

Hyderabad
6th November, 2015

PRESS NOTE

Forum for Good Governance a not for profit civil society organisation appreciates the decision of Government of Telangana to provide 2 bedroom houses to BPL families. For implementation of the programme government have issued guidelines to collectors Mahaboobnagar and Warangal. In the said guidelines collectors were asked to select beneficiaries by constituting a special team. Again second time vide G.O. No. 10 further guidelines were issued for the entire state.

Forum for Good Governance feels that the guidelines issued subsequently are defective and lack clarity which may lead to nepotism, corruption, and heavy burden on state.

1. **Nepotism** : The guidelines say that “The district minister and MLA of the respective Assembly constituency shall sanction 2 bedroom houses in 50 : 50 ratio and furnish the list to district collector. The guidelines further say that the sanctioned list of beneficiaries shall be verified by Thasildar and place it before Grama Sabha. The Grama sabha will verify the eligibility and forward the list to district collector.

Here, the guidelines are silent about the action to be taken by Thasildar or Grama sabha in case ineligible persons are included in sanctioned list. As a matter of fact, once Minister / MLA has sanctioned at the initial stage itself, which Thasildar has guts to differ the sanction order of minister. Verification is a mere formality to show that selection is done in a transparent manner. In practice, keeping in view of political system we are working in, the Minister / MLA are bound to sanction the houses to their party workers only.

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1. **Heavy burden:** Government of India has plans to see that by 2022 (75th year of independence) every family in the country should have his own dwelling (housing for all). In the state of Telangana the recent surveys revealed that there are about 10 lakh families without houses. In GHMC limits alone about 2 lakh houses are required. To provide 2 bedroom houses to these families an amount of 60 thousand crores are required which is beyond the means of the state government.
2. The earlier Indiramma housing programme suffered due to political interference i.e. Minister / MLA selecting the beneficiaries rather than the Grama sabha. Unfortunately government did not learn lessons from the past mistakes.
3. For construction of 396 houses at IDH colony at Hyderabad, government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.42.8 crores including infrastructure, which works out to 10.8 lakhs per house. As against this government is sanctioning houses with a unit cost of Rs. about 6.00 lakhs which is not sufficient. The cost has to be increased based on the experience of IDH colony Hyderabad.

Suggestions from Forum for Good Governance :

4. The MLA should select a village where the programme is to be grounded and inform to Thasildar, who conducts the Grama sabha exclusively for selection of beneficiaries. The local banker may also be invited for Grama sabha.
5. The beneficiary should be selected in Grama sabha and the list sent to collector through Thasildar. The collector will accord sanction and send a copy of sanction order to concerned MLA and minister for information.
6. There should be 5% beneficiary contribution, 45% bank loan and 50% grants from state & Government of India towards the cost. This will enable the government to take up more number of houses to achieve the target of Housing for all by 2022.

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7. The programme should be linked to government of India programme of housing for all, where in Rs. One lakh subsidy for each house is provided.
8. The unit cost of the house to be increased.
9. Beneficiary to be involved right from the beginning for quality control as well as for quick completion of the work.

Forum for Good Governance request the Government of Telangana to consider our suggestions and modify the scheme accordingly.

Yours Sincerely

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Secretary
Forum for Good Governance