

PM Modi Sets Tough Targets for States in 'Housing for All' Initiative

Housing for All

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New Delhi: Unhappy over the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) project to ensure housing for all by 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked states to “accord priority” to its implementation and send a detailed roadmap to the Prime Minister’s Office.

In a video conference with state chief secretaries on July 12, Modi fixed a tough target by asking states to ensure that all houses sanctioned for construction in years 2015-16 and 2016-17 are completed before the end of 2017-18, senior officials told ET.

The Centre is providing money to implementing agencies and urban local bodies through states to build ne-

arly 20 million affordable houses for the urban poor in 4,025 cities by 2022.

Since 2015 till March 2017, only 1.7 million houses have got nod from the Centre in about 2,000 cities, with central assistance of ₹27,879 crore and total investments of ₹95,660 crore, based on the proposals sent by the states.

The nod from the Centre for construction of affordable houses is dependent on the states sending a verified list of beneficiaries — a count on which many states are not up to the mark. It is not known that how many houses have been constructed so far by various states.

The prime minister has now asked states to do a weekly review of the action plan of the scheme and also fast-track the sanction of hou-

ses along with providing adequate budget in the background of the assessed demand in each state.

All states have been asked to send the roadmap to the 2022 target to the PMO so that the same can be closely monitored at the level of the cabinet secretary.

The urban development ministry has also been asked to conduct a workshop of technology experts associated with housing to find ways to implement the scheme in a better way.

Private participation in the project so far has been unsatisfactory, especially as certain elements of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) — including in-situ redevelopment of slums — are completely dependent on private players. This has been a big area of concern for the government.