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## Punjab Approves Free Flats, New Labour Housing Projects

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The Punjab government has announced major housing initiatives aimed at improving living standards for industrial workers, including the construction of thousands of new flats across the province.

Chairing a cabinet meeting, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz declared that workers will receive flats in Labour Complex Sundar, Labour Colony Taxila, and Kasur through a transparent balloting process. She rejected a proposal that would require workers to pay for these units, instructing officials to provide the housing **free of cost**.

In addition to the current housing schemes, the chief minister directed the concerned departments to take immediate steps to **construct 3,000 new apartments** dedicated to the industrial labour force. These apartments are part of a broader initiative to enhance housing facilities for low-income workers in Punjab.

“The government will not place a financial burden on workers. Providing secure and decent housing is a basic right,” the chief minister said.

These developments reflect the provincial government’s commitment to expanding affordable housing in key industrial areas, as part of broader efforts to improve welfare and infrastructure for the labour community. The initiative is expected to ease overcrowding in existing labour colonies and provide improved living conditions for thousands of families.

The Labour Complexes and Colonies, located in key districts like Kasur and Taxila, are strategically planned near industrial zones to reduce commute times and improve the overall quality of life for workers. These areas are expected to include basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, and access to healthcare and schools.

The chief minister also emphasized the need for long-term planning in labour housing and urged the relevant authorities to ensure quality construction and timely completion of the projects. She called for transparent procedures in the balloting and allotment process to ensure fairness and accountability.

These housing efforts are part of a broader package of reforms announced during the cabinet meeting, which also included an increase in the minimum wage and new worker safety regulations. However, the **focus on labour housing** highlights a clear government priority to address the shortage of affordable accommodation for low-income earners in the province.

Experts believe this large-scale investment in worker housing will also benefit the real estate and construction sectors by creating new opportunities for contractors, builders, and service providers in Punjab’s growing housing market.

The initiative sets a significant precedent for future housing policies in Pakistan, particularly in public-sector-led real estate development focused on low-income communities.