

On day 2, Kathputli Colony rehab picks up pace

Sayantn Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: On Day 2 of DDA's drive to shift residents of Kathputli Colony to the transit camp at Anand Parbat, over 200 families registered for the rehabilitation scheme on Tuesday. Unlike Monday, DDA officials didn't face much opposition from residents, as the land-owning authority came prepared with more teams and was able to convince people to shift to the transit camp.

DDA officials visited each house and spoke to individual families at length, clearing all their doubts over the demolition slips. DDA also made arrangements to assist people in shifting their luggage from the colony to the transit camp. "It has become difficult to live here as the government is not providing any basic services, ever since DDA moved a few families to the transit camp. I think it is better if we move and give them chance to construct new houses." Naina Devi, a domestic help, said. "On Monday night, DDA officials visited our house and promised that we would get a flat," she said.

Nearly five companies of paramilitary



Anindya Chattopadhyay

DISPLACED: DDA officials visited each house and spoke to individual families at length

forces have been deployed at Kathputli Colony, along with nearly 500 police personnel. While a large number of people willingly registered for the redevelopment scheme, a few, however, complained of forced

registry. "The DDA staff entered my house with 50 policemen standing outside. I was so scared that I agreed to vacate my house," said Pradeep Bhat, a street magician, who didn't register his name for the

scheme. He complained about the officials' conduct to Dillip Bhat, a senior leader of the colony, in front of the TOI reporter.

DDA officials, though, said they got more people to register after they had assured the residents that DDA would be a part of the process even after the new housing project came up in the colony.

The residents, however, have their own concerns about the whole project, whether the promised flats would be delivered on time, the cut-off date for eligibility of ownership of the new flats, the maintenance of the new building, etc.

R P Singh, the former BJP MLA from the area, said: "DDA has to make the whole process transparent. People should know who will take care of the maintenance after the flats are handed over to them and who would check the quality of construction." J P Aggarwal, principal commissioner (housing and land disposal) of DDA, said: "We will monitor the quality of construction; as for the needs of specific group or individuals, DDA will look into it at the time of the allotment of flats."