

200 houses to tsunami-hit on Dec 26

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Puducherry, Dec 23: Pondicherry Multi-purpose Social Service Society (PMSSS) will hand over 200 permanent houses to the tsunami-affected families of Keezhakasakudimedu in Karaikal district on December 26, marking the second anniversary of tsunami.

Addressing a press conference, Fr Ratchagar, Executive Director, PMSSS, said that a voluntary organisation CARI-

TAS India was funding the project of 13,737 houses for tsunami-affected in India. Tamil Nadu would get 6728 houses and Puducherry 424.

PMSSS, which was constructing the houses in Puducherry and Cuddalore would also construct another 224 houses in Patinacherry, another Tsunami-affected village in Karaikal. The construction would be completed in March, he said. Each house would cost Rs 2.27 lakh, for which the people of France had

funded through Secours Catholique an amount of Rs 10,82,68,148.

PMSSS has been involved in relief and rehabilitation activities of 20 villages, namely nine villages in Puducherry, three in Karaikal and eight in Cuddalore district.

In all the 20 villages, PMSSS has set up an Early Warning System with a computer, internet, printer and public address system with four speakers on top of the building. Weather re-

ports like wind speed, height of the waves, fish findings are downloaded from Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad and translated into the vernacular language and emailed to all 20 centres. These reports reach the fishermen through the public address system. A programme was also aired through the All India Radio. The PMSSS also plans to train people to be prepared for future disasters.