

Odisha cabinet approves ordinances to ensure land and property rights to slum dwellers

Times of India, Aug 8, 2017, 04:46 PM IST



BHUBANESWAR: With an eye on the forthcoming urban polls due in September, next year, the state cabinet on Tuesday approved promulgation two ordinances to provide land and property rights to the economic weaker sections (EWS) living in towns and cities.

The Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Ordinance, 2017 guarantees land rights to the urban poor households in municipalities and notified area councils (NACs) while the EWS in five municipal corporations would get property rights of the dwelling unit under the Odisha Municipal Corporation (amendment) Ordinance, 2017.

Announcing it here, chief minister Naveen Patnaik said it has been the persistent effort of the state government to bring about growth that is inclusive and empowering. He also called the cabinet decision a landmark step in setting a benchmark for the entire country.

"Today, we had a cabinet for the people who are the lifeline of our cities and towns. They are the silent ones who keep our homes secure and comfortable. It is because of their sacrifice and hard work that the kitchens run, the gardens bloom, the city breathes and we feel secure," Naveen added.

Around 2 to 3 lakh households residing for a long time in around 3000 slums across 62 NACs, 45 municipalities and 5 corporations are likely to benefit due to the decisions.

A committee led by district collectors would identify the beneficiaries in case of municipality and NACs while beneficiaries in corporations will be identified by a panel headed by municipal commissioners after notification of the ordinances in the official gazette.

Both land rights (in municipalities and NACs) and property rights (in corporations) will be settled with landless slum dwellers on dates determined by the state government while framing rules of the ordinance.