

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009

MULTI PURPOSE IDENTITY/UNIVERSAL CARDS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a project for issuing Multi- Purpose Identity/ Universal Cards to all citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to engage professionals from the public and private sector for undertaking the specialized tasks involved in the project for ensuring its proper implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such identification cards are likely to be issued to the citizens in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Government has proposed to create a National Population Register (NPR) in the country for which details on specific characteristics of each individual shall be collected at the time of 2011 Census. Besides this information, there will be photographs and finger biometrics of all those who are 18 years of age and above. 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 ahead of 2011 Census during 2009-10, as one of the measures to strengthen the coastal security.

The creation of NPR would involve several specialized tasks such as creation of database management system with cyberspace security for data transmission, data warehousing, data mining etc. All this work might be done through an outsourced arrangements under the overall control and supervision of Government of India. The de-duplication of data at the central level, digital signatures for electronic security of identity cards and Key Management System etc. might be undertaken with the active assistance of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). This will be on the lines of the Pilot Project on Multi-purpose National Identity Cards. Already for creation of the NPR in the coastal villages, a consortium of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) comprising of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Electronic Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) has been engaged for assisting the enumerators in the field for direct data collection as well as for capture of photographs and finger biometrics. The same Consortium is proposed to be engaged for production and personalization of identity (smart) cards also, which are proposed to be issued to all those usual residents in these coastal villages and who are of 18 years of age and above.