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Plan to make State slum-free by 2014

HYDERABAD: In a bid to make the State free of slums by the end of 2014, the State Government is doing a vigorous exercise to devise a comprehensive plan to make the goal a reality.

The plan would be out in August, Secretary to Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ministry, Pushpa Subrahmanyam said.

Data is being collected from all the municipalities in the State and inputs for the plan would be finalised soon, she said.

``President Pratibha Patil in her address to the Lok Sabha said that the UPA Government

would take up a programme called - Slum-Free India by 2014.

The Central Government has been working on this programme and the details would be announced soon,” the MA&UD secretary informed.

Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy also announced three months back that he want to see a slum-free State by 2014. The Central Government’s announcement came in handy for him and the State Government is now waiting for the modalities of the Slum-Free India programme, she said.

According to MA&UD officials there are about

7,700 slums in the 124 municipalities of the State. About two crore people are living in them with no basic facilities. Most of the slums lack drinking water, roads, sanitation and more than ten people live in about a 50-square yard 'house'.

The Central Government has already been implementing an urban poor housing programme under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and another scheme Rajiv Awas Yojana is also on the anvil, the officials said.