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Squatters no hurdle in low cost housing plan

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Aug. 10: The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is going ahead with its rental housing project, irrespective of the hurdles that are coming its way to create low cost tenements for the weaker sections of the society.

However, huge tracts of lands that are now open for the MMRDA for its rental housing project have either been encroached upon or are under litigation.

Despite the problems surrounding the land, the MMRDA remains unconcerned.

"Our rental housing project will not be getting affected in any manner due to the litigation, disputes and encroachments on the land acquired under the Urban Land Ceiling Regulation Act (ULCRA)," said Mr Milind Mhaiskar, additional metropolitan commissioner, MMRDA.

The MMRDA's opinion is that the project of rental housing will go on as per the schedule because they consider to be surplus for them.

Mr Mhaiskar added, "As



ULCRA was scrapped to overcome space crunch woes in the city

per our initial plans, the developers will construct and give us the tenements which will be given out as rental housing by us, we will not be spending anything on that. After the ULCRA was repealed, even these lands came to us. Thus, it is bonus to us."

The MMRDA had not planned the project keeping in mind the ULCRA plots.

A study conducted on the plots that have been deregulated

mmrda project

due to repeal of ULCRA has pointed out that large swathes of land have been encroached upon or are under litigation

This has been a cause of worry for the government that is of the opinion that the repeal of the long-standing land law would solve the space crunch issue in the city.

As per the plans of the MMRDA, self-contained homes with an area of 160 sq ft will be developed by the interested parties on MMRDA land and then handed to the MMRDA. The rentals of these houses will be as low as Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,500 per month.

The project which would create an estimated five lakh tenements over a period of five years, is under the Slum Prevention Programme.