

DRAFT PRESS NOTE ON INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE.

- **An Independent Committee of experts consisting of advocates, academician & architect linked to issue of Slum Rehabilitation being constituted.**
- **Independent Committee to assess, investigate; recommend and guide the local residents in a way that the Scheme is implemented in a fair and just manner that would provide for addressing issue of housing in Mumbai.**

The cases of grievances of slum dwellers, whose rehabilitation is linked to the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme are growing in numbers with each passing day. Though the Scheme was formulated with the sole objective of addressing the housing shortage of the city, the magnitude and extent of the grievances points towards the opposite. Thus we are leading towards a situation where majority of the Schemes are mired with controversy, malpractices and in many cases illegalities & frauds.

This has in turn further led to the deterioration of the housing situation as due rights of the citizens are not being delivered to them. One of the major reason behind that is the absence of an independent, effective yet pro-people grievance redressal mechanism. Though the Maharashtra Slum Areas Act & Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act and other such Acts provide for redressal mechanisms but one common observation is that they have not been able to protect the rights of the citizens in most of the cases. The reasons are varied- from absence of awareness amongst slum dwellers about such mechanisms to the growing clout of builders amongst such mechanisms also. All this has also been reiterated by the Report of three member panel consisting of Justice(Retd) Suresh, Sh Tiniaker & Sh Bharat Kumar Raut before which number of slum dwellers, activist & experts made depositions last year.

In such a context, an Independent Committee of well known experts from various fields linked to the issue of SRS is being constituted to assess, investigate recommend and guide the local residents in a way that the Scheme is implemented in a fair and just manner that would provide for addressing issue of housing in Mumbai.

The Committee will be consisting of following members:

1. Sh. Chandreshekar, Architect,
2. Sh. Amita Bhita, Tata Institute of Social Sciences,
3. Pervin Iyunkar, Activist
4. Adv. Shakeel Ahmed &
5. Adv Khayyam

The work of the Committee will be:

1. To assess & identify legal & technical violations in the process of proposing, formulating & implementing of Slum Rehabilitation Scheme.
2. To give hearing to the community's view points and guide them for just and fair implementation of SRS.
3. To analyse SRS as it is being implemented and suggest amendments, regulations and alternatives where ever possible.

The Committee will be meeting regularly, every Tuesday to hear people's grievances and has been endorsed by several social organisations of the city like India Centre for Human Rights & Litigation(ICHRL), CRY, Shehar Vikas Manch, SAATHI, Nirbhey Bano Andolan and others.