

Regarding need for inquiry into alleged irregularities in financial transactions in Chandigarh Municipal Corporation-Laid

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (CHANDIGARH): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a serious case of financial irregularity in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation concerning the transfer of funds from Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL). As per recent reports, an internal inquiry has revealed discrepancies of approximately ₹20-25 crore in the transfer of CSCL funds to the Municipal Corporation. Alarmingly, three fraudulent debit entries amounting to over ₹8 crore have also been detected in the Corporation's accounts after the transfer. The inquiry has further indicated the possibility of fraudulent transactions prior to the closure of CSCL, including the use of fake fixed deposit receipts and forged bank statements. These findings point towards serious lapses in financial oversight, internal controls, and verification mechanisms within both the banking channel and the Municipal Corporation. This issue raises grave concerns regarding the safety of public funds, accountability of officials, and the robustness of financial governance in urban local bodies. I urge Government to ensure a time-bound, independent forensic audit of all transactions; fix accountability of officials and institutions involved; and put in place stronger safeguards, including technology-enabled verification and audit systems, to prevent recurrence. The matter involves public money and warrants urgent attention and corrective action.
