

# NHA TO INTEGRATE CASTE CENSUS DATABASES

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Health & Sanitation and related issues

The Union Health Ministry on Monday said the National Health Authority (NHA) is working to integrate the database of Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 beneficiaries with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) portal so that beneficiaries can seek information regarding their entitlements under the AB PM-JAY using their ration card number.

The NHA is mandated with the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri–Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). The scheme provides health assurance of up to Rs. 5 lakh for a family a year, for secondary and tertiary care-related hospitalisations.

The Ministry added that the NHA is also working on a proposal to use fair price shops or ration shops for providing information related to the scheme and entitlement under the scheme to eligible beneficiaries.

“This will provide an additional avenue to beneficiaries along with the existing Common Service Centre, UTI-ITSL and so on for card creation. This will make the beneficiary identification process very convenient,” said the Ministry.

It added that the existing beneficiary data available with various government welfare schemes can be meaningfully utilised only if a common identifier is available.

“Aadhaar being a common identity across the majority of government databases will enable this integration. Aadhaar also ensures certainty regarding beneficiary identification through e-KYC. e-KYC enables paperless delivery of services in a targeted manner,” said the Ministry.

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