

No. V-17013/09/2014-PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(CS Division)

5th Floor, NDCC-II Building
Jai Singh Road, New Delhi
the 27th September 2014

To

- 1) **The Additional Chief Secretary (Home)/Principal Secretary (Home Department)/Principal Secretary (Prisons)/**
- 2) **DG(Prisons)/IG(Prisons) of all States/UTs**

Sub: Access of prisoners to Aadhar/National Population Register (NPR) in Correctional Homes

Sir/Ma'am,

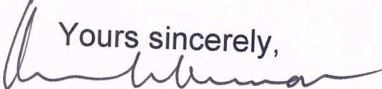
1. Aadhaar and NPR are national identity programs of the Government of India. The former is implemented by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and the latter by the Registrar General of India. Both collect biometric data covering ten finger prints, iris scan of both eyes and photograph. The identity and address of the resident are also identified during the enrolment process. Aadhaar provides a unique identity number to every resident in the country. The NPR database is sent to the UIDAI for Aadhaar de-duplication and generating Unique Identity (UID) numbers.
2. Since one Aadhaar number is allotted to only one person, it enables the capacity to verify one's identity universally. Aadhaar will allow deprived and needy people in accessing services like banking facilities. Since Aadhaar is based on the demographic and biometric information of an individual, it eliminates the threat of any fraud and bogus activity. Aadhaar will provide its possessor with universal identification. Aadhaar will facilitate 'anytime, anywhere, anyhow' authentication to its beneficiary. Aadhaar will be a single source of identity verification.
3. The benefits of Aadhaar are many. Aadhaar can be used at multiple places to prove one's identity very easily. A person's Aadhaar number can be used while opening a bank account as it meets the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) norms of RBI, booking tickets online, applying for passport, and at many other places where there is a need to give the proof of identity. Aadhaar will give migrants a universal mobility of their identity. The government can now provide services and facilities to people especially belonging to the rural areas in a more effective manner. As more and more

Government services are going to be linked to the Aadhaar it would be of utility to have an Aadhaar card. Aadhaar will hence help the poor people to take the benefits of the facilities provided to them by the government which could not be accessed by these people earlier. Aadhaar will thus become the simplest way of proving one's identity.

4. Since a correctional home has a number of inmates who might have missed the enrolment process, it would be of immense utility to offer this service to them as a welfare measure when they are released from the correctional home. The Tihar Jail in New Delhi has also started an enrolment process and received a very good response. The enrolment process is entirely voluntary and there is no compulsion involved as in 'The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920'. Moreover the data so collected by the UIDAI is not meant for use by the correctional home and is only for the provision of a Aadhaar Card to enable the re-integration of the UTP or convict on release. Necessary documentation to assist the enrolment process may be facilitated by the correctional home authorities.

5. It is hence suggested that the local UIDAI authorities should be approached for initiating the enrolment drive in all correctional homes and the prisoners should be briefed adequately as to the benefits of obtaining an Aadhaar card before the start of the drive to remove any misgivings about the process.

The receipt of this advisory may please be acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,


(S. Suresh Kumar)

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