

F.No.K-11022/764/2019-UIDAI(Auth.II)
Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Unique Identification Authority of India

3rd Floor, UIDAI Headquarters,
Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir,
Gole Market, New Delhi – 110 001.

Dated: 07.07.2020

To,

Shri S. Jagannathan,
Joint Secretary,
Department of Food & Public Distribution,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & public Distribution,
Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 001.

Sub: Aadhaar authentication for One Nation One Ration Card– Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to your D.O. No. 23(5)/2015-Comp.(E:323743) dated 18.06.2020 received through email whereby UIDAI has been requested to provide suggestions or detailed SOP so that States/ UTs may be advised for resuming biometric/ Aadhaar authentication of beneficiaries by adopting a methodology to leverage Aadhaar-OTP based e-authentication of national portability transactions under One Nation One Ration Card.

2. In this regard, it is informed that:

(A) Regulation 4 of the Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016 provides that a requesting entity may choose suitable mode(s) of authentication for a particular service or business function as per its requirement, including multi-factor authentication for enhancing security. Thus, the Department may direct the States/ UTs to perform OTP based Aadhaar authentication for providing service/ benefit under the scheme operated by it.

(B) As per Aadhaar Act and Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, no resident shall be denied a service due to failure to authenticate and requesting entities shall implement exception handling mechanisms to ensure seamless provision of authentication services to Aadhaar number holders. If the resident is not able to authenticate using fingerprint or if it is not feasible to authenticate using fingerprint, other methods may be used to authenticate/verify identity as detailed below:

(i) **OTP authentication** - OTP is sent to the mobile number registered with Aadhaar and the same is verified for authentication. However, to use OTP modality, the beneficiary/Aadhaar number holder must have his mobile number registered in Aadhaar database. For Aadhaar number holders who do not have mobile number registered or have an inactive mobile number in their Aadhaar data, UIDAI offers mobile number update facility in all its Enrolment and Update centres (list available on uidai.gov.in).

(ii) **Iris authentication** – Resident needs to provide Aadhaar number and iris is captured using iris biometric device. The Department may issue necessary instructions encouraging deployment of Iris authentication devices as it has a better success rate than fingerprint devices. Further, Iris authentication along with biometric authentication provides high success rates as has been experienced in Uttar Pradesh.

There are 68829 Fair Price shops, equipped with both finger as well as iris biometric devices in rural areas in UP, out of total 80558 shops that are functional. As per SOP of Food and Civil Supplies Department, Government of UP, the rural area shops have to carry iris authentication in case finger authentication fails. The FCS Department has achieved over 99% success rate in the 6.64 Crores transactions done in the month of Jun 2020.

(iii) **Face Authentication** - Existing camera in mobile device or tablets can be used to perform face authentication. However, the modality is under testing phase in UIDAI. Once rolled-out entities may need to do necessary SDK integration with existing authentication system.

(iv) **Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC** – “Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC” means a secure sharable document (XML file) which can be generated by the resident on UIDAI website and set a 4 digit code (share code) to open the file. It contains demographic details (name, date of birth, gender, address), Photograph and last 4 digits of Aadhaar number. Resident needs to share the XML ZIP file and Share Code with the service provider. Service provider extracts the resident Aadhaar data from the XML and verifies

the digital signature of UIDAI. This is an offline Aadhaar data verification facility provided by UIDAI that can be used in conjunction with local OTP/face authentication.

- (v) **Aadhaar Secure QR Code** - Aadhaar letter and e-Aadhaar contains a Secure QR code digitally signed by UIDAI. QR code contains demographic details (name, date of birth, gender, address), Photograph and last 4 digits of Aadhaar number. Any service agency can use this facility for offline verification of the resident Aadhaar data.
- (vi) **Entity specific verification mechanism** - Entity can verify the document / card issued by it such as ration card, NREGS job card etc. or can use different documents like bank passbook, passport, driving license etc. for identity verification as per their rules & regulations. The entity can perform OTP verification on mobile number registered with the entity.
- (C) **Exception Register** – For beneficiaries serviced through exception handling mechanism, details may be maintained in physical or electronic registers. Exception register may be audited from time to time. The department may prepare exception handling mechanism for States/UTs based on the above suggestions, UIDAI circular dated 24.10.2017 and OM dated 19.12.2017 issued by Cabinet Secretariat regarding “Use of Aadhaar in benefit schemes of Government – *Exception Handling*” (copy attached).

3. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully



(Dr. Deepali Sharma)
Asst. Director General (Auth)