

Govt frames SOPs for acquiring land

Norms To Make Process Transparent

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: A standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been prepared for govt agencies and departments that need to acquire private land to implement projects of public interest.

It will be followed while acquiring land under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act or through mutual agreement.

The 14-point procedure has been prepared to bring in more transparency for all stakeholders and spell out the rights of the landowner who stands to part with his/

her land parcel. The need for specific guidelines was felt following a recent observation by the Allahabad high court that it was seeing rise in cases where, after obtaining the sale deed, the title of the person from whom the land is purchased is being doubted and compensation is not being awarded.

Chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh on Monday issued the fresh SOPs to make the process transparent and directed all the housing development authorities to abide by them. Singh made it clear that all the notices concerning land acquisition would have to be printed in at least two widely read local newspapers to provide 10-day time to people getting impacted to file their objections, suggestions, and representations.

Revenue officials were

directed to make sure they go through the chain of title to track the rightful owner who needs to be paid the compensation amount as per the due procedure before the sale deed is executed.

Officials cited a case wherein the National Highways Authority of India had approached the local administration to acquire land for a proposed highway project between eastern UP and Bihar.

Though money had been paid to the revenue department, the compensation was not awarded to the petitioner Radheyshyam Ram even after the sale deed was executed. Officials were directed to get the land surveyed in advance to demarcate the exact area that was required to avoid disputes between the landowner and administration later.