

Push DDA to finish Kathputli housing project, AAP govt urges Naidu

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NEW DELHI: The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi vice-chairman Ashish Khetan on Friday urged Union urban development minister Venkaiah Naidu to direct Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to rehabilitate residents of Kathputli colony JJ Basti.

The AAP leader wrote to Naidu, requesting him to issue directions to the DDA to rehabilitate residents as per the policy and the protocol notified by Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) the nodal agency for rehabilitation of slums.

In 2009, the DDA signed an agreement with a private developer for the "in situ slum development" of Kathputli colony



■ Many puppeteers and folk artistes live in Kathputli Colony.

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spread over 5.2 hectares. The project proposes to resettle the resident families in 2,800 multi-storey flats and the remaining land would be given for commercial purposes.

"The project was awarded to a

private builder more than seven years ago. However, since then very little progress has been made for rehabilitation of the people living in this basti. Since the basti was under rehabilitation, at least on paper, even steps

for in-situ improvement have not been taken. As a result the living conditions in the basti have gone from bad to worse. Hundreds of families comprising of infants, elderly people and women are living in conditions which are not fit for human habitation," Khetan's letter reads.

"Open drains overflowing with sewage, electricity wires hanging dangerously low, garbage scattered all around, entire area stinking with the smell of human faeces and municipal solid waste make the colony virtually Dante's hell. It is high time that we resolve the matter and take effective steps for rehabilitation of this basti at the earliest," he added.

The AAP leader said he would also meet the urban development minister to resolve the issue.