

8 yrs on, Kathputli Colony on revamp road

800 Houses Of Those In Transit Camp To Be Razed Today Those left out of rehab list point to anomalies in DDA action

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New Delhi: Stuck for nearly eight years, the Kathputli Colony redevelopment project is now back on track.

With the high court partially modifying its Tuesday's order, DDA plans to resume demolitions on Thursday to level up to 800 dwellings of people who have moved to the transit camp. On Wednesday the court allowed DDA to demolish hutments of those found eligible for relocation who have either moved out or are about to go. The court has given two days to eligible people to pack up and leave.

It was the first in situ redevelopment project taken up on a PPP model. Announced by the UPA government in 2009, the project was stuck for this long because DDA and the slum-dwellers couldn't arrive at a consensus on the eligibility criteria. "This way, it will take a lot of time to rehabilitate all the slum clusters (675) of which 475 are with DDA," said an official.

DDA has okayed 3,292 people for rehabilitation and rejected claims of 771 going by DUSIB's slum rehabilitation policy. The cutoff date for final survey was January 1, 2015. J P Agarwal, principal commissioner (housing), DDA, said the claims were rejected because "640 didn't have a hut in the slum, 59 didn't have a voter ID, 30 didn't meet the cutoff date and 36 didn't have a second document of identity". These, Agarwal said, are conditions mandated by the central government's policy.

Slum-dwellers have accused DDA of violating court or-

AN UNENDING WAIT FOR HOME

Kathputli Colony was the first in situ development project to be taken up in PPP mode



THE ISSUE

In situ redevelopment of a slum cluster requires the place to be first vacated and then the new housing facility erected. In Kathputli Colony, DDA has struggled to get the dwellers to shift to the transit camp at Anand Parbat. Why?

- Locals opposing survey done by DDA
- Want DDA assurance that everyone will be accommodated at current location

WHAT DDA SURVEY FOUND

2,641 Eligible slum dwellers as per 2011 survey
3,292 Eligible slum dwellers as per 2017 survey
771 Number of claims rejected

ders and forcibly evicting them. DDA says its action was lawful. "As per Section 10 of DUSIB Act, consent of the beneficiary is not required for in situ redevelopment projects," said Agarwal.

DDA hopes to reclaim 5.2 hectares by November

AND THE MATTER DRAGS ON

- 2009** | DDA awards in situ project to Rahejas
- 2011** | 2641 families found eligible in initial survey with cutoff date of January 31, 2011
- 2011-12** | Locals approach high court challenging DDA's survey
- 2014** | Documents of 1,203 claimants received following high court's direction
- Some slum-dwellers start shifting to transit camp
- 2016** | DDA approves shifting slum-dwellers
- Dec 19** | DDA starts eviction and demolition drive

end to hand over to Raheja Developers. Officials say in the last two days, close to 900 people have moved to the transit camp, which has space for 2,800 families. The other 492 families have been allotted flats in Narela. "We can take in more people too,"

THE PLAN

70% for flats & community centres and public facilities for artists
30% for commercial activity (to be used by builder)
No of towers: 14, 14-storey towers for residential; 1 for commercial
Total flats: 2800 (₹1.4 lakh each, including maintenance charges for 30 years)
TOTAL AREA: 5.2 hectares

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chand (18) is worried about the future. Her house in Kathputli Colony was demolished by DDA on Monday. But now, her family has nowhere to go as their name is not there in the final list of eligible claimants.

DDA officials, Chand claims, have refused to give her a slip to shift to the transit camp. "Our name was there in the first two lists, but it is missing in the final list. Our house has been demolished. Where do we go?" said Chand, showing a document stamped by DDA.

But Chand isn't alone. There are many like her who claim that their names have been struck off the list. On Monday morning, there was chaos at the DDA camp in Kathputli Colony where residents waited for officials to submit their documents and get slips for transit camp accommodation. The names of those eligible for a flat under the redevelopment scheme have been put up on large wooden boards.

Bittu showed his name in the first list of 2,641 eligible slum-dwellers. "But my name is missing in the final list. DDA officials are not ready to listen to our problem," said Bittu.

A few metres from the DDA camp, Bhat community members question the need to use force. Various NGOs and human rights activists have condemned



Photos: Sarjay Sekhri



DILEMMA: Many whose homes have been demolished (top) can't go to the transit camp (above) as their names are not there in the final list

DDA's decision to forcibly remove people, especially when winter is setting in. The eviction and demolition exercise has been going on

for almost 10 months now. When asked why people didn't oppose it or approach the court earlier, Dilip Bhat, a community leader, said,

"The court had said that DDA shouldn't forcibly evict people. The recent drive is a violation of Delhi high court's order."

He claimed that DDA didn't give adequate time to people to check the final list. "We got the list on October 28 after we filed an RTI, and they started the demolition on October 30. Is this how the central government wants to rehabilitate slum-dwellers?" Bhat said.

While DDA has disconnected water and electricity supply to the colony, there are some who continue to live here. "We have not got our slips. We want justice for all. How is it possible that the number of claimants is almost the same in the two surveys conducted in a gap of six years? So many people have been rendered homeless," said Bhat.

But the slum-dwellers, a majority of whom are artists, stand divided on the redevelopment project. A group of them who have shifted to the transit camp in the last three years, question the delay in the implementation of the project. "We shifted in 2014 to the transit camp. We thought we will get the house in 2-3 years. But the project is yet to start," said Tulsii.

At the transit camp, people wait for their turn to complete the paperwork and shift into the rooms. "We want a better life for our children," said Pataki, a Rajasthan folk artist and a prominent local leader.