

# State cabinet clears draft policy on rental housing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chandigarh:** For the benefit of scores of students and elderly seeking affordable rental accommodation in the state, the Punjab cabinet on Wednesday approved a first-of-its-kind policy on rental housing to facilitate proper housing accommodation for students, corporate professionals, senior citizens and migrant labourers in the state.

The draft has been prepared by the department of housing and urban development. The cabinet also authorized chief minister Amarinder Singh, who is also holds the urban development portfolio, to approve any amendment to the policy, if required in future, without putting the amendment before the council of ministers.

The policy proposes several financial and physical incentives. It is proposed that the maximum ground coverage permissible would be 60% of the plot area with maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of 1:3.0, as against the general plotted residential developments that have maximum ground coverage of 50% and permissible FAR of 1:1.5.

Besides, up to 2% of the availed FAR may be used for daily use shops such as canteen, ATM, grocery, pharmacy, fruit shop as per the draft policy that further provides that there would be no restriction on height of such buildings subject to fulfillment of fire safety, structure safety and parking norms. Other features of



Chief minister Amarinder Singh with his cabinet at the meeting

## Unviable Sewa Kendras to be shut

The cabinet has decided to shut down 1,647 "financially unviable" sewa kendras in the state and use the existing infrastructure of the centres as anganwadis or panchayat ghars. This follows recommendations by a committee headed by chief secretary that the state required only 500 such centres, which could be managed by the deputy commissioners.

the policy include fixing of parking norms one parking for every 100 sq. metre covered area.

The policy also provides for financial incentives, such as change of land use, external development charges (EDC) and permission fee to be payable at 50% of the charges as applicable to residential-plotted development. However, financial incentives will not be available to projects

## Pilot project on ground water

A pilot research project on direct benefit transfer for electricity (DBTE) for 990 agricultural consumers to check receding groundwater levels in the state was approved in the cabinet meet. The CM also appealed to big farmers to voluntarily give up their power subsidy to contribute to government's efforts to check water depletion.

within municipal limits.

The draft policy has been formulated in view of the fact that due to lack of proper housing accommodation in educational campuses, corporate units/call centres, business or Industrial establishments, about 80% students and working professionals/migrant labourers have to seek accommodation outside educational campuses or work places/ industrial establishments.

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