

Amendments proposed to make land pooling mandatory.

With the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) facing hurdles in the execution of its land pooling policy, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said amendments to the Delhi Development Act, 1957, have been proposed to speed up its implementation.

Through the proposed amendments, pooling of land for owners who are yet to express their willingness becomes mandatory once the participation rate reaches the minimum threshold of 70%.

Also, an amendment to grant powers to the Central government to declare pooling mandatory — even if the minimum threshold of 70% is not achieved — has been proposed.

Mr. Puri made the announcement at a press meet with Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri seated beside him.

Asked whether the announcements were made in view of the municipal elections next month, Mr. Puri said the preparations, including stakeholder consultations, had been going on since last year.

According to the land pooling policy, 70% contiguous land in a sector is required to attain eligibility for the formation of a landowners' consortium. While the participation of owners has crossed 70% in various sectors, contiguity is yet to be achieved, leading to no development since the policy was notified in 2013.

“This [amendment] will speed up the process because the remaining unpooled land will become part of the scheme. It will also eliminate the problem we face with the contiguity of land,” said a senior DDA official.



Conditional Notices

Meanwhile, DDA is looking to issue conditional notices for the formation of consortiums till the time the amendments are approved. “Keeping in view that the proposed amendments will have to follow the due legislative process, which will take time, a second strategy has also been worked out. It has been decided that DDA will issue conditional notice for formation of consortium for the eligible sectors (where 70% land is pooled), stating that the consortium would ensure proper contiguity of all the partially participated khasras at the time of filing the implementation plan,” a press note stated. At present, 104 villages have been identified for land pooling. A total of 16 high-priority sectors in zones L, N and P-II have been identified by DDA, citing a robust rate of participation.

Expected Question (Prelims Exams)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding land pooling.

1. It is developing/designing infrastructures on parcel of lands by government agencies.
2. The entire parcel of land after development is returned to the original owner to execute various projects.

which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Expected Question (Mains Exams)

Q. What is land pooling? Discuss the various benefits and challenges associated with it.

(250 Words)

Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC main examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.