

Housing for All: Demand survey for Punjab's homeless from 1 Sept

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In order to assess total number of homeless in Punjab, the state government has decided to conduct a demand survey from 1 September onwards, under Punjab Shehri Awaz Yojana (PSAY) scheme.

An official spokesperson of the Housing and Urban Development Department on Friday said the PSAY has been notified by the state government on 11 August after it was approved by Council of Ministers in its last meeting held on 4 August.

The spokesperson said that the draft policy has mentioned free housing to homeless Scheduled Caste (SC) and Backward Class (BC) having annual income less than three lakh in the first phase. However, the second phase will cover similar families having income more than five lakh. Adding to this, Lower Income Group (LIG) and Medium Income Group (MIG) families have

been mentioned in the draft of the upcoming policy. All the concerned Deputy Commissioners (DCs) have been asked to identify the vacant land and transferred it to PUHDD for the implementation of the scheme.

The spokesperson further said that under the low-priced home loans beneficiaries living in urban areas of Punjab are eligible for an interest subsidy at 6.5 per cent on Rs 6 lakh for new construction, addition of rooms, kitchen and toilet to existing dwelling units.

The spokesperson added that the detailed eligibility conditions and the demand survey can be downloaded from www.puda.nic.in or can be obtained from the help desk counter of any Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committee, Nagar Panchayat (Urban Local Bodies), Sewa Kendras of Punjab. Period of submission of demand survey form shall be from 1 September to 30 September.

The applicants can upload

their forms on the PMAY-MIS Portal also. Further, the filled forms along with documents shall be deposited by the applicants in their respective Municipal Corporation, Municipal Committee, Nagar Panchayat (Urban Local Bodies), added the spokesperson.

As per the report of the technical group on Urban Housing Shortage (2012) constituted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA), there is a shortage of 18.78 million houses in its urban pockets till 2012. In case of Punjab, as the state is having a population 2,77,04,236 persons, only 37.49 per cent have been living in urban areas.

By 2041, above 50 per cent of the total population of Punjab has been forecasted to be living in urban areas. Notably, there were a total of 46,714 homeless people in Punjab as per 2011 Census. Out of this total figure, 28,340 were rural homeless and 18,374 were urban homeless.



Demand survey from Sept 1

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The Punjab Department of Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with the Department of Local Government will carry out a demand survey from September 1 under the Punjab Shehri Awas Yojana (PSAY) to provide free housing to eligible houseless SC/BC urban families with an annual income less than Rs 3 lakh and subsidised housing/cheap home loans to eligible slum dwellers.

Disclosing this here today, Additional Chief Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Vini Mahajan said detailed eligibility conditions as per the PSAY guidelines would be mentioned in the demand survey form, which could be downloaded from www.puda.nic.in or could be obtained from the help desk counter of any civic body and sewa kendras in the state.

The demand survey forms could be submitted at the respective civic body office from September 1 to 30. The applicants could upload their forms on the PMAY-MIS portal also, she said.

Private firms — Oasis, Jayesh A Dalal and Savjani A&E Consultants — have already undertaken work pertaining to demand survey, preparation of detailed project reports (DPRs), management information system (MIS) and geotagging. — TNS