

MINUTES OF THE 213th MEETING OF GENERAL HOUSE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH HELD ON 30.12.2014 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE CORPORATION.

The following were present:

Sarv/Sh./Smt:-

1.	Harphool Chander Kalyan	Mayor
2.	Sunil Bhatia, PCS	Acting Commissioner
3.	Heera Negi	Sr. Deputy Mayor
4.	Davesh Moudgil	Deputy Mayor
5.	Anoop Sunny Gill	Councillor
6.	Prof. Aruna Goel	Councillor
7.	Dr. Amrit Tewari	Councillor
8.	Babu Lal, I.A.S. (Retd.)	Councillor
9.	Maj. D.S. Sandhu (Retd.)	Councillor
10.	M.P. Kohli	Councillor
11.	Sat Paul Bansal	Councillor
12.	Surinder Bahga	Councillor
13.	Saurabh Joshi	Councillor
14.	Pardeep Chhabra	Councillor
15.	Asha Kumari Jaswal	Councillor
16.	Raj Bala Malik	Councillor
17.	Sat Parkash Aggarwal	Councillor
18.	Poonam Sharma	Councillor
19.	Arun Sood	Councillor
20.	Gurbax Rawat	Councillor
21.	Sheela Devi	Councillor
22.	Darshan Kumar	Councillor
23.	Harjinder Kaur	Councillor
24.	Rajesh Kumar Gupta	Councillor

25.	Mukesh Bassi	Councillor
26.	Satinder Singh	Councillor
27.	Naresh Kumar	Councillor
28.	Satish Kumar	Councillor
29.	Subhash Chawla	Councillor
30.	Jannat Jahan Ul-Haq (Naina)	Councillor
31.	Rajinder Kaur	Councillor
32.	Gurcharan Dass Kala	Councillor
33.	Des Raj Gupta	Councillor
34.	Rajiv Gupta, PCS	Secretary

**The following Officers also attended the meeting: -
Sarv/Sh./Smt.:-**

1.	Mukesh Anand	Chief Engineer
2.	N.P. Sharma	S.E. (B&R)
3.	R.C. Diwan	S.E.(PH)
4.	P.S.Bhatti	M.O.H.
5.	Dr. M.S. Kamboj	Supdt. Slaughter House
6.	Desh Raj	C.A.O.
7.	Inderjit Gulati	XEN (Roads-I)
8.	Jai Pal Singh	XEN (Roads-II)
9.	Arjeet Singh	XEN (Roads-III)
10.	Sham Lal	XEN (P.H. Div No-I)
11.	Rajesh Bansal	XEN (P.H. Div No-II)
12.	B.K.Dhawan	XEN (P.H. Div No-III)
13.	Gurpreet Singh	XEN (P.H. Div No-IV)
14.	Surinder Pal Singh	XEN (Electrical)
15.	Krishan Pal Singh	XEN (Horticulture)

At the outset, the Mayor welcomed the officers, members & media persons and greeted the House and gave good wishes for the New Year. He further apprised the House that the Ex-Councillor Resham Chand Jhakhu, and the son of Smt. Kashmiri Devi, elected Councillor of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, had expired. He requested the House to observe two minutes silence to pay the homage to the departed soul.

The House observed two minutes silence to pay the homage to the departed soul.

The slogans were raised by the public outside the House and due to the disturbance there was a din in the House.

The House was adjourned for 10 minutes at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

The members of the BJP placed an agenda and requested that it be taken as table agenda regarding Thada Market, Mouli Jagran. The members of BJP emphasised again and again to club this table agenda with the main agenda item No.2.

The Mayor accepted as table agenda item No.2 which was then circulated in the House.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.1

Confirmation of the minutes of 212th meeting of the General House held on 28.11.2014 at 11.00 a.m. in the Assembly Hall of the M.C., Chandigarh.

The Secretary placed agenda item No.1 for confirmation of minutes of 212th meeting of the General House.

Sh. Satish Kumar Kainth invited the attention of the House towards page No.3 of the minutes of 212th meeting, he said that Sh. Darshan Kumar and himself raised from the Dharna on the request of Nominated Councillors which had not been recorded.

“Sh. Satish Kumar Kainth and Darshan Kumar, Councillors rose from the Dharna on the request of Nominated Councillors.”

Sh. M.P. Kohli appreciated Sh. Satish Kumar and Sh. Darshan Kumar as they accepted the request of the Nominated Councillors and paid respect to the nominated Councillors. He further invited the attention of the House towards page No.5, line No.10 of the minutes of 212th meeting of General House held on 28.11.2014, he said that **“the correction is required in the minutes as the rank of the Secretary Market Committee is lower than Deputy Commissioner, officially the Deputy Commissioner is the Secretary of the Agriculture Market Board.”**

Sh. Arun Sood said that he had demanded in the previous meeting of the House that a letter was received from the Deputy Commissioner, U.T., Chandigarh to obtain the opinion of the Councillors for fixation of date for the election of the Mayor. He further said that Sh. M.P. Kohli said that this matter would be taken after considering the agenda items. He further said that neither my statement nor the statement of Sh. M.P. Kohli had been recorded in the minutes and asserted that the statements of both should be recorded.

“The Statement of Sh. Arun Sood and Sh. M.P. Kohli be treated as a part of minutes of 212th meeting of General House held on 28.11.2014 at 11.00 a.m.”

He further said that after observing the two minutes silence to pay the homage to Sh. Jai Ram Joshi. The statement of Sh. Subhash Chawla and Sh. Satish Kumar Kainth had been recorded regarding the beating of table immediately after paying the homage. He further said that it was stated by the Councillors of BJP and Akali Dal that the tables were thumped after the silence was over, but it had not been recorded. He demanded that the statement of Councillors of BJP and Akali Dal should be recorded.

The House observed that the above mentioned statement of Sh. Arun Sood be treated as the part of minutes of 212th meeting of General House held on 28.11.2014 at 11.00 a.m.

“The House confirmed the minutes of 212th meeting of the General House held on 28.11.2014 at 11.00 a.m. in the Assembly Hall of the M.C., Chandigarh, with above mentioned amendments.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.2

Mauli Jagran Thada Market.

The Secretary placed agenda item No.2 for consideration and approval.

Dr. Amrit Tewari said that this agenda should be accepted as it was. She further said that the policy should be framed regarding its allotment and functioning before implementation.

Maj. D.S. Sandhu (Retd.) said that the agenda had been brought by the nominated Councillors. He further said that he would like to give the information to the House. The agenda in this respect was brought in the House in its 183rd meeting held on 29.10.2012. He further apprised the House that the nominated Councillors decided in their meeting to visit the spot of Thada Market Mauli Jagran. Most of the nominated

Councillors visited the Thada Market and noticed that only 8 feet narrow road was leading to the Thada Market, they could not find the space for parking their car. He further apprised the House that there were no parking place, the residents had parked their vehicles in front of their houses on the 8 feet narrow road and the people were playing cards on the thadas constructed for market and the residents had locked their houses from inside. He further told that ultimately they decided to obtain the opinion of the local residents. He further apprised the House that according to proposed hawkers bye-laws, it had been decided that no hawker would stay in front of a house for more than half an hour. He further apprised that the residents told the Councillors team that the 500 residents of this colony had submitted in written that there should be no Thada Market, otherwise their condition would be worst. They (residents) further levelled allegation against the Councillors for taking the bribe from 136 persons. They further apprehended for the continuous loud noise, loading and unloading of trucks etc. and their life would be more miserable. The residents were totally against the Thada Market. He further said that in view of the opinions of the residents of that area, we thought that no policy had been framed regarding the allotment of these Thadas. He further read out the contents of Section 416(1) of the Municipal Act. He further said that the Councillors had exercised their right. He further said that the wrong facts were put to the Chief Auditor by some officers. The audit objection was wrong as there was no misconduct or negligence on the part of the Councillors, it was the duty of the Officers to guide the Councillors before passing the agenda. He further said that he is in favour of the agenda to be passed, but a transparent policy should be framed for the allotment of such type of thadas throughout the city.

Smt. Raj Bala Malik agreed with the suggestions of Maj. D.S. Sandhu (Retd.) nominated Councillor and she felt proud that a good Ex-serviceman, as a nominated Councillor, is one of the Councillors of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.

Sh. Subhash Chawla said that members of the Congress party had no objection to pass this agenda. This agenda has put a sign of interrogation on the functioning of House and rights of the Councillors. He further apprised the House an agenda was brought in the House after the approval of Commissioner and Mayor of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh. He further said that there is a provision of table agenda in case of exigencies, but after the approval of Mayor, that table agenda becomes the official agenda. He further apprised that if the Commissioner and Mayor observed that the agenda was not in the public interest, the same could be rejected with the dissent note. He further said that according to the circumstances of that time we were not in favour of the agenda and the same could not be approved. He further said that when it was published in the newspapers that the action of the House was wrong and recovery of Rs.22.00 lac be made from the Councillors, it become a matter of rethinking. He further asked under what section the recovery was being made from the Councillors. He further said that the allegation of misconduct had been levelled against the Councillors, due to this the recovery is being made from the Councillors and it is the insult of the Councillors. He further said that he had many precedents, where due to the fault of somebody, the Corporation had to face the loss in crores, therefore, the responsibility should be fixed in those cases also. He further said that due to the delay in work, the Corporation had to face the loss in crores, the material of crores had been purchased in vain, but no responsibility had been fixed for these lapses. He further sought the assurance from the Commissioner that in future the responsibility would be fixed for the loss of any kind and recovery would be made from the defaulter

officer or councillor. He further asked under what section of the Act, the allegation of misconduct had been levelled against the Councillors and recovery is to be made from the Councillors. Similarly it has also been decided in the study tour that the recovery of Rs.10,000/- is to be made from the Councillors, whereas there is no violation in study tour. The study tour has been performed as per approval of the Administration. He further said that it was the insult of the Councillors and asserted that the case be got re-examined through the Law Officer and other experts.

The members of the House were against the recovery of study tour as well as for Thada Market, Mouli Jagran.

Sh. Gurcharan Dass Kala highly objected against the recovery and showed his resentment strongly.

There was a din in the House on this issue.

The Additional Commissioner-I assured that the matter would be re-examined, but no assurance could be given against the recovery at this time as the Law Officer is not available for opinion as he has been relieved.

Sh. Pardeep Chhabra demanded that the report of the study tour be circulated in the House, so that it could be ascertained for what reason the recovery was being made.

Sh. M.P. Kohli said that the matter was not concerned to the study tour or Thada Market, it is the question of prestige of the Councillors.

The Additional Commissioner-I apprised the House that as per information received from the officers no order for recovery had been passed so far.

Sh. Subhash Chawla asked under what section the penalty had been imposed on the Councillors. He further said that so far as the Section 416 (1) of the Municipal Act is concerned i.e. defamatory for them. When this agenda came in the House the same was passed with majority. He further said due to the delay in multilevel parking behind Sahib Singh in Sector 17, the Corporation had to pay Rs.1.60 crore as penalty. He further said that an agenda regarding the exemption to Ex-servicemen from property tax was passed by the House, but the Commissioner exercised his power and sent a dissent note to the Administration. He further said that the Commissioner was the custodian of the House, he should had to comment that the agenda of Thada Market had been passed as wrong. He further said that the signing authority of the agenda should be held responsible and the recovery should be made from him. He further said that the Councillors should be guided what kind of agenda should be supported or rejected, so that the recoveries could be avoided in future and the House should be apprised under what Section the penalty can be imposed on the Councillors.

Sh. Satinder Singh said that the agenda of Thada Market, Mouli Jagran was passed and rejected by the House and today the House is going to pass it again, it seems no penalty becomes due against Councillors in such circumstances. He further said that Section 416 (1) of the Municipal Act is not applicable in this case, because there was no mala fide intention of the Councillors to reject the agenda. So far as the study tour is concerned that has been decided outside of the House.

Smt. Raj Bala Malik said that although she did not go on tour, but being a Councillor she is of the opinion that if the officers can go on tour, why not the Councillors and stressed that no penalty should be imposed on the Councillor, it is the

prestige question of the Councillors. The imposition of penalty on the Councillors is the insult of the public representatives.

Sh. Pardeep Chhabra said that Section 416 (1) is very much clear that due to misconduct penalty can be imposed and 3 former Mayors are sufferer of this act. He suggested that we should take straightway decision in this regard. He explained the incident of NOC for contesting the election of Councillors. He got the NOC after depositing the amount of penalty/recovery. He further apprised the recovery of petrol was imposed upon him and recovery on Smt. Kamlesh Ex-Councillor was imposed due to the subsequent meeting of the House in a month and similarly recovery was imposed on Smt. Harjinder Kaur due to excess consumption of petrol. He further said that the officers should apprise the Councillor about such consequences. He further said that according to the instructions of Govt. of India, the Councillor or Officer can visit the tour along with his family provided the charges of the family members have been deposited by the incumbent. The Councillors have paid charges for the family members who accompanied the tour, therefore, the question of recovery does not arise. He asserted that this issue should be taken seriously and be decided today.

Sh. Satinder Singh said that an amount of Rs.10.00 crore stands against M/s Selvel company, the same should be recovered from the said company.

Smt. Rajinder Kaur Rattu said that she was in favour of tour and tour programme should be passed by the House. The programme should be transparent and the officers should apprise the Councillors in detail about the tour programme.

Smt. Asha Jaswal said that the report of study tour should be circulated in the House.

The report of study tour was circulated in the House.

Sh. M.P. Kohli said that whether the issue was related to the Thada Market or study tour, both are related to the House. The study tour has been performed with the permission, 20 members of the House went to the tour along with the officers, there was a majority of the House, in spite of that there has been the publicity in the newspapers without any issue. He further said that if any member wants, the voting could be done to prove the majority. This issue should be finally decided today.

The Additional Commissioner-I reiterated that no order had been passed for the recovery so far in connection with the tour. He further told that the Commissioner had ordered to examine the matter. He further said that so far as the recovery regarding Thada Market, Mouli Jagran is concerned the Chief Auditor, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh had informed that he had worked out the recovery on his own level, but no order had been passed so far. The matter would be expedited to solve the problem.

Sh. Davesh Moudgil said that under Section 416(1) the misconduct of the Councillors had been defined. He asked what kind of misconduct had been done by the Councillors?

Sh. Subhash Chawla apprised the House that the news regarding recovery from the Councillors for Thada Market had been published 4 times in the major national newspapers. It was the responsibility of the PRO Department to contradict the news published in the newspapers, if the order of recovery had not been passed so far. He further said that the insult of the Councillors was done as there was no contradiction of the news of recovery. It is being done knowingly. He further asked what kind of recovery and what is reason of recovery has not been told by the office, whereas the recovery is being made in straightway without giving any opportunity. The

tour has been performed with due permission and nothing has been done wrong by the Councillors.

Sh. Saurabh Joshi said that we had come to know more from the newspapers rather than office. The base of news was the booklet/report of study tour which has been provided today. He further said during the tour they lost their colleague. They did not enjoy there. He further said that the news of study tour was being published again and again since three months. He further said that the matter of chlorinator, spun pipes were raised by him three years ago in which the amount of crores is involved, but nothing had been done about these matters. The matter of study tour involving only 28 lacs had been made bigger rather than the matter of chlorinator and spun pipes. The Mayor and the Commissioner are the head of Corporation, but nothing has been stated by them. He further asked why an amount of Rs.65000/- deposited by Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Councillor had not been refunded to him so far? He demanded the reports of chlorinator, spun pipes and Selvel Company should be brought in the House.

Smt. Raj Bala Malik asked to whom the maximum contract of roads and public health wing had been assigned? He demanded the detail of the works/contractor should be brought in the House.

Sh. Des Raj said that he is the Councillor from Ward No.26 which is backward area. He further said that neither the Commissioner nor the Chief Engineer visited his ward in spite of appointment. He requested the Mayor to visit his ward in these last six days along with the officers.

Smt. Jannat Jahan-UI-Haq said that a child had died in Ram Darbar due to the use of contaminated water. She requested to replace the water pipelines instead

of repair, so that the dhoryae and cholera could be avoided. She apprehended that this contamination has happened from the new tube-well. She further apprised the House that the study tour for Havlock and Tirupati was not the part of approved tour. These have been included later on. She raised the question mark on the report of study tour.

Sh. Pardeep Chhabra said that the decision should be taken today by the House regarding the replacement of water pipelines and it should be taken seriously.

The Chief Engineer apprised the House that the public health wing had been sampling already before the matter came into their notice and the sampling of the water from Ram Darbar was being done later on also. The chlorination found in the sample was sufficient. He further apprised the House that the three storey houses had been built on the water pipelines, which could not be checked. He further apprised the House that the water pipelines were laid down before the houses in Dadumajra, but none obtained the connection, the people do not want to change the old system.

The members of the House suggested that the pipelines should be laid down from the front side of the houses instead of breaking the houses.

The Additional Commissioner-I said that the proposal in detail regarding shifting of water pipelines in colonies would be brought in the next meeting of the House.

Sh. Darshan Garg said that if the recovery was made from the Councillors, why not from the officers as the Corporation had to bear the loss in crores due to negligence on their part and who is responsible for that loss.

Sh. Subhash Chawla said that the news published in the papers regarding the recovery of amount in connection with tour had been condemned by the Councillors, whether they were part of the tour or not. He said that according to the

opinion of the House this recovery is wrong. He further said that the officers could have to apprise the Councillors in their office to recover the amount due to such and such reasons. He further said that nothing had been concealed before proceeding on tour, so what kind of recovery could be done? So far as the company of family members is concerned, the Councillor paid for the expenses from their own pockets for the family members.

“The House considered and unanimously passed the agenda of Thada Market at Charan Singh Colony, Mouli Jagran, as it was passed as table agenda item No.11 in 164th meeting of the House held on 28.02.2011 at 11.00 a.m. which is as under:-

(“The House considered and unanimously resolved that estimate amounting to Rs.86.44 lac for Construction of Day Market at Charan Singh Colony, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh, be and is hereby approved).”

Sh. M.P. Kohli said that the officers were well conversant that the Councillors had been taking their family members along with them on the tour. It was the duty of the officers to apprise the Councillors that the company of the family members would be the violation of instruction of study tour.

Smt. Rajinder Kaur Rattu thanked the House for passing the agenda of Thada Market Mouli Jagran. She said that it was a gift of new year for her. She further read the events of Thada Market from time to time and she demanded that the Thada Markets should be constructed in all the colonies.

Sh. Subhash Chawla said that now two agendas had been brought in the House i.e. first agenda is to start the work as it was and subsequent agenda is about to construct the 700 thadas in that market. He suggested that the voting should be got done on this issue.

The Mayor said that the old agenda had been reviewed and passed, the subsequent agenda regarding 700 thadas would be examined. He further said that the survey would be conducted to construct the Thada Markets in all the colonies.

Dr. Amrit Tewari said that the agenda had been brought by the nominated Councillors to review the previous agenda and it should be accepted in principle. She further said that before restarting the work a transparent policy for allotment should be brought for the approval of the House and subsequent agenda would also be examined at the same time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.3

Contract for the supply of 96 workers of various categories of Group C & D.

The Secretary placed agenda item No.3 for consideration and approval.

“The House considered and approved to grant wages in case of certain category of posts which are not mentioned in D.C. rates as proposed in the agenda till the enlistment of said category of posts in D.C. rate list and also approved to implement D.C. rates for Group C categories in the fresh e-tenders, DNIT as contained in the agenda.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.4

Approval of Recommendations of Road Committee.

The Secretary placed agenda item No.4 for consideration and approval.

“The House considered and allowed the Executive Engineer Roads to purchase the material upto Rs.25000/- per month for each ward to take care of damages to the machinery, cement works, replacement of broken curbs/channels, central verges etc. including damages to steel, railing and polls.

Further the House allowed engaging 600 numbers workers through outsourcing as detailed in agenda.

Further the House allowed the restoration charges be placed at the disposal of respective Executive Engineers to make expenditure upto Rs.1.00 lac at his own level.

Further it was also allowed by the House to increase the width of road berms from 9' to 12' by shifting the existing railing/toe wall in front of marla/multi-storey houses."

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.5

Construction of Community Centre at Sector 50, Chandigarh.

The Secretary placed supplementary agenda item No.5 for consideration and approval.

"The House considered & resolved that the estimate amounting to Rs.692.00 lac for Construction of Community Centre at Sector 50, Chandigarh, be and is hereby approved."

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.6

Construction of Fire Service lane, Pavement and Landscaping at Multi Level Parking (near Gurdev Studio), Sector 17, Chandigarh.

The Secretary placed supplementary agenda item No.6 for consideration and approval.

"The House considered & resolved that the estimate amounting to Rs.273.00 lac for Construction of Fire Service lane, Pavement and Landscaping at Multi Level Parking (near Gurdev Studio), Sector 17, Chandigarh, be and is hereby approved."

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.7

Rough Cost Estimate for construction of Cycle track on V-3 road in between Sector 27 & 28, Chandigarh.

The Secretary placed supplementary agenda item No.7 for consideration and approval.

“The House considered & resolved that the estimate amounting to Rs.59.78 lac for construction of Cycle track on V-3 road in between Sector 27 & 28, Chandigarh, be and is hereby approved.”

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.8

To consider and frame the policy for carrying the business for sale/purchase of old cars in Sector-7, Chandigarh on Sundays.

The Secretary placed supplementary agenda item No.8 for consideration and approval.

The Additional Commissioner-I apprised the House that a public notice was published in the leading newspapers for seeking suggestions/objection from the general public within the period of 2 weeks on the official website of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh or in writing. Simultaneously an application was filed in the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court for seeking extension for framing the policy on carrying the business of sale/purchase of old cars. The Hon'ble High Court has grant extension of time till 28.02.2015. It is for information of the House.

“The House noted for information.”

TABLE AGENDA ITEM NO. 213.9

Revised estimate for the work of “Providing basic amenities to the residents of Deep Complex, Hallomajra, Chandigarh – providing sewerage scheme for Deep Complex (Village Hallomajra) U.T., Chandigarh – Revised estimated cost: Rs.591.00 lacs.”

The Secretary placed table agenda item No.9 for consideration and approval.

“The House considered & resolved that the revised estimate amounting to Rs.591.00 lac for the work of “Providing basic amenities to the residents of Deep Complex, Hallomajra, Chandigarh – providing sewerage scheme for Deep Complex (Village Hallomajra) U.T., Chandigarh, be and is hereby approved.”

The House adjourned for lunch break at 2.00 p.m. and resumed at 3.00 p.m.

Sh. Pardeep Chhabra said that when Sh. Satinder Singh asked the question regarding study tour, the detailed discussion was held, but this tour had become the cause of insult for the Councillors. He further said that the family members used to go on study tour in the previous years and the company of family members at this time also was not a major issue. He is not against the study tour. He further apprised that as per the news 11 members committee was constituted, he was also one of the members. He further said that it was informed by the Mayor that two tours had been approved by the Administration, unfortunately only one tour was performed. He asked whether any committee was constituted to frame the modalities of the tour? He demanded the minutes of the meeting of the committee, who prepared this report. He further said that in the reply of the question of Sh. Satinder Singh, the mode of engaging travel agency was not told in spite of assurance.

Sh. Arun Sood invited the attention of the House towards the minutes of the meeting held on 30.10.2014 at page No.8. He read out the statement of Sh. Subhash Chawla and told that the reply of the query had already been given by Sh. Subhash Chawla in the meeting of the House held on 30.10.2014. He further demanded the copy of enquiry report.

There was a din in the House.

Sh. Satinder Singh apprised the House that he had been opposing the study tour from the beginning. He further said that he wrote a letter on dated 07.06.2012 during the regime of Smt. Raj Bala Malik, the then Mayor in which it was stated that the amount incurred on tour should be incurred for the development of his

ward. He further said that he asked the four questions at that time. The first question was that how much tours had been performed during the 15 years and how much amount was incurred. The reply was given by the Corporation. He further apprised that when the present tour was under consideration, my option was sought by the Mayor, but he refused for the tour. He further apprised the House that an amount of Rs.50.00 lac approximately has been kept in the budget for the year 2014-15. He always opposed the big study tour and favoured small study tours. He further said that an amount of Rs.28.00 lacs had been incurred out of Rs.50.00 lacs which would have been passed. He read out the guidelines issued by the Administration from time to time. He further said that there was no transparency and no legal procedure was adopted, rules were not followed. He further read out the reply of the question and read out the contents of approval. He further read out the schedule of the tour and apprised that Havlock and Tirupati was not in the approved tour programme. He further read out the note of the Commissioner for submission of report of study tour. The Councillors returned from tour on 09.08.2014 and the report is being submitted now, which was to be submitted latest by 20th September, 2014. There is more than 130 days delay in submission of report. He criticised the report of study tour which was without detail. He further said that if the report would have been submitted within time in the House, the matter would have not been flared up. He further apprised that an amount of Rs.65000/- had been incurred on the study tour of Nasik on the direction of Hon'ble High Court, but how the study tour involving an amount of Rs.28.00 lacs had been performed without any justification/approval. This tour has maligned the image of Councillors among the people. He further suggested that in future the guidelines should be followed.

Sh. Subhash Chawla said that he stuck to his statement given in previous meetings and recorded in the minutes of these meetings. He said everything was made clear and known to us regarding tour programme, destinations and regarding travel agency before going to tour, but it was not known to anybody, whether the agency is related to Sh. Arun Sood. He further said that no allegation had been levelled against Sh. Arun Sood regarding the travelling agency. He was aggrieved that the agency did not keep its promise as per commitment in the meeting held with them, where it was decided about Hotel stay and food arrangement during the tour. He further apprised that in the previous tours the quality of food was far-far better than the food served during this tour. He further said that he filed a complaint against the agency that the arrangements were not made properly. He further said that the matter was finally decided unanimously and we should own the facts as per our own decisions. As per suggestions given by the Councillors Havlock and Tirupati were the part of study tour and accordingly the travelling agency was apprised with the tour and an amount of Rs.27.00 lacs was calculated including the visit of Havlock and Tirupati. He further said that no member of the Congress party had levelled the allegation about taking the family members on tour. The news broke in the newspapers that the travelling agency was belonging to the relative of Sh. Arun Sood and his nephew, our joint statement was reaction to this. No allegation has been levelled against Sh. Arun Sood, however the media flared up the issue. He further said that no one was at fault, but there may be procedural lapses. He further said that the guidelines provided by Sh. Satinder Singh were not in their notice, otherwise these would have been followed. He further said that he was not aware of the fact that the travelling agency was belonging to the relative of Sh. Arun Sood. He further said that relatives of Sh. Arun Sood are relative to him also. He further said that if Sh. Arun Sood had told him that the travelling agency is belonging to his brother-in-law, he would have suggested him

not to give the contract to said agency. He further said that all facts had come into lights, no wrong had been done knowingly and no allegation can be levelled against anyone about selection of travelling agency. He said that he had seen 10 tours and every tour had some controversy. He suggested that this issue should be closed and requested the House for the same. He further said that the last two months of the year were the golden period of the Mayor which has been spoiled due to this controversial issue. He further reiterated that this issue should be closed and care should be taken in future. He said that tour report should be accepted. He said that there is no wrong on the part of Councillors and officers regarding this study tour. He further requested that Sh. Arun Sood should admit that the wrong had been done as he not disclosed about travelling agency.

Sh. Arun Sood said that he is involved in politics since 1984. He further said that the 11 Councillors were present when the final decision for the study tour was taken. He further said that his resignation was sought through press note of Councillors. He further clarified that if he did not disclose that the travelling agency was belonging to his relative was not a matter of favour, if he would have disclosed it then it would have been the matter of favouritism. He did not use his influence in this matter. The travelling agency has obtained the work on merit and there should be no objection.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Secretary,
Municipal Corporation,
Chandigarh.**

**Mayor,
Municipal Corporation,
Chandigarh.**