

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2382

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009

BIOMETRIC UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION CARD

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to issue Biometric Unique Identification Cards to all the citizens in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the purpose and utility sought to be achieved through such cards;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any empowered group to oversee the implementation of this project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any plan for the successful and foolproof implementation of the project; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the source of the data to be utilized in the project and survey conducted for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (f): A Pilot Project on Multi-purpose National Identify Card (MNIC) has been implemented in selected areas of 12 states and one union territory viz.,Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry, Under this project, data base has been created of 28.62 lakh persons. 12.88 lakh identity (smart) cards have been issued to those of 18 years of age and above while the rest have been given a national identity number. The implementation of the Pilot Project has been closed on 31.3.2009.

Based on the experience of the Pilot Project, the Government has proposed to create a National Population Register (NPR) in the country along with 2011 Census. For the NPR, details on specific characteristics of each individual shall be collected along with photograph and finger biometrics of all those who are 18 years of age and above. However, the NPR for the coastal villages in 9 Maritime States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and 4 Union Territories (UTs) of Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry, will be created during 2009-10. This decision has been made with a view to strengthen the security in coastal areas after 26/11 incident. The scheme has been approved for 3331 coastal villages to be covered in first phase. The remaining coastal areas including the towns/cities would be covered along with 2011 census.

The Scheme for coastal areas envisages identity cards to be given to all the usual residents who are 18 years of age and above. However, no such decision has been made for issuance of identity (smart) cards to the usual residents in the rest the country.

The Government has proposed to set up an Empowered Group which would oversee the Unique Identity Card Scheme. The composition of the Group will be known after it is formally constituted.