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## Delhi to get more land for housing

Eighty-nine villages in the city have been declared “urban” by the Delhi government, in the first step towards land pooling that will eventually allow housing to come up in what was rural land so far.

As per a gazette notification issued on Tuesday, the Urban Development Department acted on the order of Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal to convert 89 rural villages, 50 and 39 under the South Delhi Municipal Corporation and the North Delhi Municipal Corporation respectively, to urban.

The decision had been pending for about two years as the Aam Aadmi Party government demanded that it be given 10% of the land for making schools and hospitals. Land in Delhi is controlled by the Lieutenant-Governor, and by extension the Centre.

A senior AAP government official said on Wednesday that the decision to convert the villages to urban areas had been taken without the consent of the elected representatives.