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## **Housing scheme for urban poor launched**

Staff Correspondent

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*in Bangalore*

*Two lakh sites to be allocated to houseless families this year*

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DHARWAD: Minister for Housing Katta Subramanya Naidu on Thursday launched the “Namma Mane” housing scheme for urban poor one year after it was announced in the State budget.

The first beneficiaries of the scheme were the 262 families of Attikolla slum who were shifted to facilitate a railway project. All the families have been reallocated housing sites at Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority's Lakamanahalli layout. Mr. Naidu distributed the title deeds to the beneficiaries on the occasion.

In his address Mr. Naidu said under this scheme, low interest loan of Rs. 1 lakh would be provided. The beneficiaries had to contribute Rs. 25,000 (Rs 30,000 for sites in black soil area). The government would allot 2 lakh sites to the houseless families this year. A sum of Rs. 75 crore had been released to the district administration to buy land and develop sites and the process of buying lands was completed in some districts. A survey was under progress to get fresh data of houseless and site families. In Bangalore, 250 new areas would be notified as slums, he said.

The Government had issues orders to allot 1.5 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojna.

The grants per unit had been increased to Rs. 63, 500 from Rs 40,000.

The Karnataka Housing Board would allot one lakh sites in city urban areas this year and allotment of 20,000 housing sites would be done by October and the remaining sites would allotted by March, he said.

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Jagdish Shettar said it had been decided to build block of three houses owing to shortage of lands.

He said the land owners of private slums need not be paid compensation as it was found that the land owners had taken money from the poor without any records.

Deputy Commissioner Darpan Jain said the scheme would soon be extended to Hubli and other towns of the district.

In Lakamanahalli, the houses would be built by Nirmithi Kendra. Syndicate Bank extended financial assistance for the scheme, he said. Kundagol MLA S.I. Chikkanagowdar, MLC Basavaraj Horatti, Mayor Venkatesh Mestri and others were present.