

Clearing 3-5 lakh houses/month: Puri

FE BUREAU

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL achieve the target of providing housing for all by mid-2019, housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday. "We are sanctioning 3-5 lakh houses every month," said Puri. The government has estimated total housing shortage at 1.2 crore.

The government has so far sanctioned construction of 47.5 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). Of this, 27 lakh houses have been grounded, while construction of 8 lakh houses has been completed, Puri said.

Total investment approved in the housing scheme is ₹2.68 lakh crore, of which the central assistance approved is ₹73,460 crore.

More than 1.65 lakh beneficiaries have themselves availed of housing loans under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for

economically weaker sections, lower income groups and middle income groups. The interest subsidy released by central nodal agencies is ₹3,559 crore.

On achievements of the NDA government, Puri said the overall proposed investment in urban infrastructure during 2014-18 is around ₹6.86 lakh crore, much higher than ₹1.58 lakh crore proposed investment by the previous government during 2004-2014.

The government has announced 99 smart cities so far. As many as 91 cities have incorporated special purpose vehicles and 948 projects are under implementation.

According to the minister, the total

investment proposed is ₹2.03 lakh crore. The Smart Cities Mission was launched on June 25, 2015 with the objective to

strengthen urban infrastructure through application of smart solutions and give a decent quality of life to citizens.