The National Taskforce on Rural Housing and Habitat was constituted vide an Order of MoRD, dated 25th March, 2014 to take a holistic, systemic view of the rural habitat sector while imaginatively implementing programmes such as Indira Awaas Yojana. The terms of reference of the Task Force is as follows:-

1) Suggest ways to improve:-
   a. Quality of houses constructed under IAY
   b. Quality of owner participation and contribution and community engagement
   c. Quality of settlements with IAY houses
   d. Utilisation of government, community and owner resources
   e. Social and physical integration with the parent village
   f. IAY role in repair, retrofitting and extension of the existing houses
   g. IAY’s contribution to poverty alleviation by providing long term economic assets for the beneficiary families.

2) Make specific recommendations regarding convergence of IAY with other development schemes.

3) Examine issues related to accessing natural resources and material needed for rural housing.

4) Identify appropriate, immediate and cost effective local technologies; suggest ways to put in place appropriate technology transfer mechanisms.

5) Examine potential for creation of small and medium enterprises for production of components and products for housing and infrastructure creation.

6) Suggest role, organizational structure and financing arrangement for reviving Building Centres.

7) Examine current institutional models for rural housing finance and suggest modifications for greater suitability, enhanced coverage and selective scaling up.

8) Suggest ways to strengthen the role of Panchayats in IAY, land resource planning, infrastructure provision, grievance redressal, coordination and support to people’s housing actions.

9) Suggest ways to ensure accrual of maximum economic benefits of building activity to the local area and populace in terms of employment generation and habitat development.
10) Examine potential and ways of training para-professionals – barefoot architect, engineer, site supervisor,- and suggest demand and supply side interventions to enable access to professional services.

11) Suggest role of CBOs, NGOs and concerned professional in improving access to knowledge, professional services, finance, skills and other material resources.

The members of the Taskforce are as follows:-

1) Additional Secretary (RD): Chairman
2) Joint Secretary (RH): Convenor
3) Dr. P. K. Das, Consultant
4) Mr. Anand Shekhar
   Water and Sanitation Expert, Vice President NR Management Construction India (P) Ltd.
5) Mr. Kirtee Shah
   Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG) and Habitat Forum
6) Mr. V. Suressh
   Ex. CMD, HUDCO and Shelter Expert
7) Mr. B. Venkatesham
   MD, AP Housing Corporation
8) Mr Sandip Virmani
   Hunnarshala Foundation for Building Technology & Innovations
9) Principal Secretary (RD), Government of Meghalaya
10) Principal Secretary (RD), Government of Bihar
11) Prof. CVR Murthy, Director, IIT Jodhpur
12) Mr Ravi Kant Goantiya
   Chief Engineer, Chief Minister Rural Housing Mission, M.P.
13) Ms. Zeenat Niazi, Senior Programmer, Development Alternatives
14) Mr. A. Gurunathan
15) Ms. Gayatri R. Rajesh, DGM, HUDCO
16) Mr. P. B. Sajan, Joint Director, COSTFORD
17) Ms. Santhi Kumari, COO, NRLM
18) Mr. Sudhin Choksey, Managing Director, GRUH Finance Ltd.
19) Prof. V.M. Chariar, IIT Delhi
20) Shri Joe Madiath, Gram Vikas, Odisha