## 516 Lutyens' bungalows to be rebuilt

At least 516 bungalows in the prime Lutyens' zone of Delhi, built almost 90 years ago, are proposed to be dismantled and rebuilt with modern specifications like earthquake resistance at an estimated cost of Rs.3,000 crore.

According to a plan firmed up by the Urban Development Ministry, the bungalows which house Ministers, judges and top officials of the government will be razed and rebuilt in a phased manner over a period of 20 years.

The reconstruction work on 29 bungalows will be taken up in the first phase as they have been identified as structurally unsafe. The rest 487 bungalows will be taken up later.

"We have moved the proposal to the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for redevelopment of total 516 Lutyens' bungalows in the Capital. After the clearance from the EFC, the proposal will go to the Cabinet for its approval," said a senior Urban Development Ministry official.

Written by Administrator Tuesday, 07 January 2014 06:16 -

The EFC is chaired by Expenditure Secretary and other members of the committee including Urban Development Secretary and a Member of the Planning Commission among others.

According to the estimate, redevelopment work on each bungalow will cost about Rs.2.7 crore. The new bungalows will be constructed as per the new specifications using new building materials and earthquake resistant technology.

All the bungalows to be erased and reconstructed are in type VII and VIII categories and currently being occupied by Union Ministers, judges and senior bureaucrats. These bungalows were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s.

"While most of these old bungalows have outlived their utility, some are being identified as structurally unsafe and requires major repair," he said. – PTI

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