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Tamil Nadu CM Palaniswami seeks special package for rehab of slum dwellers in Chennai

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CHENNAI: The State government has requested the Centre to provide a special package, on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis, to rehabilitate slum-dwellers in Chennai.

The request figured in the memorandum Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami presented to Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Poverty Alleviation Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday. The memorandum sought the support of the Central government for several urban development related issues.

“I request a special package under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing For All) mission to construct 1 lakh multi-storeyed flats over a period of four years at a total cost of Rs 10,000 crore,” the Chief Minister said.

Several other issues were highlighted in the memorandum, including securing financial assistance for a proposed 400 million litre per day (MLD) desalination plant, costing Rs 5312 crore, in Chennai. The Centre was requested to help secure project funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Ministry of Urban Development was also urged to approve smart city proposals for six cities, viz, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Erode, Tiruppur and Dindigul.

The CM also appealed for the inclusion of Tamil Nadu co-operative federation as an implementing agency for the credit linked subsidy scheme under the Housing for All mission. Since the federation had vast reach among urban poor, its inclusion would help in effective implementation of the mission.