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Houses for pavement dwellers by June-end

Special Correspondent

The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will provide alternative accommodation to encroachers on Muthuswami Salai and Thangai Murugappa Street before June-end.

The Board made the submission before a First Bench of the Madras High Court comprising acting Chief Justice R.K. Agrawal and Justice N. Paul Vasanthakumar. The Bench disposed of a public interest petition in this regard.

The petitioner, K.R. Ramaswamy alias 'Traffic' Ramaswamy, a social activist, asked the court for a direction to the authorities to consider his representation from September last year to rehabilitate the poor who were being neglected.

The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) filed a

counter and said if the Chennai Corporation identified hut dwellers, the Board would take appropriate action wherever necessary to provide them alternative accommodation.

The Corporation filed a report and said, 259 families had encroached on Muthuswami Salai near Raja Annamalai Mandram and 87 families had encroached on Thangai Murugappa Street (off Wall Tax Road). A petition had been filed by Mr. Ramaswamy to evict the families.

Enumeration of the families was done and a list sent to the TNSCB for providing alternative accommodation. The board's counsel said that alternative accommodation would be provided to the families before June-end.