

Mukul Wasnik

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

Chairman

Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Education, Women, Children, Youth & Sports



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10th September, 2026

D.O. No. CHM(EWCY&S)/2026-29

Dear Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukerjee ji,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the recent communication issued by the Auroville Foundation Office directing residents of Annapurna Farms to vacate the premises within ten days.

This action is particularly concerning in light of the specific recommendation made by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in its 371st Report (extract enclosed). After examining the proposal for establishing a sustainability campus in collaboration with IIT Madras, the Committee expressly noted that the proposed site would come at the expense of the existing Annapurna Farms. The Committee consequently recommended that "Annapurna farms should not be disturbed and that alternative sites nearby should be found to situate the sustainability campus."

The Committee's recommendation was based not merely on considerations relating to the existing residents, but on the larger importance of Annapurna Farms to Auroville's founding vision and its long-term sustainability. The Committee specifically noted that food sustainability is integral to the vision of Auroville and that the loss of farmland would affect Auroville's ability to sustain itself, and that Annapurna's organic farming practices are consistent with the vision of The Mother.

It is, therefore, deeply troubling that, notwithstanding this explicit recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee, residents of Annapurna Farms are now being asked to vacate their homes within a period of just ten days.

Parliamentary Committees undertake detailed examination of matters falling within the purview of their respective Ministries precisely so that Government action may benefit from parliamentary scrutiny and the considered recommendations of Members across political parties. Once the Committee has examined this specific issue and made a clear recommendation to preserve Annapurna Farms, it would be unfair for an agency under the administrative oversight of the Ministry to take steps that appear to disregard that recommendation.

I, therefore, request the Ministry to urgently intervene in the matter and consider the following action :-

1. Direct the Auroville Foundation to withdraw/keep in abeyance the eviction notices issued to the residents of Annapurna Farms;

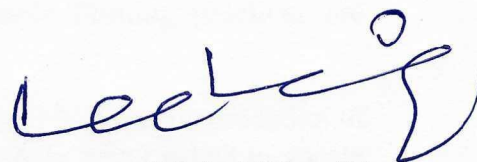
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2. Ensure that no eviction, demolition, land transfer or other irreversible action concerning Annapurna Farms is undertaken until the Committee's recommendation has been duly considered and an appropriate course of action determined;
3. Obtain a detailed report from the Auroville Foundation explaining the circumstances in which the eviction notices were issued, including the authority under which they were issued and the proposed purpose for the land;
4. Ensure that any further consideration of the proposed sustainability campus is undertaken in accordance with the Committee's recommendation to identify alternative sites nearby, rather than disturbing Annapurna Farms; and
5. Ensure that any future decisions concerning land transfers in Auroville are undertaken in full transparency and consultation with all stakeholders as recommended by the Parliamentary Committee.

I trust that the Ministry will take immediate steps to ensure that this considered recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee is respected. I would appreciate an urgent response from the Ministry on this matter, given that the residents have reportedly been provided only ten days to vacate.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Mukul Wasnik)

Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukerjee,
Secretary,
Department of Higher Education,
Ministry of Education,
Government of India,
Kartavya Bhawan – 2,
New Delhi – 110 001.



REPORT NO.

371

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA**

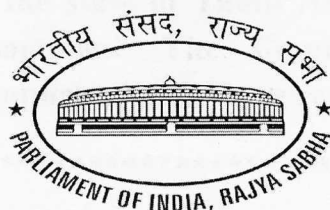
**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION, WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORTS**

**THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ONE REPORT
ON**

Review of Autonomous Bodies and Institutions- NTA, NAAC, Draft UGC Regulations, ICHR, ICPR, ICSSR, IAS(Shimla) and Auroville Foundation under the Department of Higher Education.

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 2025)

(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 8th December, 2025)



**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
December, 2025/ Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)**

(Relevant extracts from 371st Report of the Committee on EWCY&S)

143. The Committee welcomes the Auroville Foundation's MoU with IIT Madras which paves the way for setting up a sustainability campus. However, the Committee notes that the land for the campus is supposed to come at the expense of the Annapurna Farms currently existing at the location. Food sustainability is an integral part of the vision of Auroville and the loss of farmland will certainly impact the long-term ability of Auroville to sustain itself. Further, Annapurna Farms is currently engaging in organic farming, which was central to The Mother's vision for the community. The Committee recommends that Annapurna farms should not be disturbed and that alternative sites nearby should be found to situate the sustainability campus.

144. In the same vein, the Committee is of the view that all land transfers in service of the Master Plan should be implemented in full transparency and consultation with all stakeholders, including the Resident's Assembly and the International Advisory Council.

145. The Committee notes that the Auroville Master Plan 2025 was approved in 2001 by the Ministry of Human Resources Development and notified in the Gazette in 2010. In view of the time that has passed in the interim, the Committee recommends that the Master Plan be implemented in close consultation with the Resident's Assembly and other stakeholders in Auroville, with changes as may be required. The Committee also notes that as per current regulations, all urban development master plans in the state of Tamil Nadu are to be submitted to the State Urban Planning Department. The Committee recommends that the Foundation do so as well in compliance with these regulations.
