

By Mail Today Bureau
in New Delhi

WITH Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying special attention

to making the provision of housing for the poor as the core of his development agenda and social governance, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) has taken a “quantum leap” in allocating housing funds and approving projects.

Top MHUPA sources said that investment worth over ₹1 lakh crore has been approved for housing of the urban poor and around over one lakh more houses have been sanctioned. Of these, about 57,131 houses have been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh and about 24,576 for Tamil Nadu.

Explaining on the ‘big push to housing for all’, Union Minister for



PM Narendra Modi wants the poor to have a ‘decent house’ by 2022.

Modi’s ‘housing for all’ gets a big push

Housing and Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu told *Mail Today*, “PM Modi has given hope to the poor by announcing that the poor in urban and rural areas will be able to own a decent house by 2022 — the 75th year of India’s Independence — in his first speech from Red Fort in 2014. He said a decent house is the primary indicator of dignity of living.”

However, Naidu said, “As a result, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) was launched by Modi on June 25, 2015, and within 22 months, it has reached the stage where investments of ₹1 lakh crore has been pumped to build over 18 lakh affordable houses for urban poor in nearly 2,151 cities and towns

across 34 States and UTs.”

This scale and speed, if compared to the previous UPA regime, speaks for itself. The UPA could only approve ₹32,000 crore investment for building 13 lakh houses.

A Technical Group set up by the Ministry of HUPA in 2012 estimated housing shortage of 18.78 million dwelling units in urban areas, 96 per cent of it for economically weaker sections and low income groups. The Modi government asked States/UTs to undertake a fresh demand survey. A demand of about 1.70

crore houses has been received and states are validating this demand.

Naidu told *MT*, “It proves that this is a government with a will there is a way. In the past, noble initiatives didn’t had a timeline. PM Modi is different and has directed that housing for all shall be ensured by the 75th year of

Independence. Imbued by the spirit of Team India, central and state governments are working in that direction.”

In the latest sanctions, Manipur got 6,231 houses, Chhattisgarh 4,898, Guj-

arat 4,261, Assam 2,389, Kerala 643, Jharkhand 331 and Daman & Diu 77.

Of the total houses sanctioned so far, 10,65,058 were under the Beneficiary Led Construction component of PMAY (Urban) wherein beneficiaries undertake new construction or enhancement of existing houses for which central assistance of ₹1.50 lakh each is provided. Nearly 5,87,115 houses have been sanctioned under the Affordable Housing in Partnership under which state governments provide land/financial assistance for housing projects for which central assistance of ₹1.50 lakh each is given per beneficiary.

A demand of 1.70 crore houses has been received, and states are validating this