

Mega road to flatten homes

HOUSES ON DEATH ROW Gurgaon body says homes falling in new expressway area to fall

Sanjeev K. Ahuja
■ skahuja13@gmail.com

GURGAON: Hundreds of residents in New Palam Vihar and other areas may become homeless.

The Town & Country Planning department has refused to grant relief to those whose houses face demolition threat for coming within the alignment of the proposed 16-km-long Northern Peripheral Expressway (NPE) connecting Dwarka and Gurgaon Expressway.

With this, the department has paved the way for construction of the 150-metre-wide expressway, work on which had been stalled for quite some time as the affected people had moved the court.

The NPE was planned in the Gurgaon Master Plan 2021 and would be the widest expressway in NCR with 30 metres of green belt alongside.

A number of private developers have acquired licences from the Haryana government to develop townships all long



■ Many such houses in New Palam Vihar and other areas that fall within the alignment of a new expressway connecting Dwarka and Gurgaon are in line for demolition.

HT PHOTOS

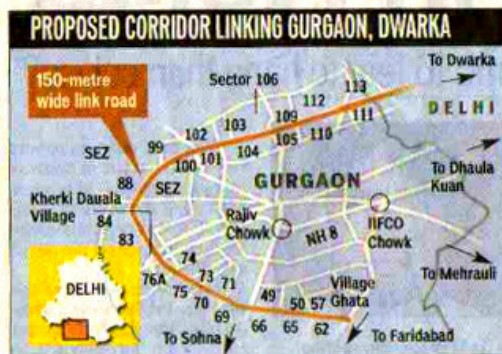
this expressway that would connect the proposed Southern Peripheral Expressway (SPE) on the other side of the Gurgaon Expressway. The six-lane SPE would connect Gurgaon Expressway with Faridabad Road and MG Road.

In a recent order, D.S. Dhese, financial commissioner and principal secretary, TCP, turned

down the demand of the affected residents to change the alignment of the NPE, saying this project was "crucial" for the future development of Gurgaon.

The expressway meanders through New Palam Vihar where thousands of houses have been constructed.

About 400 built up houses have come in the line of the



alignment and would have to be demolished for constructing the corridor.

TCP officials said New Palam Vihar was an unauthorised colony that had been developed by a group of people and property dealers without acquiring the necessary permission from the department.

However, affected residents claimed that the Haryana government had turned down their request to change the

alignment of the project for the benefit of the private developers who had acquired licences from TCP to develop townships along this proposed expressway.

Dhese passed the order after hearing the objections filed by the affected residents and the owners of the industrial units situated on the alignment of this proposed expressway.

Dhese had awarded the opportunity of filing fresh objec-

tions in April on the direction of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

"Keeping in view the fact that livelihood of several families who are currently staying in the houses coming within the alignment of this expressway gets affected, the oustees (the property owners whose land or houses would be acquired) shall be entitled for allotment of HUDA plots under the rehabilitation by the state government," Dhese wrote in his order.

Devashish Chakaravarti, an affected resident whose house also faces demolition, alleged that the alignment of the project could have been changed by the government but it was not done to benefit the developers' lobby who had planned several townships along this road.

P. Mahesh, another affected resident said, "Middle-class people had taken loans to buy land and construct houses in New Palam Vihar. What happens to them?"