

HC gives DDA go ahead for demolition of jhuggis

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New Delhi: Delhi high court on Wednesday allowed DDA to demolish the slums of those residents of west Delhi's Kathputli Colony who were eligible for relocation and had moved out voluntarily.

The court asked the civic agency to give two days' time to those locals who had either moved out or were in the process of moving out after being found eligible for temporary rehabilitation.

HC said in the next two days, the residents could remove all belongings from their jhuggis following which DDA could begin clearing the area of debris for its ambitious in situ rehabilitation plan.

However, the protection granted by the high court till November 16 to those found ineligible remains in force as the court said they needed time to file their appeals before the designated authority provided under the law.

The court's decision to modify Tuesday's order ca-

COURT ORDER

me on an application filed by DDA seeking its nod to start demolishing the jhuggis where residents had already agreed to move and also to clear the rubble left by its earlier demolition action.

Appearing for DDA, standing counsel Ajay Verma claimed that till Tuesday, about 75% jhuggis had been demo-

lished and 90% locals had vacated the area. He informed the court that out of 771 ineligible persons that the agency had found, around 650 neither had a jhuggi nor any other type of ownership.

The claim was challenged by the petitioner NGO which questioned the figures and urged HC to maintain the total stay on the demolition till the next date of hearing.

The high court, however, saw substance in DDA's stand and allowed it to demolish the jhuggis while cautioning that the razing process should not affect the homes of others living there. It also directed DDA to file a status report indicating who all have moved out of the area and whose slums were demolished.