

Title : Regarding transparent investigation into alleged duplication of Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers-laid

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (BARDHAMAN-DURGAPUR): I wish to draw the attention of the House to a matter of grave concern regarding the duplication of Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. The integrity of the electoral process depends on the uniqueness of voter identification, and any duplication poses a severe threat to free and fair elections. The Election Commission of India (ECI) mandates that EPIC numbers be unique, with the first three letters indicating the Assembly constituency. However, recent reports indicate that duplicate EPICs exist across states, suggesting a systemic failure rather than isolated administrative lapses. Such anomalies could lead to disenfranchisement, undermining citizens' constitutional right to vote. The ECI must provide precise data on the number of duplicate EPICs and clarify the mechanisms that allowed these duplications. Given modern database capabilities, it must also explain why safeguards to prevent duplication have failed.

A thorough and transparent investigation is imperative to restore public confidence in the electoral process and uphold the credibility of our democracy. I urge the Government to take immediate action in this regard.