

200 tsunami-hit families to get new houses today

224 more such houses to be constructed in Pattinacherry

Special Correspondent

PUDUCHERRY: The Executive Director of the Pondicherry Multipurpose Social Service Society (PMSSS), Rev Fr. R. Ratchagar, said in a release here on Saturday that more than 200 tsunami-hit families would be given new houses on Tuesday in Keezhakasakudimedu in Karaikal. He said that CARITAS, an international social service organisation and a major donating partner of the housing scheme, was funding the project, under which as many as 13,737 houses were being constructed in all tsunami-hit areas in India.

He said that of them a total of

6,728 houses were in Tamil Nadu and 424 in the Union Territory. The Society would construct 224 more houses in Pattinacherry in Karaikal.

He said that CARITAS had its branches in different parts of the world and the one in India was called CARITAS India.

Referring to the activities of the PMSSS in the context of the rehabilitation in tsunami-hit areas, Mr. Ratchagar said that it had taken up the rehabilitation and relief works in 20 villages and they included nine villages in Puducherry region, three in Karaikal and eight in Cuddalore district.

The CARITAS organisation had

funded the housing schemes to the extent of Rs. 2 crore. The Executive Director of PMSSS said that it had set up an "Early Warning System" with a computer, internet, printer and public address system to disseminate weather reports downloaded from the Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.

He said that the next programme for the PMSSS was to strengthen the community by forming self-help groups.

The groups would be provided revolving fund, and in the first phase of the plan, a total of 551 self-help groups had already been formed.