

ಪ್ರತಿಪದ ಅಂಶಗಳು/143

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(17) BDA

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# 10 BDA officials under lens in ₹140cr site scam

## Beneficiaries' List Forged To Favour Land Grabbers

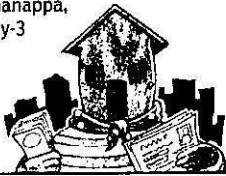
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**Bengaluru:** Six years ago, when a few huts were destroyed in a Hosakerehalli slum in Banashankari III Stage, the government decided to rehabilitate the displaced families by allotting them sites. Cut to the present: The gesture was exploited by vested interests and has now turned into a Rs 140-crore site allotment scam.

Ten officials in Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), who allotted sites to ineligible persons and land-grabbers instead of giving them to families which lost their homes, have come under the scanner. Preliminary reports suggest these officials had prepared a list of 564 beneficiaries, while in reality hardly 40 families

### THOSE WHO GOT SHOWCAUSE NOTICES

**B**haskar, then deputy secretary-3 (currently commissioner of Chikkaballapura Urban Development Authority); Anil Kumar, then deputy secretary-3 (currently land acquisition officer, KIADB); B Sudha, then deputy secretary-1 (currently administrator in department of IT-BT and S&T); V Mahadevamma, supervisor, deputy secretary-3; Muni Bacchegowda, retired second division assistant, deputy secretary-3; MV Kamala, supervisor, deputy secretary-3 (currently under suspension); Sanjay Kumar, subject manager, deputy secretary-1; Venkataramanappa, second division assistant, deputy secretary-3 (currently under suspension); Ashwathnarayana, supervisor, deputy secretary-1; KM Ravishankar, then supervisor, deputy secretary-1 (currently revenue wing – north), BDA



were to be rehabilitated. BDA commissioner HR Mahadev has issued show-cause notices to the 10 officials, including three Karnataka Administrative Service officers. **TOI** has copies of the notices.

Mahadev said the civic body was in the process of filing an FIR against the officials. On their involvement, he said: "A few of them have allotted sites to ineligible people and, in some cases, they have registered the sites without even collecting any money. In some instances, the officials have allotted multiple sites to

the same individual. These are gross violations and they caused huge financial losses to the exchequer." BDA will also file cases against those who got sites allotted by colluding with the officials.

The scam came to light recently when a BDA vigilance team raided a production house on Cunningham Road and found documents pertaining to 60 sites. The documents had been allegedly taken away from the BDA office and were being readied to be sold to site buyers at high prices. During investigation, it was found that the 10 officials were part

## ED attaches assets worth ₹8.4cr of Ajmera Groups in Ponzi scheme case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The Enforment Directorate has attached assets of Ajmera Groups, its partners and others worth Rs 8.4 crore in connection with a Ponzi scheme.

Two immovable properties (an agricultural land and a residential plot) and 14 movable properties (13 bank accounts and one Demat account) have been attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act-2002.

The ED is now probing a case that was originally registered by Jayanagar police under several sections of In-

dian Penal Code Price, Chits and Money Circulating Banning Act, Karnataka Money Lenders Act and Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act.

Allegations were levelled against Ajmera Group's members Tabrez Pasha, Abdul Dastagir, Tabrez Ulla Shariff, Syed Mudasir, Syed Muthahir and Fairoz Khan for illegally collecting Rs 34.6 crore from 1,148 depositors and failing to return Rs 29.1 crore. The firm illegally collected deposits amounting to Rs 256 crore from various persons by luring gullible inves-

tors with a promise of higher rate of interest (up to 20% per month). "Such high rates of interest were not possible in any prudent way and the accused failed to return Rs 29.1 crore to the depositors. The illegally collected amount was deposited in banks. This amount was embezzled and transferred to various unrelated accounts of Ajmera Groups or depositors," the ED stated.

This amount was further invested in immovable and movable properties. Assets totalling to Rs 8.41 crore were held in the name of Ajmera Groups, it added.

of a cartel that was allotting sites in the name of the Hosakerehalli families.

Sources said a resolution had been passed by BDA in 2018 to provide land to displaced families of the Hosakerehalli slum. Instead of giving sites to the actual

beneficiaries, the officials were changing records and allotting premium sites to others for a price. There is a pattern to the scam, sources said and added: "The officials would keep increasing the number of beneficiaries every time the BDA commis-

sioner would be transferred and get approval for the updated list from the new commissioner. As every document looked genuine, no one questioned their authenticity and in some cases, it was done without the knowledge of BDA bigwigs."