The Empowered Committee was constituted vide an Order of MoRD dated 8th May 2013 to enable effective decision making and facilitate the implementation of Indira Awaas Yojana. The functions of the Empowered Committee are:-

1. To approve State's criteria for determination of difficult areas *
2. To decide on targets for completion of houses and for new construction.
3. To approve any alternative formula adopted by States for district wise allocation of targets.
4. To decide on reallocation of funds.
5. To sanction special projects for the 5% allocation.
6. To clear special projects for subsidy-linked schemes availing bank loans.
7. To permit cash payments temporarily in exceptional case.
8. To permit transfer of Central share by state agency in a single installment to difficult areas.
9. To approve new construction technologies proposed by State Governments which have not been approved by any technical body.
10. To review the programme, suggest studies etc.
11. To issue clarifications in matters where there are genuine difficulties in operationalising the guidelines.

*Difficult areas are those where due to reasons like low availability of material, poor connectivity and adverse geographic, climatic and geological conditions, the cost of construction goes up significantly.

The members of the Empowered Committee are as follows:-

1. Secretary (Rural Development) : Chairman
2. Special Secretary/ Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser (Rural Development)
3. Additional Secretary (Rural Development)
4. Joint Secretary (Rural Housing)
5. Adviser (Planning Commission)
6. Chairman cum Managing Director, (HUDCO)
7. Representative of Rural Housing Knowledge Network: Dr. V. M. Chariar
8. Representatives of two eminent NGOs from the field of building construction
   I. Shri Joe Madiath, Gram Vikas, Odisha
   II. Ms. Reena Zeenat Niazi, Development Alternatives, New Delhi
9. Secretary dealing with Rural Housing of the State concerned