

No.2-2/2019-UU
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated : 22nd October, 2019

To

Sh. Vikram Ramakrishnan
New No 30, Old No 26, 6th Main road,
Raja Annamalaipuram,
Tamil Nadu-600028

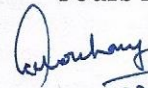
Subject:- Application seeking information under RTI Act, 2005.

Sir,

With reference to your RTI application (Registration no- DOHED/R/2019/52637 dated 23.09.2019) seeking information under RTI Act, 2005, and this Ministry's letter of even no dated 14.10.2019, please find enclosed a copy of the 28 pages report and 670 pages of additional documents as received by the Auroville Foundation.

2. If you are not satisfied with the reply, you may prefer an appeal to Shri V.K Siljo, Director (ICC) and First Appellate Authority, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001 within 30 days of the receipt of the letter.

Yours faithfully,



22/10/19

(Saroj Kumar Choudhary)

Under Secretary to the Government of India & CPD

Tel: +91- 011-2338 4442

Email: unesco.edu@nic.in

Encl as above:-

ACTION HISTORY OF RTI REQUEST No.DOHEd/R/2019/52637**Applicant Name**

Vikram Ramakrishnan

Text of Application

1) As per the reply to the First Appeal bearing no AFOUN/A/2019/60004 (attached herewith), Auroville Foundation has stated that the report of the Enquiry Committee (based on my allegations) along with the decisions of Governing Board & The Chairman has been handed over to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi. I request the esteemed office to give me a copy of the same. 2) What is the status of the report/ investigation in MHRD. 3) Name, Designation & Contact details of the officer in charge of all matters relating to this report is required. As per W.P.No.22492 of 2019 filed by me in the Madras High Court with regards to the same, the Hon Court Order cited : 11. On the aspect of serving a copy of the enquiry report to the petitioner, on the grounds inter alia that the very enquiry had commenced only on the complaint of the petitioner and therefore, he has a right to obtain a copy of the enquiry report, when attention of the learned counsel for the petitioner was invited to Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that an application would be made under the said Act, for copy of the report. Submission of the learned counsel for the petitioner is placed on record. Kindly please take note.

Reply of Application

SN.	Action Taken	Date of Action	Action Taken By	Remarks
1	RTI REQUEST RECEIVED	23/09/2019	Nodal Officer	
2	REQUEST FORWARDED TO CPIO	24/09/2019	Nodal Officer	Forwarded to CPIO(s) : (1) CPIO (ICC)
3	REQUEST TRANSFERRED TO OTHER CPIO	30/09/2019	CPIO (ICC)- (CPIO)	Transferred to CPIO(s) : (1) CPIO (UNESCO)
4	ADDITIONAL PAYMENT REQUIRED FOR INFORMATION	14/10/2019	CPIO (UNESCO)- (CPIO)	With respect to the point (1) a fee (in accordance with the Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005 @ Rs.2/- for each page) of Rs. 56) (for 28 pages report) or Rs. 1396 (for 28 pages report and 670 pages of additional documents as received by the Auroville Foundation) may be submitted. With respect to the point (2) & (3) of the information sought, the matter is under consideration with this Ministry.
5	ADDITIONAL PAYMENT RECEIVED FROM REQUESTER	15/10/2019	RTI Applicant	

Print

RTI Request & Appeal Management Information System(RTI-MIS)

HOME SEARCH ASSESSMENT UTILITY DPIO FAA LETTERS REPORTS USER MANUAL LOGOUT

ASSESSMENT OF PENDING REQUEST

Public Authority: Department of Higher Education, M/o Human Resource Development Role : CPIO User : CPIO (UNESCO)

Registration Number (संबंधीकरण संख्या) : DOHED/R/2019/52637

 View Request Details View Action History

Name (नाम): Vikram Ramakrishnan

1) As per the reply to the First Appeal bearing no AFOUN/A/2019/60004 (attached herewith), Auroville Foundation has stated that the report of the Enquiry Committee (based on my allegations) along with the decisions of Governing Board & The Chairman has been handed over to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi. I request the esteemed office to give me a copy of the same.

2) What is the status of the report/ investigation in MHRD.

Current Status(वर्तमान स्थिति) : ADDITIONAL PAYMENT RECEIVED FROM REQUESTER as on 15/10/2019

Amount Paid (राशि का भुगतान) : ₹ 1396

*Interim/Final Action(अंतरिम / अंतिम कार्रवाई) :

Search and/or select an action...

Submit

FTS-631976/2019

DR. G. SEETHARAMAN
Secretary

No. AF/ Estt./EC/363

3 September 2019

To
on low
Shri. V. K. Siljo,
Director (ICC)
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India
230 - C, Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi - 110001.

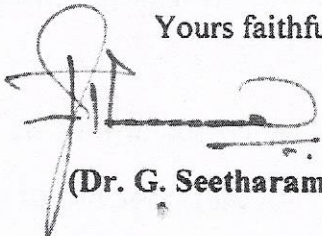
Dear Sir,

Sub.: Report of the Enquiry Committee

This is to submit the Enquiry Report with all the proceedings and enclosures has decided by the Governing Board, Auroville Foundation at the Special Meeting on 26th August, 2019 for your kind information.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt.

Yours faithfully,

5/9/19
C.O. (00)

(Dr. G. Seetharaman)

Encl.: As above

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
MINISTRY OF H.R.D. GOVT OF INDIA

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAVAN, AUROVILLE - 605 101 (T.N.)
Tel (0413) 262 2222 & 262 2414 Fax : (0413) 262 3496
E-mail: avfoundation@auroville.org.in

REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN AUROVILLE FOUNDATION TO LOOK INTO THE COMPLAINTS OF SRI VIKRAM RAMAKRISHNAN; COMPLAINTS SENT TO THE GOVERNING BOARD AND ITS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF AUROVILLE FOUNDATION AND VARIOUS AUTHORITIES IN INDIA.

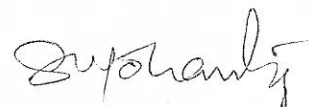
INTRODUCTION:

1. In the of light of serious allegations leveled by Sri.Vikram Ramakrishnan, (hereinafter termed as Complainant), against Auroville Foundation, Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman of Auroville Foundation vide his letter dt.29.04.2019 constituted an Enquiry Committee (here-in-after termed as Committee) consisting of the following;
 - a) Sri. Bala Bhaskar, Former Secretary, Auroville Foundation
 - b) Sri. Madabhushi Madan Gopal, IAS (Retd)
 - c) Dr. Nirima Oza
 - d) Dr. Anirban Ganguly
(b, c, d are members of the Governing Board) and
 - e) Sri. Mohan Chunkath, IAS (Retd) Convenor (Secretary, Auroville Foundation who relinquished office after completing his tenure recently)
2. The said Committee was constituted under Section 16 of the Auroville Foundation Act and the Chairman in his communication to the Secretary AF stipulated that the Report had to be submitted by 30th June, 2019. Dr. Anirban Ganguly expressed his inability to be the member of the Committee owing to his prior official engagements and therefore, the Chairman included Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty (member of Governing Board) as member of the Committee in place of Dr. Anirban Ganguly.

Dr. Anirban Ganguly

Sachidananda Mohanty

3. Accordingly, the Secretary of the Foundation who was also the Convener convened the meeting of the Committee; the Committee met on 05.06.2019 and 06.06.2019 at the Office of the Auroville Foundation, Town Hall. Sri. Bala Bhaskar could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments. As requested by the members of the Committee, Sri. Madan Gopal Madabhushi, IAS (Retd) presided over the meeting and conducted the further proceedings.
4. The Convener placed before the Committee certain documents such as;
 - (a) Summary of the applications under Right to Information Act received from Complainant on various dates such as 15.08.2018; 21.09.2018; 01.11.2018; 26.11.2018; 31.01.2019; 07.02.2019; 18.02.2019; 16.04.2019 and 04.06.2019.
 - (b) Replies furnished by Office of the Foundation under RTI along with enclosures.
 - (c) Report sent by the Secretary of the Foundation to the Secretary, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India, vide letters dt.29.10.2018 and 28.12.2018.
 - (d) Personal Report submitted by Sri. Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary to the Chairman of the Foundation vide letter dt.24.04.2019.
 - (e) Letter addressed by Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman to the Secretary, Auroville Foundation dt.30.05.2019.



5. In view of the references made by the Chairman regarding the letter sent by Complainant to the Hon'ble President of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Committee obtained the copies of the said complaints vide letters dt.20.03.2019, 19.04.2019 and 06.05.2019. After the initial discussions and also in view of the fact that Sri. Srinivasamurty (herein after termed as AO, the Accused Officer) is an official of the Auroville Foundation that functions under MHRD, Govt. of India, the Committee decided to separate the complaints into two parts viz.,

- A. Complaints against Sri. Srinivasamurty, Under Secretary and
- B. Complaints consisting of serious allegations on Auroville Foundation, Various Trusts, Groups, individual residents including on foreigners

6. In order to analyze the complaint and the documents submitted thoroughly and also to understand the various complex issues raised in proper context, the Committee invited the Complainant and AO to appear in person. In the case of Complainant an email was sent mentioning the date and time of hearing, i.e., 06.06.2019.

A Complaint against Accused Officer, reference e-mail dt.20.03.2019.

- a) The Complainant had leveled certain allegations against the AO on 20.03.2019 and with reference to the above allegations; the AO explained orally and later through a written note denied all the charges point by point. In the said reply the AO stated as per the following (allegations and point by point reply);
- b) The allegations of Complainant vide his email dated 20th March, 2019 and the responses of the AO:

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c) **Allegations:** *The Under Secretary has been in Auroville Foundation and has tactfully held the stronghold of power. He has good connections with the corrupted villagers, panchayats, tahsildars, goons, police, state and central government politicians and bureaucrats. His voice in the Center is also one Frenchman who praises Hindutva when he wants and also goes to the other government in power when he wants.*

Response: 'I have no connections with corrupted villagers, panchayats, tahsildars, goons, police etc. As part of my office work all kinds of people come and want to meet me as our office is the only place which is open on all working days and deals with most of the issues in the absence of a public grievance cell/ office.'

'I have no French voice either in Auroville or in the Center.'

d) **Allegation:** *Term of office of all members in Auroville Town Hall is 3 years, which we all agree that any place of power should have a term of office and why we follow the same. Auroville Foundation Act also stipulates a term of office. RTI no: AF/G/4-A/489 dated 28th November 2018 states that the Under Secretary has been in Town Hall since 1995. He has held the post of Finance Officer and even now signs all the audit reports. Which means he is corrupted by power and by money as well.*

Response: 'I have not been in Town Hall but have been working in Foundation Bhavan only. Holding the post of officer and signing the reports may not be appropriate to mean "corrupted by Power and Money as well.'

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e) **Allegations: Audit Report:** *Since all the time Audit Report mostly states the internal audit is inadequate, the person responsible for that is the Under Secretary.*

Response: 'Office of the Secretary Auroville Foundation, Working Committee and FAMC are responsible for internal audit not Under Secretary directly. There is no direction from the Governing Board that I am responsible for Internal Audit as such. Now the FAMC has revised the Internal Audit, which was originally initiated by the Finance Officer and continued till 2015-16. The Board advised that the Internal Audit may be replaced with the management Audit coordinated by the Working Committee.'

f) **Allegations: Land & Forgery:** *Why has a land audit report never done? RTI AF/G/4-A/355 dated 24th September 2018. Because I suspect that the Under Secretary has made a lot of forged documents, money exchanges, sale deeds and encroachments and he doesn't want it to happen as all this will come out. "78 sales deeds documents missing in the archives of Auroville" a report states. One mysterious entity called "Raman Natesan Pillai" has to be looked into as everyone knows him including the Under Secretary but in RTI no: AF/G/4-A/355 dated 24th September 2018, they have replied saying they have no records of this person since Auroville came to existence in 1991. All land encroachments have been reported to everyone via email from 2012, especially The Under Secretary was aware of all this since 1995. Why has he not taken any action?*

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Response: 'I am not in charge of land matters. Secretary is the CEO as per the Rules. Land matters have been strictly dealt with on file as per the directions of the Secretary, Chairman as the case may be from time to time. I am not aware of *one mysterious entity called "Raman Natesan Pillai"*. Land encroachments are dealt by the Land Board, FAMC and the Working Committee. Any complaints are filed with the approval of the office of the Secretary.

g) **Allegations:** *Auroville Foundation Act sec 4 (b) states : "All properties and assets as aforesaid which have vested in the Central Government under section 3 shall, by force of such vesting, be freed and discharged from any trust, obligation, mortgage, charge, lien and all other encumbrances affecting them or of any attachment, injunction, decree or order of any court or other authority restricting the use of such properties or assets in any manner or appointing any receiver in respect of the whole or any part of such properties or assets shall be deemed to have been withdrawn."* In my case where they say now mysteriously that it is not their land as per working committee report on Auroville Intranet, given to me by the good Aurovillions (attached). Please note that I have never been communicated that I have been removed from Friends of Auroville (for questioning corruption and for revealing Auroville land), I have never been communicated that the land is not their land. Please provide any postal receipt or email of the same. According to me, it's a clear cut cover up. Furthermore, my case whether Auroville Land or not, is not important for me. The Macro level mass cleaning of corruption of Auroville is necessary because that is the root cause. If the Under

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Secretary would've done his duty properly, had relevant records he would've told me then and there on 7th August 2017 that it's not their land. Instead he was astonished, spoke about Raman Natesan Pillai, and agreed that it's their land. The Secretary has given a complaint to the Anti Land Grabbing Cell and to the Thasildar via complaint dated December 2018 attached RTI No: AF/G/4-A/300. Did they not do due diligence at that time? And now they have suddenly decided it's not theirs without giving me any documents? Police Protection / protected housing was a matter of ethical conduct, not a demand and shows that Auroville does not like people who love the true Auroville. Attached is the Encumbrance Certificate of 197/6B wherein Krishnan Pillai sells to Aurobindo Society and Raman Natesan Pillai sells a piece of the land to Chandrashekar. Under sec 4 (b) of Auroville Foundation Act, this is not permissible. This was just the starting point of my great adventure into the dark side of Auroville that I unravel almost every day. **I'm asking about the larger picture of Auroville and my personal case is got nothing to do with this.**

Response: 'Secretary, AF's reply on this issue addressed to the Secretary, MHRD vide letter dated 29.10.2018 may please be seen.

- h) **Allegations: Personal Assets:** The Under Secretary is a volunteer of Auroville and he is drawing a monthly maintenance of Rs.14,880/- & Rs.8,080/- for part time as per RTI- AF/G/4-A/489 Dated 28th November 2018. How does he have so many personal assets? Was this ever accounted for or questioned for?

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Response: I do not draw monthly maintenance. I am a permanent employee of a central autonomous body and draw my salary as per the respective scale of pay granted to me when I was appointed as Finance officer in 1995 and later when I was promoted as Under Secretary in 2014. I file my IT returns. I do not have "so many personal assets", which is very vague.'

i) **Allegations: Geo Politics & Racism :** *The Under Secretary has really learnt from the British "Divide and Rule" All the racism comments about Foreigners and Indians is all perpetrated by him. He acts as if he is saving an Israeli Aurovillian who was deported at the airport, so the foreigners support him, whereas he is actually supporting the big kingpins who are doing his dirty work. Pierre Eluard is a classic example of this, wherein FRRO did not want to not extend his visa due to gross economic offences on Auroville entry visa (owning a Bar & Restaurant called Satsanga in Puducherry), is granted extension via some manipulation of documents by the Under Secretary and his "French voice" in Delhi. He has tactfully told Indians it's the Foreigners and he's told Foreigners it's the Indians, as such he acts as if he's supporting all races, but he is actually protecting his key individuals, both Foreigners and Indians. As any new Township / Religion the News and Notes, the Auronet, gossiping have all been used as a propaganda machine to achieve the same objective.*

Response: 'Mr. Pierre Elouard being resident of Auroville, our office has dealt with his case strictly as per the protocol and there is not even

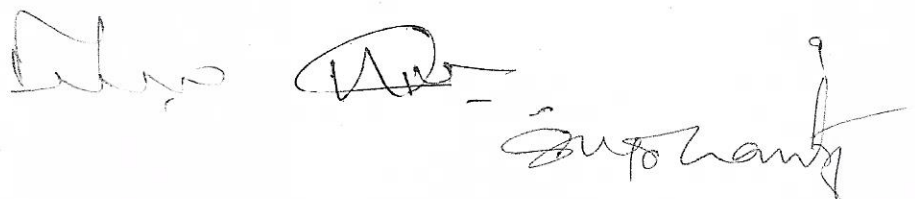
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a special recommendation from our office regarding his extension of visa. I have no "French voice" in Delhi or in Auroville!

- j) **Allegations: Why with Immediate Effect?** : This needs to be done immediately and not wait till the elections get over. Because, it gives him more amount of time to forge more documents and fool people. Reading Tamil is difficult for North Indian Bureaucrats, Foreigners and English is difficult for the locals, so please dig deep into all documents are meanings and you'll will know. Furthermore I have more faith in the current government to do something, and God forbid if the opposition comes to power (who seem to be the architects of the current state of Auroville) this will never be achieved.

Response: 'I do not deal with any land documents for transactions directly, I have not been attending any Land Board Meetings.'

- k) **Allegations: Secretaries** : As I started with this, Auroville is a mystery for everyone. Hence any new Secretary joins, it takes him close to 1.5 years to just understand Auroville. The real person who is the puppet master is the Under Secretary who gives information to the Secretary on a need to know basis and soon he realizes that the Under Secretary has embedded into the system so deep that he can't do anything even if he wishes. If the other Secretaries files are opened, you'll understand various negative remarks by the Secretaries. Under Secretary cannot take the throne of the Secretary because he is not an IAS officer, hence he runs the show as the Secretary of Auroville behind the scenes.

The bottom of the page contains three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is partially obscured and appears to be 'Delip'. The middle signature is a stylized, cursive name. The signature on the right is more legible and appears to be 'Surya'.

Response: 'The office of the Secretary and the capacities of senior officers not to understand the workings of the Foundation office is not appropriate to the position of Secretary as well as to the process of Central Govt. that appoints the Secretary, AF.'

'Secretary and Former Secretaries may be in a position to respond.'

- l) **Allegations:** *The macro level cleanup needs all expertise from criminal forensics of documents to large scale survey, economic offences, off shore accounts and various other serious matters. I also believe that it's a gateway of money laundering through donations and trusts and the structures are as such prima-facie.*

Response: 'The Governing Board and Working Committee, FAMC have taken steps already and more recently, the Board has set up a Departmental Enquiry Committees and an Oversight Committee.'

- m) **Allegations:** *Another recent case of gross mismanagement and corruption is of the land which was purchased for 4.9 crores. It is been rumored that Land Board Members and the Under Secretary used brokers to do the deal and who knows where circle of money went? It shows due to the delay of filing of the FIR and now it shows as an eye wash FIR since no arrests have been made, no possession of land has been taken and no money has been recovered.*

Response: 'Entire money of Rs.4.90 crores has been recovered by the office of the Secretary, through demand drafts.'



'Although his assumption that Under Secretary is equated to the Custodian of Auroville, when there is a Secretary to the

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Secretary

Foundation and there is a Governing Board above may kindly be seen as deemed proper.'

- In response to the E-mail to appear before the Committee, the next day i.e., 06.06.2019 at 10.30 AM in the Office of the Auroville Foundation, the Complainant expressed apprehensions of threat to his life, if he entered Auroville, and therefore the Foundation provided an official vehicle, accordingly the Complainant appeared before the Committee.
 - a) The Complainant submitted a summary of his complaints along with the documents numbered as annexure consisting of details on alleged embezzlement of funds, gross mismanagement, benami properties, money laundering and other connected matters.
 - b) The Reply furnished by AO was provided to the Complainant and he was permitted to seek any clarification, if any, from the AO. After perusal of all the relevant documents and reply furnished by AO, the Complainant in his written statement declared that the issues raised by him are against gross corruption of Auroville in particular and to the AO in general. The Complainant further stated that he had come to the conclusion that AO was part of the entire system and there was nothing specific against AO except "going with the flow". He added that it is the root system of the corruption that needs to be addressed, first and foremost.
- After detailed discussions and thorough the examination of the points mentioned in the written reply by AO as well as the written statement

  "Supra" 

by the Complainant, with specific reference to the said allegations, [The Complainant gave in writing to the Committee that he had nothing specific against the AO and the only charge was that the AO had decided to 'go along with the flow'.], the Committee unanimously arrived at the conclusion that the AO cannot be directly held responsible for alleged mismanagement and other allegations on various trusts, working groups and on specific individuals. As the AO is one of the functionaries in the Office of the Foundation and also has no independent powers, it is beyond the reach of said AO to influence any alleged wrong decisions as cited in the Complaint. In the light of these facts, the Committee decided to exonerate the AO from all the charges leveled him in the specific instance.

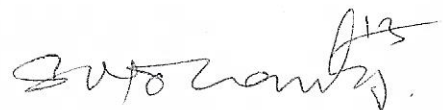
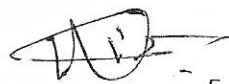
Committee suggest that as AO is an official of Auroville Foundation functioning under MHRD, Govt. of India, his role can be probed further, as and when any fresh incriminating evidence emerge.

In addition, the Committee felt that the present administrative structure in the Office of Auroville Foundation is very weak, as it has only one Under Secretary and two Officers assisting the Secretary of the Foundation in managing all the affairs in the Auroville. This is a major lacuna that needs to be discussed by the Governing Board in detail, evolve appropriate strategy to rectify these deficiencies. Based on this, the Board may take a considered decision at the earliest with a sole objective to address the challenges and to ensure efficiency and accountability.

B. Complaint consisting of serious allegations on Auroville Foundation Various Trusts, Groups, individual residents including on foreigners.

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- a) The Complainant submitted a set of documents as evidence on encroachment, embezzlement of donations to Auroville, benami properties, money laundering, round tripping of black money violations of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) & Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), encroachment of Central Government lands, squandering of Government grants by foreign nationals and public offices of Auroville Foundation etc. Complainant also submitted another set of documents alleging certain incidents that have bearing on threat to national security, foreigners who are anti-india and anti-government, visa defalcation, economic frauds on Auroville visa, drug abuse, Ayahuasca rituals and rave parties.
- b) The documents submitted as evidence in the first set of complaint are marked as exhibit '1' to exhibit '17'. The documents submitted as evidence in second complaint are marked as exhibit '1' to exhibit '5'. Complainant also submitted copy of Internal Audit Report pertaining 2004-2005 (copy posted on internet by one Sri. N. Nadhivarman dated 16th June, 2008). In addition, Complainant submitted another set of documents that contain a Memo on State of Lands of Auroville prepared by an Aurovillian Sri. Paul Vincent along with correspondence, various papers alleging unlawful purchase of lands and other connected matters marked as Exhibit 'A' to Exhibit 'O'.
- c) In view of the voluminous documents submitted along with the complaint, and also in order to understand the complexity of various allegations, the Committee provided opportunity to complainant to highlight, elaborate and substantiate points raised by him co-relating



with his allegations. Accordingly, the complainant explained his contentions as per the following;

- a. 'The Auroville Foundation has 33 Trusts as seen in the PDF file of the Auroville website. None of these Trusts have FCRA or 80G Registration as per reply furnished by the Office of the Foundation to the RTI Application (RTI-AFON/R/2019/50003). Despite this fact, these Trusts are raising donations and claiming exemptions which are a clear violation of law.
- b. In the same reply to RTI Application, regarding cancellation of FCRA or 80G Registration, it was stated: "not applicable" but as per the details available, the FCRA of Auroville Resource Trust bearing number 075980101 was cancelled in 2012 and the FCRA of Auromitra Friends of Auroville Trust, number 07610035, was also cancelled in 2012. Similarly, FCRA of Artisana Trust was also cancelled. These cancellations were due to the violations of legal provisions of FCRA. This contradicts the RTI reply and the Foundation deliberately provided wrong information.
- c. Auroville Foundation refused to furnish copies of Trust Deeds on the ground that it is not a Public Trust. This is a pretext to cover up the misdeeds of Trusts functioning in Auroville.
- d. In the RTI reply (AFOUN/R/2019/50003 point no.7), the Foundation has stated that there is no uniform procedure in receiving the donations but on the other hand, "Auroville International" collects huge donations and deposits such donations into accounts of Auroville Foundation. These donations

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are taken in the name of Auroville for specific purpose but routed to various Trusts and in turn go into other Sub-Trusts and personal accounts and not for the objective for which they were originally taken. This appears to be a clear case of deep-rooted network in channelizing ill-gotten wealth and money laundering.

- e. Entire process of fund raising in Auroville is complex and makes proper auditing difficult. The officers of CAG have time and again mentioned in the Annual Reports that the Internal Audit in Auroville is inadequate. In order to cover up this, Working Groups in Auroville do not assist officers of CAG in audit every year and this can be verified in the Annual Reports from time to time.
- f. In the RTI reply (AFON/R/2018/50009) it is stated that Foundation does not hold any International Bank Account but such statement is untrue as Auroville International has offshore Accounts and it is the responsibility of Auroville Foundation to monitor these accounts as per the Auroville Foundation Act.
- g. As Auroville Foundation processes the visas of the foreigners residing in Auroville, it is the responsibility of the Foundation to ensure that these foreigners follow law of the land and principles of Auroville. There are many instances of violation of visa conditions by these foreigners and this can be verified from the records of FRRO, Chennai.
- h. Forensic audit of Unity Fund (Number 10237876031 in State Bank of India, Auroville Township) for transfers inside India, another account of Unity Fund (10237876508, State Bank of India,


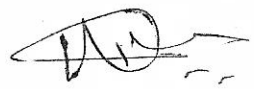
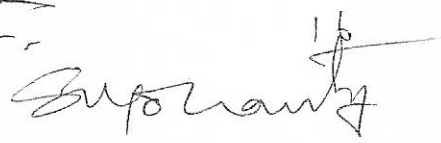
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Auroville Township) for transfers outside India, and accounts of Auroville is necessary. And also ICICI Bank account of Auroville and Offshore accounts of Auroville International Centers also need to be investigated to find out the truth.

- i. Members of Working Committee and other working groups are public offices as per Auroville Foundation Act and have deliberately and willfully encouraged the frauds for personal interests and therefore are liable to be prosecuted as per Section 29 of the Foundation Act.
- j. Kaiuveli Environmental Education Trust (KEET) is not a Trust of Auroville (as confirmed by the reply to RTI application AFON/R/2019/50001, point 1), whereas all the Trustees are Aurovillians from Pitchandikulam forest and the Chief Trustee is one Stephen Jos Brooks. KEET owns private land in Nadakuppam which is not part of Auroville. This fact is stated in Memo of State of lands prepared by an Aurovillian Paul Vincent. Copy of factual report of Paul Vincent in page 40 confirms this. Sources of funds used to purchase land of Nadakuppam need to be investigated. Pitchandikulam forest is registered as unit under Auromitra Trust and Forest Consultants registered under Sangamam/Swagarham Trust. Pitchandikulam Trust has taken up consultancy for Adyar Ponga in Chennai and currently known as "Chennai River Restoration Trust". It is a fact that crores of Rupees received by said Trust has not come to Auroville Foundation account. The donations are received in the name of Auroville Foundation to claim FCRA and 80G exemption and then routed to KEET.

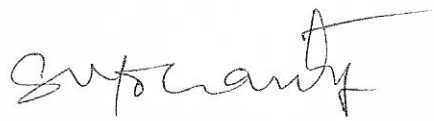
k. A Trust by name FACT (Foundation Against Continuing Terrorism) is registered as an Auroville Trust in office of Sub-Registrar, Vannur and Trustees are one Francois Gautier and Namrata Gautier. As per Auroville's Exit and Entry Policy, one cannot collect donations in personal name, promote any philosophy or religion, cannot take up projects outside Auroville. But FACT (the Trust) registered under Auroville Trust collects donations in personal name and this aspect needs to be investigated. The name of this Trust does not appear in the list of units in website of Auroville which reflect the wrong doing by Internal working groups of Auroville. Registered address of FACT is Auromodel, Auroville which means the property within the Auroville is used to register this Trust. The forensic audit of account (number 04071450000237 at HDFC Bank, Ellaipillaichavadi, and FCRA registration) of FACT needs to be conducted. And the persons (Francois Gautier and Ramesh Sarva) responsible in collecting donations also must be investigated. (details are available in Memo of on the state of lands prepared by Paul Vincent).

l. There are certain foreigners, including Aurovillians who are directly involved in donation fraud. They managed to circumvent the law of the land and amassed huge unaccounted wealth and properties. They are;

- 1) [REDACTED] in Town Hall who is spearheading collection of donations and fundraising and amassed wealth disproportionate to his income.




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2) [redacted] in the field of diamond polishing, controls Varuna Project, a wind harnessing company. This person owns big piece of land within the Master Plan area of Auroville contravening the regulations of Auroville. He is involved in collecting donations for Varuna Project in the name of Auroville.

3) [redacted] national and Aurovillian is a key player who holds benami private properties in Puducheri and Kodaikanal.

4) [redacted] Italian businessman and restaurateur is also an economic offender. He was steward of land of central government that was encroached by Hotel St. James Court in survey number 195/2 registered in Pillaichavadi. He allowed encroachment in collusion with land mafia.

5) [redacted] French national, runs Hridaya Trust and operates Satsanga Restaurant in Puducheri. He runs the said restaurant (not a part of Auroville) violating principles of Auroville. As he violated visa conditions, the FRRO, Chennai tried to deport him but owing to pressure, he managed to get the extension of visa.

6) In addition to this, Auroville Consulting conducts workshops across the world and collects the donations. There is need to audit the accounts of this unit.

d) **Land Encroachment and other related matters:**

a. About 300 Acres of Central Government land have been encroached in hand in glove with the Auroville working groups.

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The facts are provided by a Memo on state of lands prepared by an internal committee headed an Aurovillian Mr.Paul Vincent, (Consultant & Regional Coordinator of Auroville Foundation). Despite such clear information, the Foundation has not taken any action nor reported to CAG during the audit. Said Memo also highlights the fact of missing 78 original Sale Deeds which an alarming matter.

- b. CAG in the reply to RTI application (No. PDA/Legal/RTI/25-02(193)/2018-19/229) stated that "Auroville Foundation has failed to protect the lands of Central Government". Supporting Document is submitted.
- c. The Working Groups are avoiding the audit of lands of Auroville only because more skeletons will come out of the closet. (Ref.RTI No.AF/G/4-A/355).
- d. Over 300 acres of Central Government land causing an estimated loss of Rs.300 crore has been encroached in hand in glove with the Foundation and the Working Groups. The rival gangs in the area are funded and take directions from office of Foundation.
- e. One Mr.Raman Natesan Pillai is a key-player at the time of taking over of lands of Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) and embezzled large tracts of land belonging to Auroville Foundation. He presently holds around 30 acres of land, makes fake documents and have links with State Police and Anti-Land Grabbing Cell. Though said Raman Natesan Pillai engineers all

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backdated documents, Kingpin of all land encroachments of Auroville, the Foundation replied that they have no information about him. This shows cover up and protection to this person. Said person is also chief in-charge of lands of SAS at that point of time.

f. The particular land of my personal case, I brought to the notice of Foundation that about 10 acres of entire property belongs to Auroville Foundation. Initially, the Secretary of Foundation filed a complaint with Anti-Land Grabbing Cell on only one piece of land in Sy. No.197/6B and retracted the statement later saying same land had an EC of 1965 and therefore land do not belong to Auroville Foundation. As Section 4(2) of Auroville Foundation Act, it is clear that all properties and assets vested in the Central Government shall by force are freed from all encumbrances and by virtue of this legal provision, the EC of 1965 is null and void. The Foundation also not stated anything about the possession of remaining 9 acres of land in survey numbers 194/2 and 197/6A and other survey numbers around it. This shows that Foundation covers up and protect the land mafia. All the supportive documents of this case (referred as Chandrashekar case), RTI AF/G/4-A/300 and RTI AF/G/4-A/781, Section 4 of Act substantiate this point.

g. The recent case of Saravanan in a land transaction, the Foundation delayed the matter for around one year, though they claimed to have recovered Rs.4 crore, this transaction caused a loss of Rs.39.80 lakh as interest at the rate of 8% per annum. One Sri.Ranjit, a member of Working Committee, who

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was instrumental in this shady deal was given clean chit by the internal enquiry committee.

- h. The members of Land Board pass information to land mafia as to which plot Auroville Foundation wishes to buy, and then before purchasing the plot, it changes hand with other buyers and Auroville buys it at much higher price. This is the modus operandi of land transactions in Auroville.
- i. The encroachment of lands is so rampant and sporadic that the entire purpose of Master Plan is defeated. Many private players came in and surrounded the Master Plan area without approvals.
- j. Expense sheet of grants received for the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister indicate the bills were inflated and certain expenditure never incurred but shown as spent. This can be verified from RTI reply AF/G/4-A/103. This is standard operating procedure in Auroville to ensure kickbacks and inflate bill. These bills need to be sent to Forensic Audit.
- k. Income of Architects in Auroville need be audited as they take many private assignments violating visa regulations and do not report this to Foundation.
- l. As many acres of land is left unchecked, there is wood and timber mafia and land mafia hand in glove with Town Hall (office) of Foundation.

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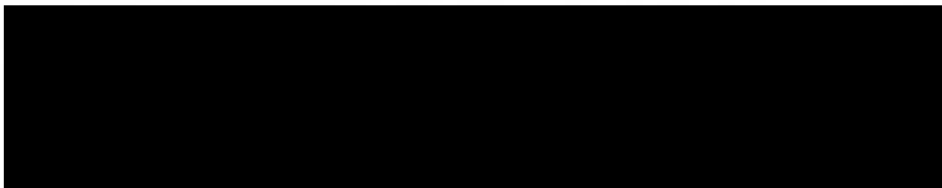
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- m. There was a case of theft of precious gold valued at Rs.9.80,183 at Matrimandir, and a complaint was filed (FIR 388/2017) stating as unknown people though only two Aurovillians had the key to the donation box. Such serious case is still not solved. (FIR No.388/2017 dt.09.06.2017).
 - n. As per Auroville Entry Visa Rules, the foreigners cannot hold private property. But there are many foreigners who hold private properties and details are specified in the Memo on the state of Auroville Lands meticulously documented by an Aurovillian Mr. Paul Vincent. Relevant land records, photographs are also placed on record. As all these details and undeniable facts clearly indicate unlawful transactions, the source of funds so as to know how these foreigners purchased the lands needs to be investigated thoroughly.
 - o. In the light of this documentary evidence, all the facts narrated, an investigation must be started on all the points mentioned above and prosecute all those involved under relevant Sections of IPC, CrPC read with relevant Sections of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and Section 29 of Auroville Foundation Act. The Town Hall offices be sealed and the all computers and documents be seized as there will be likely attempt to destroy all evidence and cover up.
- e) **Issues on threat to National Security – Drug Abuse and other related matters:**
- a. Complainant has alleged that there is a serious threat to National Security as there is no mechanism in Auroville

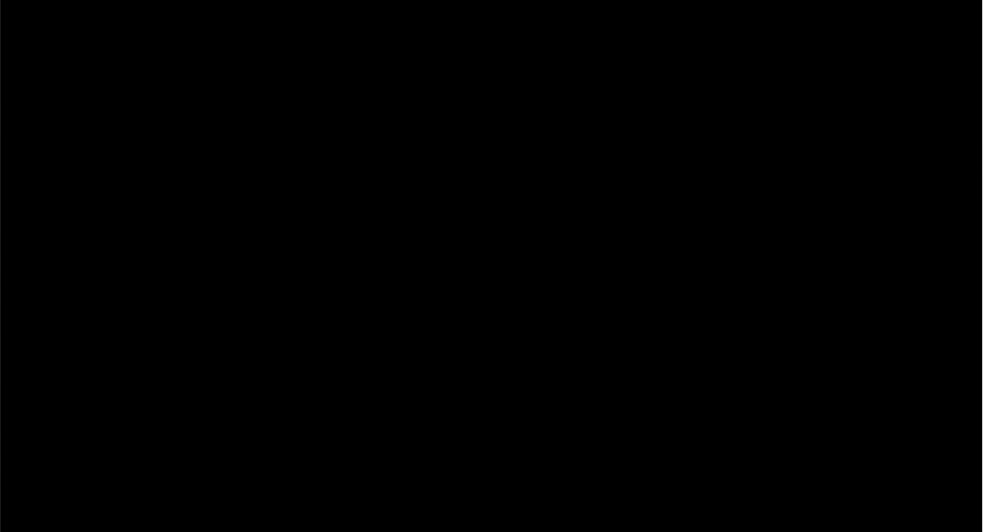
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- Foundation to verify criminal records and military background of Foreigners who enter Auroville to do voluntary service and live in the township. Many of the Foreigners were granted Auroville Visa to do voluntary service, take up business outside Auroville and hold private immovable assets outside Auroville area in Pondicherry, Kodaikanal, Tiruvannamalai and other areas.
- b. The Foundation does not work with FRRO for protecting National Security. With the militancy, IS and recent attacks in Sri Lanka, it is imperative for Auroville Entry Service (ES) to delegate their duties and responsibility for Sovereign Security of the Nation. When FRRO does his duty for security of India, the Entry Service members raise a hue and cry and recommend through the letters to bring back the blacklisted and deported foreigners back to India. FRRO has no support from Entry Service and Working Committee (WC) on the issue of visa defaulters and over staying individuals. ES and WC adopted an anarchist approach where Indian laws should not enter. This does not augur well for India and need to be curtailed.
- c. There are many Aurovillian (Foreigners) holding private properties also involved in drug abuse and drug related activities. Names of such Foreigners include are already mentioned in earlier set of complaint.

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- e. Many foreigners who come on tourist visa or Auroville Entry visa indulge in anti-government and openly make comments against our Prime Minister Sri. Naredra Modiji. The comments in social media by foreigners can be verified in the supportive documents submitted to the Enquiry Committee.
- f. The architects namely [redacted] are some of the foreigners who take up projects outside Auroville in violation of the visa regulations and amassed huge personal wealth without any track. There are also many foreigners who make personal money by conducting workshops for yoga, meditation, film making, architecture and consultancy outside Auroville without raising any Auroville invoice. All these activities are in contravention of visa regulations and policies of Auroville but continues unabated:
- g. The facts narrated makes it crystal clear that many Aurovillians think that Auroville is beyond law and the laxity of officials taking action emboldened them to indulge in crimes unchecked. My humble request is to correct these anomalies,



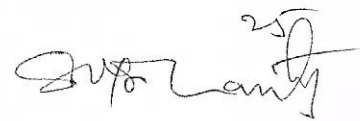
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take disciplinary action on the foreigners so that good governance prevails and dream of Mother is fulfilled.'

OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

1) The Committee has examined the statement of the Complainant, all the relevant papers and documentary evidence carefully. The Committee also provided opportunity to the Complainant to bring every fact as narrated, elaborate each point and explain the importance and relevance of each document so submitted. The magnitude of allegations is vast and the complexity of issues so raised is clearly evident. After thorough analysis of the complaint, due verification of the documents so produced, the Enquiry Committee unanimously observe that the allegations as specified cover various aspects of violation of Laws, Rules and Regulations as per the following;



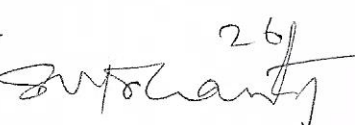
- a) Issues on illegal/unlawful purchase of lands, land encroachment of lands are governed by relevant Land Revenue Act and Rules of Government of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
- b) Legal framework governing the functioning of Anti-Land Grabbing Cell of Government of Tamil Nadu
- c) Immigration Laws, conditions of Entry Visa policy of Auroville Foundation governing acquisition of immoveable properties, business operations by foreigners.
- d) The legal provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act and other Laws in enacted to check prevalence of Black Money
- e) The legal Provisions of FEMA and relevant Rules and Regulations
- f) Provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

- g) The legal provisions of Auroville Foundation Act, Rules and Regulations
- After analyzing relevant documents, carrying out detailed discussions, a thorough examination of facts of the cases and observing the seriousness of allegations, the Committee is convinced that there is a prima facie case that requires the entire matter to be handed over to an appropriate Central Agency [agencies] in order to unravel the complex web of incidents, ostensibly criminal in nature. Only such investigation will do justice to the purpose for which the Auroville Foundation came into existence through an Act of Parliament, in order to ensure proper management and further development of Auroville in accordance with original charter, fulfilling the dream of the Mother and flowering of spiritual vision of Sri Aurobindo.

Conclusion:

- a) In addition to land related matters and violation of immigration Laws, the points raised in the complaint include economic offences, fraudulent transactions, drug abuse, drug peddling etc., that are very serious in nature and there is requirement of an in-depth investigation in coordination with various enforcement agencies such as CVC, Directorate of Enforcement, Department of Income Tax, Narcotics Bureau, Immigration Bureau, Intelligence Department, CBI and local police establishments of Tamil Nadu and Puducheri. As issues of threat to National Security and Integrity are narrated in the complaint, the intervention of NIA may also be necessary.
- b) The present Enquiry Committee is neither technically equipped nor professionally trained to address the issues raised in the complaint

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comprehensively. The Committee also does not have the wherewithal and required manpower/ mechanism to wade through the complex web of events, happenings, and unravel the truth.

c) However, the Committee, in the light of the submission made by the Complainant and relevant documentary evidence so produced is convinced that there is prima-facie case for investigation into this matter. In addition to violation of various legal provisions punishable under various Acts and Rules referred above, the alleged offences are punishable under the following Sections of Indian Penal Code :

- 1) Section 403 of IPC: Dishonest misappropriation of property.
- 2) Section 406 of IPC: Punishment for criminal breach of trust.
- 3) Section 408 of IPC: Criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant.
- 4) Section 409 of IPC: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent.
- 5) Section 417 of IPC: Punishment for cheating.
- 6) Section 419 of IPC: Punishment for cheating by impersonation.
- 7) Section 420 of IPC: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.
- 8) Section 463 of IPC: Forgery.
- 9) Section 464 of IPC: Making a false document.
- 10) Section 465 of IPC: Punishment for forgery

d) In the light of the enormity and complexity of the complaint, the Enquiry Committee unanimously and strongly recommends that the complaint be

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investigated by appropriate Central Agency to be decided by Ministry of
HRD, Govt. of India as early as possible.



Madabhushi Madan Gopal



Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty



Dr. Nirima Oza

Dated: 28.06.2019

