



भारत सरकार/ Government of India  
 गृह मंत्रालय/ Ministry of Home Affairs  
 भारत के महारजिस्ट्रार का कार्यालय  
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### SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CASTE CENSUS – CIRCULAR No. 3

#### Subject: Security Protocol of NPR images during SECC

The ORGI is providing the encrypted tiff files of NPR images for using the same in the SECC field operations. After commencement of field-work, a few references are being received from different DCOs on the security protocols to be maintained for the security of the NPR images. A detailed protocol has been planned in consultation with the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), the nodal CPSU in charge of developing the different softwares for the SECC operations. Salient features of the security protocol are explained below.

#### Handing over of the NPR images from data centre to State Govt./ nodal CPSU of the State/UT:

2. The DCOs should ensure that only encrypted tiff files are handed over to the nodal officer of the State Govt. or to the nodal CPSU entrusted with the SECC field-work for the concerned State/UT. If the images are handed over directly to the CPSU, the same should be under intimation to the nodal officer (s) for the rural and urban areas of the concerned State/ UT Govt.
3. In States/ UTs where one of the CPSUs possess the NPR images and they are handing over the same to another CPSU/ another unit of the same CPSU, they also should follow the same procedure, i.e., hand over encrypted tiff files for the purpose of the SECC.
4. If the CPSU is reporting problems with respect to opening of the encrypted coloured images of the tiff files, encrypted black and white images of tiff files may be handed over to them.

#### Encryption process at the server end (at the Charge data centres):

5. As you are aware, at the charge data centres, the encrypted tiff images are decrypted using a specific software and JPEG image of Side A of the NPR schedules are prepared. From a single tiff file which contains about 25 Household Schedules, i.e., 50 images considering both Side A and Side B of the NPR Household Schedule, only Side A is converted into separate JPEG files. Care should be taken to see that conversions of Side B of NPR images, if done inadvertently, are completely removed from the server on a daily basis.
6. After extraction of the JPEG images from the tiff files, the tiff files are again encrypted. The BEL would deploy a procedure so that the encryption is done using a 128 bit key/ 256 bit key. They would be using an AES based algorithm for encryption/ decryption.
7. The JPEG files, after conversion will also be in encrypted format. These will be transferred to the Hand-held devices using the ftp transfer protocol, as before. However, these will not be available in raw form without the specific data entry application loaded in the Table PC, also called the client version of the software.

*Please refer to the work  
 (Signature)*

