

CM releases list of AIADMK allotments

Seeks To Counter Heat Over Plot Largesse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: In the wake of media reports about misuse of government's discretionary quota (GDQ) to dole out prime plots owned by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) to several judges, legislators and bureaucrats in recent years, chief minister M Karunanidhi on Thursday released the list of beneficiaries who had received plots under the GDQ during the erstwhile AIADMK government.

He said the AIADMK government too had given residential plots in Chennai in the names of wives and children of prominent politicians and IAS and IPS officials. The revelation is shocking as one of the allottees, Bhanumathi, wife of former AIADMK minister M Thambidurai, was given seven grounds of prime land (each ground is 2,400 sq ft) at upmarket Anna Nagar in 1993 during Jayalalithaa's first tenure as CM.

The housing board had earlier revealed to TOI that from 2001 to 2006, when the AIADMK was in power, 1,500 units (plots and apartments) were released by the housing board under the GDQ. The board's reaction was in response to a series of reports about misuse of GDQ by the administration that appeared in TOI this week.

The beneficiaries included several people working in the CM's office. Many among them had received housing board plots by giving false declarations that they did not own a house or housing

plots in urban centres at the time of allotment. The list Karunanidhi released on Thursday has several prominent beneficiaries. It includes AIADMK labour union, which was given three grounds in Anna Nagar in 1993. D Natarajan, who was deputy secretary to the then CM, was given 6,784 sq ft at Tiruvanmiyur in 1994.

N Narayanan, who later became chief secretary in 2005, was given 4,115 sq ft land in the city way back in 1993. Former minister and AIADMK propaganda secretary K A Sengottaiyan's son Kartheesan was allotted 4,535 sq ft land at Besant Nagar in 1995. Another former minister Nagoor Meeran's wife Noor Jameela was given 2,559 sq ft land at Kottivakkam in 1993. Former housing minister S M Velusamy's wife Bhanumathi was allotted a house in Coimbatore in 1993. Erstwhile South Chennai district secretary of AIADMK, Adhi Rajaram, was given 3,101 sq ft land in Chennai in 1995.

Senior IPS officials who benefited from the then government's largesse include retired DGP Walter I Dawaram, CISF DG K Vijay Kumar and director of fire and rescue services, R Nataraj. Each one of them was given a 4,800 sq ft plot in the fast developing Sholinganallur area, on Old Mahabalipuram Road, in 2004.

Justice SR Singaravelu was given two plots at Sholinganallur in 2005. Bhoopathi, late M G Ramachandran's driver, got 3,600 sq ft.