

F. No. 23(16)/2015-Comp. Cell (Pt.)

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution

R. No. 275, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001

Dated: 01/08/2019

To

**Principal Secretary / Secretary,
Food & Civil Supplies Department,
All States/UTs**

Subject: Ration Card APIs Integration with Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) – reg.

Madam/Sir,

You may be aware that the Government of India has launched 'Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB-PMJAY) which aims to provide health protection cover to more than 10 Crore poor and vulnerable families across the country. Under this scheme, eligible families are entitled for cashless treatment benefit of up to Rs. 5 Lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. For this purpose National Health Authority (NHA) nodal agency for the scheme is issuing e-Cards to the eligible families. So far, more than 2.93 Crore e-Cards have been issued across the country.

2. Since AB-PMJAY is a family scheme, therefore, to ensure that all members of an eligible targeted family are correctly mapped to the scheme; the NHA is utilizing the ration card data of the household to verify the details of the family, such as number of members, their names, gender, age, relationship and other demographic details.

3. Presently, NHA or its authorized agencies are uploading a scanned copy of the ration card along with manually typed details of the family members into their system which is not only time consuming but also prone to errors. Therefore, in order to completely automate the verification process with ration cards, and also to make the process more efficient and transparent, the NHA has requested support of this Department to integrate the digitized ration cards database of all States/UTs through APIs with their 'NHA Solution Suite' (also developed by NIC) for evaluating the eligibility of a beneficiary for the scheme. Copy of the request received from the NHA along with a proposed structure note is annexed.

4. The matter has been examined in this department in view of the request from NHA. This Department has 'no objection' in integrating limited data fields of ration card databases of States/UTs with NHA Solution Suite to facilitate their beneficiary evaluation and verification process as above. States/UTs may accordingly consider taking steps to integrate

their respective ration card database with the NHA Solution Suite through APIs over a secure channel to provide access to details of the family-tree, no. of family members, names, age, gender and other demographic details only. However, States/UTs are advised not to share any personal/classified information of the beneficiaries such as seeded Aadhaar numbers, bank account numbers, mobile numbers, etc.

5. States/UTs may therefore take further necessary action in this regard with a request to keep this Department updated with details of actions taken in this regard from time to time.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

Digitally signed by DINESH KUN
GUPTA
Date: Thu Aug 03 09:55:49 IST 2016
Reason: Approved

(D. K. Gupta)

Director (PD)

011-23070429

Copy to:

1. Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, New Delhi
2. Sh. Gautam Ghosh, DDG, NIC-HQ, New Delhi

Dr. Indu Bhushan
 Chief Executive Officer



सत्यमेव जयते

FMS No. 261357 Secy (FPD)
 Dated 16/4/2019

भारत सरकार
 Government of India
 राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकरण
 National Health Authority

D.O. No. S-12019/1/2019-NHA(IT)
 Dated 16th April 2019

Dear Ravi Kant,

Post copy
 I am happy to share with you, that since inception, under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), more than 2.93 Crores e-Cards have been issued across India and more than 20 Lakhs 18.3 Lakhs beneficiaries have taken benefit under the scheme across 15 Thousand+ hospitals.

To ensure all members of eligible families are mapped to the scheme, it is ensured that individuals in a family are mapped together through a process of verification. Currently, Ration Card happens to be the most prominently available and used document for the said verification.

J.S. (PD)
 As a part of the verification process, currently the copy of Ration Card is scanned and uploaded along with the details of the family, manually typed and entered in the system. With the aim to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the system, it is envisaged to utilize the Ration Card Data APIs instead of scanned copy of Ration Cards for evaluating the eligibility of a beneficiary for the Scheme.

Pl. get this examined by NIC to report
 With efforts of your office, the PDS data (Ration Card Beneficiary Data) is digitized across the country. In certain States, it is available in a consolidated system too. It is proposed to integrate the said data through APIs with NHA Solution Suite, completely automating the Ration Data verification process. A proposed Structure Note in this regard is attached as Annexure A.

I would appreciate your support in this regard for effective utilization of Digitized Ration Card Beneficiary Data by NHA Solution Suite.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
 16/4/19
 (Dr Indu Bhushan)

J.S. (PD)
[Signature]
 16/4/19
 Sh Ravikant,
 Secretary (Food and Public Distribution)
 Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
 Krishi Bhawan
 New Delhi - 110001

S.O. (Comp.)
[Signature]
 Sh. Pankaj, P.O. Const.



Annexure - A

Ration Card APIs Integration with AB-PMJAY Platforms Proposed Structure Note

Introduction

Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is an attempt to move from sectoral, segmented and fragmented approach of service delivery through various National and State/UT schemes to a bigger, more comprehensive and better converged need-based service delivery of secondary and tertiary care.

Targeting over 10 crore poor and vulnerable beneficiary families; for identification of beneficiaries, AB PM-JAY uses deprivation and automatic inclusion criteria for rural areas and defined occupational categories for urban from Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC). All beneficiaries covered under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) but not included in eligible SECC beneficiary list are automatically included. Eligible families entitled for cashless treatment benefits up to ₹5 lakh per family per year (on a family floater basis), for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. They can avail of these benefits at any (public or private) empaneled hospital across India (national portability).

With the aim to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, reliability and transparency of the system, it is envisaged to utilize the Ration Card Data APIs instead of scanned copy of Ration Cards for evaluating the eligibility of a beneficiary to the Scheme.

The Current System

To ensure all members of eligible families are mapped to the scheme, it is ensured that individuals in a family are mapped together through a process of verification. Currently, Ration Card happens to be the most prominently available and used document for the said verification.

As a part of the verification process, the copy of Ration Card is scanned and uploaded along with the details of the family typed and entered in the system. This is not an efficient process, due to the following reasons:

- a. It is a manual process and causes delay – There is no automated process of mapping the typed & entered data and the uploaded scanned document. It causes delay – as the process is manual, there is a dependence on an individual to check the uploaded document, map it with entered data and approve/reject it. In addition to causing a time lag, it also is not a 100% efficient.
- b. It causes technological issues – As the uploaded document is a scanned image, it is of a reasonable file size. With such a huge number of beneficiaries to be catered, this shall cause creation of a large e-waste dump, and shall also be requiring a large amount of Storage – which is expensive and doesn't seem plausible as an efficient expenditure.

The Solution

With the exemplary efforts of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the PDS data (Ration Card Beneficiary Data) is digitized across the country, and more so, for certain States, it is available in a consolidated system too – which is enhancing as well.

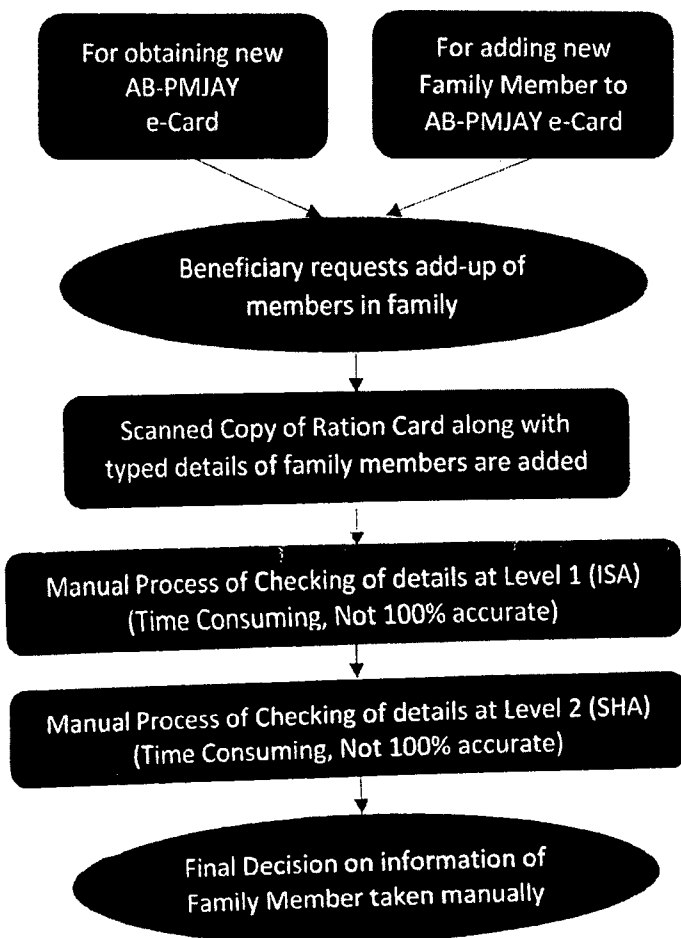
It is proposed, that a systemic API based technical integration may be done, through which the Ration Card Beneficiary Data may be made available through APIs to AB-PMJAY Solution Suite.

This shall enable the following:

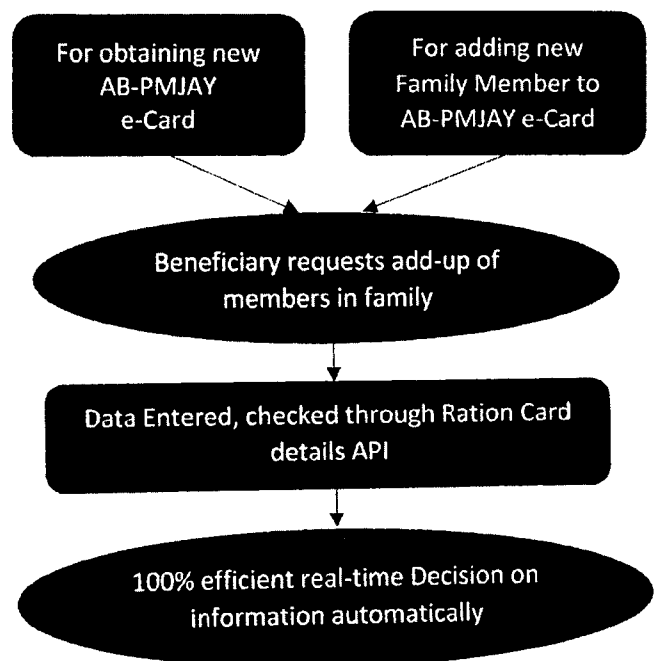
- Completely automated process of verification of Beneficiary Data.
- No manual intervention.
- No paper or electronic documentation required.
- 100% real-time verification taking efficiency of the system to its best.

The following illustration explains the Current and Proposed System:

Current



Proposed





Safety and Usage of Data

NHA shall ensure that the usage of APIs is strictly for the purpose as defined, and mapped only to the purposes related to Health Insurance only.

A log on usage of the APIs may also be maintained to ensure complete safety and security.

Conclusion and Proposed Way Forward

The administrative ownership of the said data lies with Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution whereas the technical custodian of data is NIC.

It is pertinent to mention, that NIC is also the implementation partner to NHA for the Solution Suite referred in this document.

It is proposed, that Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution may direct NIC for moving ahead with this implementation. Initially, a test integration may be done, and upon complete satisfaction, complete integration and roll-out may be done.

For certain states wherein the data is consolidated, a common service may be provided. For all the other States, individual State-wise APIs may be provided by NIC, which shall be integrated with the Solution.

As a first step, a technical team meeting for discussing and preparing the way forward to this proposal may be organized.