

## **Factsheet on Projects Delivered**

### Demonstrating the People-Centric Nature of India-Sri Lanka Partnership

During the official visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India Dr. S. Jaishankar to Sri Lanka on June 20, 2024, President H.E Ranil Wickremesinghe and EAM jointly handed over 106 houses under Phase-3 of the Indian Housing Project and 48 houses under Model Village Housing Project as well as commissioned the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), a nerve centre for Search and Rescue operations at sea established with an Indian grant of USD 6 mn in a virtual ceremony.

### Indian Housing Project (IHP)

This is a flagship grant-in-aid project by Government of India (GOI) in Sri Lanka, aimed at addressing housing needs of Internally Displaced Persons and plantation workers through construction and renovation of houses. A total commitment of 60,000 houses has so far been made by GOI under the project. The project is spread across four different phases.

The first three phases were undertaken in pursuance of GOI's commitment for construction of 50,000 houses in Sri Lanka in June 2010. Under Phases 1 and 2 of IHP, close to 46,000 houses were constructed in Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Phase-3 envisaged the construction of 4000 houses across 7 Districts in plantation areas of Sri Lanka, with particular emphasis on Indian Origin Tamil community. Nearing completion, around 3750 houses under this Phase have already been handed over to the beneficiaries. The last bloc of 126 houses was handed over in the previous visit of EAM to Sri Lanka in October 2023. During the ceremony today, 106 houses in 3 Estates located in Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya Districts were handed over.

In view of the tangible long-term positive impact of these houses on daily lives of plantation workers, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi committed another 10,000 houses in plantation areas, which now constitute Phase-4 of IHP. This Phase caters to a wider geographical spread, covering 6 different Provinces. Foundation Stone for Phase-4 was laid virtually by President Ranil Wickremesinghe together with Finance Minister of India Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman during the visit of the latter to Sri Lanka in November 2023. 1300 houses under Phase-4 will be completed in the first stage of Phase-4.

## **Model Village Housing Project**

The project is being implemented under the India-Sri Lanka High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) framework. Close to 65 projects have been completed under the HICDP framework and another 18 are ongoing. Besides Model Village Housing Project, GOI is implementing three other HICDP housing projects namely Gram Shakti Southern I, Gram Shakti Southern II and Gram Shakti Northern, totaling 2400 houses across Sri Lanka.

Under Model Village Housing Project, a model village consisting of 24 housing units each is being built in all 25 Districts of Sri Lanka. Overall, it thus covers 600 low-income families. Cash grant is being provided to each beneficiary in five different stages, linked to milestones in physical construction under the project.

Current physical progress of the project is over 95% and 417 out of the 600 houses have been fully completed. 216 houses across 9 model villages have already been handed over.

A total of 48 houses with a 24-house model village each in Isuruyaya Gama in Colombo and Neithal Nagar in Trincomalee were handed over virtually in the ceremony today.

## **Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)**

MRCC project setup with US\$ 6 million grant from GOI on request from Sri Lanka was formally commissioned in the virtual ceremony today. MRCC acts as the nerve centre for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations at sea.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and GOI and an Agreement between GOSL and M/s Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore for establishment of MRCC was signed on 28 March 2022. The project envisaged expanding the MRCC at Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) Headquarters in Colombo with Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) in Hambantota, as well as unmanned installations at seven sub stations at Galle, Arugam Bay, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kallarawa, Point Pedro and Mollikulam. All these sub stations are networked to both the centres using leased lines for remote operation and monitoring of radio sets. The HF transmitters are installed in Welisara and Hambantota.

The hardware for the project was delivered between September 2023 to January 2024. Installation commenced soon thereafter and was completed expeditiously in end February 2024 meeting the agreed timelines. Extensive trials were undertaken prior to the formal commissioning today. The Agreement also includes Annual maintenance contract (AMC) support for a period of five years by BEL.

The establishment of this facility is expected to greatly enhance the capability of SLN to receive and respond to distress calls from vessels operating in Sri Lanka's SAR region of responsibility including from Sri Lankan fishing boats fitted with VHF/ MF/ HF radios. The system also helps broadcast weather warnings and security information, thus mitigating danger and saving lives.

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