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PART - II

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

[G.O. Ms. No. 05/PRD/DD(UID)/2022/1009, Puducherry, dated 18th March 2022]

ORDER

Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted delivery of financial and other subsidies, benefits and services) Act, 2016 (as amended) permits the use of Aadhaar for establishing the identity of an individual for receipt of a subsidy, benefit or service for which the expenditure is incurred from or the receipt therefrom forms part of, the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of State. The section requires that such individual undergoes authentication, or furnishes proof of possession

[79]

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

[Part-II

of Aadhaar Number or in the case of an individual to whom no Aadhaar Number has been assigned, such individual makes an application for enrollment, provided that if, an Aadhaar Number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service. This would simplify the Government delivery, ensure efficiency and bring in requisite transparency in beneficiaries getting their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner. The need for a beneficiary to produce multiple documents to prove one's identity would also be obviated.

2. Presently, the Departments are disbursing the benefits, via DBT mode, directly to the respective Bank Accounts of the beneficiaries through Aadhaar Payment Bridge. However, the data set used by Departments is often not synchronized, creating possibilities of ineligible, multiple and fraudulent claims. To obviate such instances of unscrupulous claims, a Unified Data Hub (UDH) is being created in the Union territory of Puducherry and to facilitate its functioning, the available beneficiaries and Government employee data, along with their Aadhaar details and demographic information, is required to be shared by various Departments implementing welfare Schemes with the Nodal Department namely, the Planning and Research Department. The latter shall act as the custodian of all the data for the Union territory of Puducherry. Further, the amendment in the data would need to be periodically reported and at least once a month to the Planning and Research Department, which shall create and maintain the UDH, with the support of NIC, Puducherry.

3. Further, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi vide its Office Memorandum, dated 10-12-2021 has clarified that "to support efficient and effective implementation/formulation of Social Welfare Schemes under section 7 of the Aadhaar Act and identification of beneficiaries thereto, the Central/State Government Ministries/ Departments may share partially masked Aadhaar (*i.e.*, last 4 digits visible *e.g.* xxxx xxxx 1234) along with demographic information only (name, date of birth, gender, residential address as per Aadhaar), amongst themselves subject to compliance with the provisions related

80

Part-II]

LA GAZETTE DE L'ETAT

to safety, security, and confidentiality". In view of the said clarification of the UIDAI, New Delhi, the Nodal Department, namely, Planning and Research Department, Puducherry, shall accordingly share the information with various Welfare Departments for the purpose of implementing Welfare Schemes every month/every new release of benefits. Only such data shall be treated by the Departments as the authentic source for implementing a Welfare Scheme. The Planning and Research Department would frame detailed modalities in this regard.

4. Accordingly, Hon'ble Lieutenant-Governor for the Union territory of Puducherry, is hereby pleased to direct the Departments/ Societies/Agencies/PSUs of the Government of Puducherry to share the Beneficiaries'/Government employee's data with the Planning and Research Department, which shall further share the requisite details, including partially masked Aadhaar, with Departments to disburse subsidies/benefits and extend other associated services. This shall be subject to strict compliance with the provisions related to safety, security, and confidentiality of data in accordance with the Aadhaar (Targeted delivery of financial and other subsidies, benefits, and services) Act, 2016.

> **PRASHANT GOYAL,** Principal Secretary to Government (Planning).

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81