

DDA to launch land-pooling policy in 3 months, expedite housing for poor

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) plans to roll out its much-touted land pooling policy in the next three months.

On Wednesday, DDA's vice-chairman Balvinder Kumar and other senior officials met representatives from different industry bodies such as CREDAI, NAREDCO, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHD Chamber of Commerce to get their suggestions.

The policy, which was approved by DDA last year but

is yet to be implemented, allows land owners to pool their land for development by DDA. Instead of compensation, they would be given 40% to 60% of the developed land back, according to the size of land provided.

The new policy is aimed at faster development of housing in the city, particularly that for economically weaker sections (EWS). Instead of the time-consuming process of land acquisition, DDA feels land pooling would provide a smoother alternative as it allows land owner to benefit from the development of land, which they can sell after its

prices appreciate.

DDA believes that through the policy, Delhi will get sufficient housing stock in the next few years. It has also estimated that for each 1,000 hectare of pooled land, the government will be able to provide 50,000 one-room sets under the EWS category.

"We are prepared on our part but there are some legal issues involved that need to be addressed first. We are trying to roll out the scheme in three months," Kumar said. "We will get the policy vetted by renowned lawyers for their advice and suggestions. We will

also involve administrative officials who are experts in revenue laws during implementation of the scheme," he said.

Kumar said that during the meeting with industry body representatives, discussions were held to understand their apprehensions and suggestions regarding the policy and also to clarify DDA's position on issues raised by them. "They have suggested certain sections of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, that say their can't be further fragmentation of land that is lesser than eight acres, needs to be repealed," he said.