

Kathputli residents won't be forced to shift: DDA

RESPITE Authority says developer given only 35% of the land to develop residential and commercial complexes

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will not force any resident of Kathputli Colony to shift to the transit camp in Anand Parbat, the land owning agency's vice-chairman Balvinder Kumar said on Thursday.

Nearly 2,800 families from Kathputli Colony — a slum in west Delhi — are to be shifted to a transit camp in Anand Parbat for Delhi's first in-situ development project. Multi-storied flats will be built for the slum dwellers in a portion and the developer will get the rest of the land for commercial use. The residents are protesting the move.

"There are 15,000 families in the area and only a handful of people are protesting. But we will not force anyone to leave," Kumar said. "Some people are resisting because of vested interests and others are afraid of moving because unsocial elements are threatening them," he claimed.

Reacting to allegations that the private developer has got undue benefits, the DDA said that the company can keep only 40% of the land and redevelop 60% of the area for rehabilitation.

In the case of Kathputli Colony, the developer has been given only 35% of the land to develop residential and commercial complexes and sell at market rates.

Kumar said nine companies participated in the open bid for the project. The highest bid of ₹6.11 crore was made by Raheja Developers.

Apart from the land cost, the builder is expected to redevelop the area for free and give 2,800 flats to slum dwellers, apart from bearing the cost of erecting the transit camp, maintaining it and providing transportation for shifting. The slum dwellers will get ownership rights of the flats but there will be a lock-in period of 15 years, during which they can't sell them.

Kumar said the flats would be built using pre-fab technology and should be ready within 18 months.



■ Kathputli residents will be shifted to a transit camp (above) in Anand Parbat.

SUBRATA BISWAS / HT PHOTO

DDA launches helpline for colony residents

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), facing resistance from residents of Kathputli Colony over its in-situ slum redevelopment project, on Thursday announced a helpline for residents of the area.

Residents of the area who have any queries regarding the project can now call the number, 8527592691700. The helpline was announced at a makeshift camp set up at the colony for registration of people willing to shift to a transit camp.

On Thursday, scores of Kathputli residents gathered at the makeshift camp to seek explanation on a number of queries related to the project. Though a sense of fear against speaking in favour of the project still continued, a group of residents interested in the project, came forward and lent their suggestions.

"There are a few influential people in the locality who have created an atmosphere of fear. They are repeatedly threatening the residents who have registered to shift to the transit camp. It has

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NEW DELHI: DDA has decided to allow a certificate from a registered architect in lieu of a building plan.

This change in the policy will benefit thousands of residents in Delhi, who don't have sanctioned building.

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been reported to us that they are the owners of some of the shanties here and have rented them to these residents. Once these residents are entitled to possess the newly developed flats, these people will lose their source of earning," said a DDA official.

The official claimed that the helpline would help residents in reporting incidents of such threats with the DDA office.

Those against the project, however, claimed that the DDA's project will only land them in long trouble.