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'Consent from owners not required for Jewar land'

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Noida: The acquisition of land for the proposed airport at Jewar is based on a premise which allows the government to go ahead with its plan without taking consent of villagers whose plots have been earmarked, officials at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) said.

The claim comes at a time landowners have refused to part with their plots unless they are paid four times the current circle rate. The district administration held meetings between July 16 and 26 in eight villages — Ramner, Ranehra, Banwariwas, Mu-



Prem Bishi

Section 2(1) of the Land Acquisition Act does not make it mandatory on the part of the government to take consent from villagers

kimpur-Siwara, Parohi, Kishorpur, Dayanatpur, and Rohi — where land has been

identified. The meetings had, however, been held to take the consent of villagers

and officials had been offered twice the circle rate, which the landlosers had declined.

A few weeks later, some of the YEIDA officials have pointed out that the project report that had been submitted mentioned that land for the airport is supposed to be acquired under Section 2(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, which does not make it mandatory to take the consent of villagers.

Last week, farmers had met chief minister Yogi Adityanath over the compensation offered to them, and were told to give up their protest for a higher rate and resolve the issue as early as possible. No YEIDA official would go

on record about the project report, but merely said that land was to be acquired under Section 2(1) of the Act.

According to the section, the government need not take the consent of landowners for projects such as industrial corridors, national investment and manufacturing zones, government-aided educational and research schemes or institutions, transportation or space programmes or any infrastructure facility which is notified by the Centre after tabling it in Parliament.

However, Section 2 (2) of the Act says that consent is necessary if the land is acquired and handed over to private companies for imple-

menting the projects. It further mentions that in case of public-private partnership projects, prior consent of at least 70% of those affected by land acquisition is required.

The project proposal for the Jewar airport was made under Section 2(1) of the Act, the officials said. They said talks were underway to find a solution to the acquisition process and deliberations hadn't reached a stage to make any official comment.

Tejvir, the pradhan of Kishorpur village, backed the farmers' demand for a four-time compensation. "The administration held meetings with villagers but could not reach a conclusion," he said.