country by various means (Biometric − Fingerprint and Iris, demographic and One Time Password to mobile phone or email id) that enables residents to prove their identity and confirming that the residents are 'who they say they are', in order to avail services and access to benefits.

(iii) Electronic − Know Your Customer (e-KYC) based on the consent of the resident, enables residents to comply to KYC requirements for various service providers like banks, telecom & insurance service providers etc. e-KYC service is instant, paperless, secure, low-cost and eliminates chances of forgery.

(iv) Aadhaar as a Financial Address: As the 12- digit Aadhaar number is unique number and does not change over the lifecycle of a resident, it is sufficient to transfer payments to an individual after the bank account is linked to Aadhaar. It eliminates the need of giving detailed information on bank code, branch names, account numbers etc. every time, thereby enhancing convenience in remittances for both the sender and receiver.