

F. No. V-17013/2/2017-PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
CS Division

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NDCC- II Building, 5th Floor,
Jai Singh Road, New Delhi.
March 7, 2017

To

The Additional Chief Secretary (Home) /Principal Secretary(Home)/
Principal Secretary (Prisons) of all States/UTs
DG (Prisons)/IG (Prisons) of all States/UTs

Subject: Aadhaar Seeding of Prisoners.

Sir/Madam,

Your attention is invited to MHA's Advisory No. V-17013/09/2014-PR dated 27.9.2014 regarding Access of Prisoners to Aadhaar and No. V-17013/2/2017-PR dated 17.2.2017 regarding use of Aadhaar for verification of identity of persons visiting Prisons. Prison administration is an important element of the criminal justice system in India. The objective of prison and correctional administration is to protect the society against crime by secure and safe custody of prisoners and to develop a sense of discipline amongst them. Although Prisons is a State subject, however, considering the importance of efficient prison administration in the safety, security and wellbeing of prisoners, the Government of India has been providing continuous guidance and support to the States in strengthening the safety and security arrangement in prisons.

2. You are aware that Aadhaar is now widely used in various Government Departments for attendance as well as a unique identifier for DBT under various centrally sponsored schemes. Section 57 of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery Of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 allows the use of Aadhaar Number for establishing the identity of an individual for any purpose, whether by the State or any Body or corporate or person, pursuant to any law, for the time being in force, or any contract to this effect, provided that the use of Aadhaar Number is subject to the procedure and obligations under section 8 and Chapter VI of the said Act.

3. Considering the fact that 109 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued, which covers almost 99% of adult population, **it has been felt that prison inmates should also be Aadhaar seeded** and various aspects of day to day prison administration like production before court, return to prison, transport, health facilities, transport to outside hospital, interview, free legal aid, parole, temporary release mechanism, education/vocational training, release from prison etc. be regulated by use of Aadhaar. It will be of immense utility to link the inmates of correctional homes to Aadhaar as this will not only help in efficient handling of prisoners but will also ensure that the facility does not get misused and that the security of the prisons is not compromised.

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4. It is expected that all States/UTs will give due attention and priority to this communication and shall take appropriate steps for Aadhaar seeding of all aspects of prison administration and integrate Aadhaar in the e-prison system also.

5. Action taken in the matter may please be intimated to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Yours faithfully,



(Dilip Kumar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

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