

Overview of the Odisha Urban Housing Mission

Finding a house in an urban space is an arduous task, to begin with. Let alone owning one. In order to create an effective and efficient institutional mechanism to meet the housing objectives of the state, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) is being implemented in the state by AWAAS (Odisha Urban Housing Mission). This Mission was launched by the Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha on 11th October 2015 and has been successfully tackling housing disparities across the state.

Scope

With the aim of providing 'Housing for All' by March 2022, the mission had integrated components such as Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) and In-situ Slum Rehabilitation (ISSR) across 114 ULBs. In 2022-23, over 1.3 lakh houses were constructed across Odisha at the cost of 470 crores.





Key Features of the Mission

- **Beneficiary-led Construction**

In a move to enable those who want to construct a house of their own, eligible economically weaker section (EWS) category families with land titles wanting to build or upgrade their houses have been granted a subsidy of up to 2 lakhs.

- **Affordable housing in Partnership**

The mission is being implemented in collaboration with the private sector and parastatal agencies and this has led to the joint contribution of up to 1.5 lakhs per house of those belonging to economically Weaker sections. Of the houses constructed under the mission, 35 per cent of houses have been granted to the EWS categories.

- **In-situ slum Redevelopment**

Upon receiving land title under the JAGA Mission, beneficiaries have been granted houses under PMAY (U). the eligible lot among them has been given a grant of INR 30,000 to rebuild their homes. This move has been aimed at slum rehabilitation and redevelopment. Under affordable housing programs and in-situ slum redevelopment programs, a total of 27,280 houses have been sanctioned out of which 7,200 are grounded for construction. So far, 2,798.85 lakhs have been efficiently utilised towards the redevelopment of slums.

- **Web-based House Allotment System Application**

Economic Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG) can now apply for houses through the House Allotment System (HAS) webpage. The web page has so far helped 1,500 beneficiaries who signed up, of which 62 have registered. A 24*7 helpline has also been functioning to assist with the house allotment system.

- **Third-Party Quality Monitoring (TPQM)**

MoHUA has been notified of the necessity of 2nd installment based on the report collated on 388 projects by TPQM. To date, 2225 reports have been submitted and approved by the MoHUA.

- **Capacity Building Activities**

A State level meeting was held with 72 city-level technical cell professionals so as to understand and collect opinions on how to expand the implementation of PMAY (U). Apart from this, a total of 55 engineers from 17 ULBs participated in the training which aimed to discuss on Low - Cost and Disaster Resilience Housing Techniques for Civil Engineers. Among the ULBs that participated, four have been mandated to construct demo houses as per the techniques discussed at the training.

- **Social Auditing By Engaging An Independent Facilitating Agency**

The implementation of the program did not stop at the construction of houses. It has been extended to social auditing where the quality of life has been assessed in 31 ULBs between 2018 and 2021. A total of 10,260 Beneficiaries from 36 projects were a part of the audit process. The recommendation on housing will be shared with appropriate officials for necessary action.

- **Completion Drive**

A three-month-long “Completion Drive” was held at the Beneficiary-led Construction Level which had a larger number of houses yet to be completed. This had a great impact on the program and led to the completion of 1 lakh BLC houses within a short time frame.



Plan ahead

During 2023-24, a total of 31,000 houses will be built adding to a cumulative sum of 1,37,086 houses. The conversion of 17,920 dwelling units is expected to take place during the same tenure. The provisions of the JAGA Mission were converged for the completion of 1,115 BLC PMAY houses in New Habit.



Recognition and awards

The noble cause of constructing homes by the Odisha Urban House Mission has been awarded the PMAY - U Award 2021 for ‘Best Policy Initiatives by State’ under Special Category. The PMAY Awards - 2021 included the Best House Construction category and was bagged by Choudwar Municipality and the NACs of Kashinagar and Dhamnagar.