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LIVEL

Govt moots new version of Akrama-Sakrama scheme

Considers Plan To Regularise 75k Illegal Buildings

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his cabinet, in their first meeting after their resounding victory in the by-elections, have decided to bring back the controversial Akrama-Sakrama scheme, albeit in a different format and under a new name. This time the scheme will be restricted to only BDA and BDA-approved layouts.

POLITICS & POLICY

The government plans to regularise about 75,000 unauthorised constructions spread across 5,000 acres in Bengaluru. The cabinet decided to constitute a sub-committee headed by deputy chief minister CN Ashwath Narayan to look into modalities and draw up details of a fresh scheme.

Others on the panel are ministers from Bengaluru, including revenue minister R Ashoka, education minister S Suresh Kumar and housing minister V Somanna.

The violations include deviation of building bylaws,



“The two laws of Akrama-Sakrama and what we are proposing are completely different. While the earlier scheme speaks of regularising construction, we are talking of reclaiming land which the government has lost”
CN Ashwath Narayan
DEPUTY CM

BDA can now raise funds for PRR project

The cabinet has granted permission to the BDA to raise funds from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) between Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road. The Rs 5,616.4-crore project, comprising 66.5km, will be carried out in three phases – Tumakuru Road-Bellary Road, Bellary Road-Old Madras Road and Old Madras Road-Hosur Road. The government will contribute Rs 901.7-cr for the project besides 1,810 acres of land.

construction without plan approval and others,” law and parliamentary affairs minister JC Madhuswamy told reporters. He said the new scheme would be introduced after bringing in required amendments to existing laws, including the BDA Act, 1976.

Plan to revive Dakshina Pinakini

The cabinet permitted a trust formed by a consortium of private companies to prepare a DPR to rejuvenate Dakshina Pinakini river that originates in Nandi Hills. The trust includes non-governmental organisations including the Azim Premji Foundation, Tata Foundation and Infosys Foundation. The project is estimated to cost Rs 2,600 crore, including Rs 500 crore CSR fund.

The Akrama-Sakrama scheme was put on the backburner for several reasons, including legal issues. It was first introduced by the Janata Dal government in 1996 and successive governments have tried to implement the scheme in different forms. However, it

got caught up in legal tangles and the Supreme Court eventually stayed the scheme.

While the government refuses to admit the proposal is another form of Akrama-Sakrama, implementing it would mean the same.

“It is impractical to demolish unauthorised constructions considering their numbers and location,” Somanna said. “Since owners are not even paying taxes, the government will regularise the buildings and bring them under the tax bracket. It will be a win-win situation for both owners and the government.”

He said the panel will take into account the old scheme (Akrama-Sakrama) and new violations. Somanna said the sub-committee will work out the details including the penalty to be imposed.

Legal issues

Domain experts, however, said the government cannot launch a new scheme since existing schemes have been challenged in court.

“How can the government propose a new scheme when the very legislation (Akrama-Sakrama) has been stayed by the apex court? If it wants to go ahead with its plans even before the court decides on the dispute, then the new scheme will face a similar fate as that of the old legislation,” said senior advocate Sajjan Gowdaiah.