

Regarding problems faced by residents of Army Welfare Housing Organisation, Kochi

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter not just related to my constituency but to the entire country. The Indian Army is the pride of our nation. Army officers and soldiers in spite of the extreme weather conditions, work tirelessly to protect our country. Most of them invest their entire life savings into their dream homes. The Army Welfare Housing Organization is one of the biggest scams our country has ever seen.

I seek to bring the attention of the esteemed House to an ongoing crisis faced by the residents of the AWHO Chander Kunj Army Towers in Vytilla, Kochi due to faulty construction which has led to a decision of demolition and reconstruction. A High Court-appointed district committee headed by the District Collector, Ernakulum has confirmed that the Rs. 175 crore proposal by the AWHO only accounts for the demolition and reconstruction of two towers. Without paying all the expenses arising out of the irresponsible and corrupt activities which led to this situation, the rent for the flat owners of Tower-IIB and C has not been included, creating serious financial distress for them.

Additionally, the expenses for transportation from the existing flats as well as compensation for the interior modifications made by the residents remain unaccounted for.

My demand is this. I urge the Government of India to take proper action, that is, a CBI inquiry into the scam. Whoever is part of the scam, which led to demolition of these flats, should be taken into account. This is not just in my constituency, this is also in Pune Jai Jawan Awas Yojana, in Chennai 852 flats whose ownership is not transferred, in Coimbatore 484 flats, and in Yelahanka, Bengaluru 28 flats. A CBI inquiry should happen. Additionally, the amount incurred as expenses should be given. No extra charge should be incurred by these flat owners. There are 208 families whose life and livelihood is lost. They should be taken into account. Proper compensation should be given and flats should be handed over.

Thank you.

