

CREDAI appeals to FM for industry tag

M Raghuram • MANGALORE

Following the finance minister's convention to make housing affordable for common men, the forthcoming budget is likely to be keenly followed by those in the business of real estate.

Key players in the business have submitted an appeal to the FM, requesting the ministry to give the industry tag to the real estate and construction business.

According to Confederation of Real Estate and Developers Association of India (CREDAI) vice-president PMA Kazak, "if the tag is given, our operating cost and time taken to secure clearance of projects will come down drastically. It will no doubt benefit us. It will also be affordable for us to pass on the benefits to the customers."

Kazak told DNA that CREDAI, in its appeal to the FM, gave several reasons as to why the tag was important not

just for people in the business but also to a large section of people indirectly employed in the business.

"There is steel, cement, wood, ceramics, and above all, labour inputs in the field of construction. We are undoubtedly the largest provider of employment. The tag will also afford us faster clearance through single window and other bureaucratic channels. Ideally, clearance of projects should not take more than 30-

45 days if the proposer had all his papers together. But now it takes not less than 24 to 36 months, which increases our overheads, bank charges and also the project suffers due to inflation. In western countries, the projects are cleared in seven days as they have recognised the construction field as an industry," Kazak said.

V Madhu, managing director of the Provident Housing Limited, under the Purvankara

group, who was in Mangalore to launch the project 'affordable premium apartments' in Mangalore, said, "By bringing down the cost of construction through faster clearance, we can even bring up affordable premium apartments and flats for buyers in the middle income groups. It will help the country in achieving affordable housing without government investment. All we want is the industry tag to our business."

m_raghuram@dnaindia.net