

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1788
ANSWERED ON 7th AUGUST 2024**

Functioning of Auroville Foundation

1788 **Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the alleged malpractices in the Auroville Foundation, Pondy has come to the notice of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are allegations of irregularities in land exchange at Auroville Foundation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (d): Yes sir, this Ministry is in receipt of various representations and complaints from several quarters on various matters related to activities in Auroville. These inter-alia include alleged malpractices such as land encroachment, drug abuse and peddling, cybercrimes including data theft and data leak through servers based outside India, violation of immigration laws, circulation of black money, money laundering, raising of donations without registration under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and many more economic offences, besides irregularities in land exchanges.

Complaints dealing with alleged offences under the Information Technology Act (for cybercrimes) and Indian Penal Code (IPC) have been referred to competent agencies for investigation. Separately, representations and complaints dealing with land exchanges have been forwarded to Auroville Foundation to examine the merit of the allegations and place in the Governing Board (GB), being the Competent Authority, to recommend suitable course of action.
