

Q.

Discuss the various implications in linking 'election commissions' electoral roll data with Aadhar ecosystem.

Ans.

The election laws Bill 2021, seeks to link the electoral rolls to the Aadhar card which have passed in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Why this bill passed/objective :-
to filter the rolls and weed out bogus voters. Government said that Bill incorporates various electoral reform and held many meeting with election commission before bill brought.

Why we need this reform :-

(1) Remove fake voters id :- Some electors may be registered in more than one constituency and that non-citizens have been enrolled.

(2) Remote voting :- this can help full step for remote voting a measure that could help migrant voters.

(3) Speedy enrolment :- the fourth

qualifying dates for revision of rolls will help in faster enrolment of those who turn 18.

issues :-

(1) Aadhar database :- there are various issues with aadhar database ex. finger prints or iris don't match qualifying issue, instances data breaches etc.

(2) violates Article 21 :- fundamental right to Privacy the bill violates the definition of Privacy held by SC in Puttaswamy case. Aadhar is voluntary by nature and mandatory in subsidies.

(3) data misuse :- Aadhar to link with voter id would lead to demographic information. so there is high chance that some may use for targeting some caste, religion, gender. and commercial exploitation of private sensitive data. ex. in 2018 in some state linked aadhar with voter id

but later people found out at least 5.5 million votes have been restricted
- later government stopped it back

other issue :- government didn't define sufficient cause for not linking Aadhaar and between ECI and UIDAI the data sharing methods consent will be obtained, or the consent can be revoked?

=> Voting right is a constitutional right and it mustn't be denied without solid reason. Government may add Data Protection Bill, test of Proportionality and right to Privacy must ensure by judiciary.