

NGO to build 13,000 houses

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

Puducherry, Dec. 27: Caritas India, has proposed to construct 13,737 houses in all the tsunami-affected areas in Andaman Islands, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Pondicherry Multipurpose Social Service Society (PMSSS) executive director Mr R Ratchagar said on Tuesday. The NGO has earmarked Rs 400 crore for the purpose, he said. PMSSS is the NGO's local partner.

He was speaking at a function here to hand over 200 newly constructed houses by Caritas India to the beneficiaries in Keezhakasakudimedu village in Karaikal district of the territory in commemoration with the second year anniversary of tsunami tragedy.

"Out of 13,737 houses, 6,728 has been built in Tamil Nadu and 424 houses in Puducherry," he said and added that the PMSSS, Caritas India's local partner is engaged in building

1,122 houses in Devanampattinam and Puducherry.

The Tamil Nadu governor Surjit Singh Barnala has handed over 648 houses in Devanampattinam to the beneficiaries last March and Puducherry Lt governor Mukut Mithi handed over 200 houses in Keezhakasakudimedu at Karaikal region on Tuesday. Construction for another 224 houses at Patinacherry was yet to be taken up," he said.

PMSSS had set up early

warning systems in 20 villages at a cost of Rs 2 crore that are equipped with computers with internet access, printer and public address systems. "Weather reports, information on wind speed, heights of waves, fish findings and other necessary details are downloaded from Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services from the central office of PMSS in Puducherry. It is then translated to vernacular languages and emailed to all 20 centres daily," he said.