

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2092

ANSWERED ON 5th AUGUST 2024

Auroville Foundation

2092. Dr. D Ravi Kumar:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaint from the residents of Auroville about the land exchange activities undertaken by the administration and the details of the steps taken by the Government to investigate the complaint;
- (b) the criteria and procedures followed by the Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO) for land exchanges, particularly those involving prime properties and small parcels;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to address the lack of transparency and consultation with key Auroville committees and stakeholders in the land exchange process, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure that all future land exchanges by the AVFO are conducted in a fair and transparent manner with the necessary approvals and stakeholder consultations; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to appoint the local member of parliament as an ex officio member of the executive council of the Auroville Foundation, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): Representations and complaints have been received from several quarters, including the residents of Auroville, on various matters related to activities in Auroville. These inter-alia include alleged offences 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.

(e): As per Section 10(3) of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, the Foundation shall consist of three authorities, namely:-

- (a) the Governing Board
- (b) the Resident's Assembly
- (c) the Auroville International Advisory Council

Appointment of members to the Governing Board and Auroville International Advisory Council is governed by Section 11 and Section 21 of the Auroville Foundation Act respectively. All appointments to these authorities are made by the Central Government in line with the provisions of the Act. Insofar as the Resident's Assembly is concerned, the authority consists of all the residents of Auroville who are for the time being entered in the register of residents maintained under Section 18 of the Act.
