**Executive Summary**

India’s population in the recent years has grown tremendously and various reports say that it will surpass china in coming decades. As the population in India has increased it has pressure on our natural resources. And hence affordable housing for all is the biggest challenge in India. Considering this housing for all has always been one of the prime agenda of Government of India. Schemes of Government are aimed for most needy people. The number of homeless people is substantially high in India and they suffer indignity and social insecurity. They live in the challenging environment and the challenging environment and often denied the basic right to shelter, food, education and healthcare facilities. The problem of homelessness in India can be due to many reasons. One of the primaries is due to lack of land and unemployment and others like natural calamity, lack of awareness of Government schemes. In Indian villages kutcha house is prominent which requires yearly maintenance and also quite structurally unsafe Homelessness and affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges in India. With increasingly rise in cost of construction in recent years it has become difficult for the people to construct their houses and even for the Government to support them financially. So there is need for some innovative technology and materials which are low cost and easy to adopt. There are various research organisation and institutes which are working in this field prominent like Building Material and Technology Promotion Council, Central Building Research Institute Roorkee. These institutions have worked in this field for creating and promoting alternate and low cost materials. Some of the alternate techniques for construction are like arc foundation, rat trap bonding in wall construction, filler slabs in roofs and prefabricated doors and windows. It has been found that when new method of rat trap bonding and filler slab were used over conventional methods then cost of construction reduced by nearly 30% which is enormous. Earlier method of construction was brick mortar and concrete technology which has not changed from decades. Concrete technology has been explained with its effect on the environment. Building material and technology promotion council has made efforts in bridge the gap between research and development and large scale application of new building material technologies.

After analysing the alternate and low cost construction material and techniques some of the recommendations about their various ways to promote are listed below:

1. Setting up of Building center in districts which would works as the nodal agency for providing training to locals masons, selling of Precasted material, consultancy to common people for construction, treatment of local material and creating awareness.
2. Providing tax incentive to promote the use of cost effective materials by Government of India.
3. Region based cost analysis of different cost effective materials and techniques so the people would have a quantitative picture in their mind about the cost and they will be able to plan more efficiently.
4. Organising seminars by BMTPC and bringing all the stakeholders like research institution, academic institutions, housing ministries, NGOs, builders and construction companies together on a single platform so that they understand each other need and discuss the trends of housing and cost effective materials.