

THE TRIBUNE

Plot allotment quota for SCs doubled to 30%

NITIN JAIN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 12

In a bonanza for Scheduled Castes (SC), their reservation in the allotment of plots and houses in Punjab has been doubled to 30 per cent, while senior citizens and women will get preference in the allotment across all reserved and general categories.

The preferential allotments will be made only to homeless senior citizens and women in the state.

Fulfilling one of his party's main pre-poll promises, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has approved a new housing reservation policy, which will come into effect after its notification, likely to be issued this week.

The policy is applicable to all development authorities working under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Punjab domiciles who do not possess a plot or house anywhere in the country are eligible for claiming the benefits.

Additional Chief Secretary (Housing and Urban Development) Vini Mahajan told *The Tribune* that the new policy was aimed at providing a house or plot to each member of the Scheduled Caste as well as senior citizens and

WHAT IT MEANS

PUDA and various Special Urban Planning and Development Authorities are working under the administrative control of Housing and Urban Development Department. There is a policy to provide affordable houses or plots to the public. The Council of Ministers, at its March 18 meeting, had decided to give 30 per cent reservation to SCs in the allotment of houses or plots. It has also been felt that senior citizens and women of all categories including reserved categories need preferential treatment in the allotment.

women in the state.

"The order of priority has been changed in the new policy. Priority will be given to senior citizens followed by women and other categories. Other beneficiaries in the amended policy are disabled soldiers, government employees and persons with disabilities," Mahajan said.

The amended policy offers the maximum permissible reservation equivalent to 50 per cent. The beneficiaries of the policy will not be allowed to transfer their plots or houses before five years of the allotment.