



The first batch of Kathputli Colony residents arrive at the Anand Parbat transit camp on Friday.

SUGRATA BISWAS / HT PHOTO

Kathputli residents start shifting to transit camp

NEW LIFE Despite heavy rain, six families move to Anand Parbat-based camp

Ritam Halder

ritam_halder@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Heavy rain couldn't stop a handful of Kathputli Colony residents from shifting base to a transit camp in Anand Parbat on Friday with the promise of a better future.

On Friday afternoon, six-odd families became the first residents of the transit accommodation. Residents of Kathputli, known as the artisans' village, will stay in the transit camps till the private developer constructs multi-storeyed flats at the site to accommodate the families later.

Sridhar Raurale, 48, who works at a private company in west Delhi, has been a resident of A-421, T-Huts, Kathputli Colony for over 20 years. "After two years, we will have our own homes. What can be better than that," Raurale said, while taking a break from unpacking his belongings inside his new room.

His wife, Varsha, too, was too sporting a big grin. A number of bags of the Raurale family had already been moved inside their three metre by four metre room, while some more remained stacked outside. When asked if the space was enough for the family, Varsha said, "All these things have come from our Kathputli Colony room. If they fit there, then they will definitely fit here as well."

Not everyone was that opti-

mistic. Santhabai Labre, 55, has shifted to the transit camp with her husband and a son. Her elder son and daughter-in-law are currently away in Nagpur. When they come back, the family of six will have to share the room. "There will be a bit of inconvenience. However, we will manage. Anyway, after two years, we will shift to a better home," Labre said.

The transition wasn't smooth at all for some. Usha Rao, 40, who works as a maid in the nearby localities had a tough time getting out of Kathputli Colony.

"The neighbours were abusing us as we were leaving. What wrong have we done? We just want a better life," Rao, who came with her husband and two children to the transit camp, said.

And then there were some Kathputli residents who went to the Anand Parbat transit camp just as curious onlookers. Mohammad Rahmool, a 27-year-old labourer, had gone to see the "camp". "Without documents, they didn't let me inside the premises. I just wanted to see where they are shifting us," he said.

In a DDA meeting earlier this week, it was decided that the shifting process would be completed as soon as possible because the area in Anand Parbat where the transit camp had been set up has been let out only for two years.