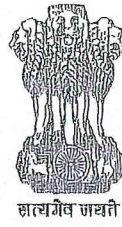


**A.H. KHAN CHOWDHURY**

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(Lok Sabha)



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To  
**Shri Kamal Nath**  
Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development  
Government of India  
New Delhi

PS 18 UDM

21 March, 2012

OFFICE OF UDM

Dy No. 1189

Date 20/3/12

Dear Kamal Nath ji,

You will recall my earlier communication with you regarding grant of land to Esther Education Trust in Delhi. You had in response informed me that as there has been a change in the government policy and DDA now gives land to schools only on the basis of auction.

I would like to draw your attention towards an associated problem of the schools in Delhi. The officials of your department who are part of the DDA have made provisions in the Master Plan of Delhi (MPD) 2021 whereby even a Primary School must have a land area of 800 square meters in order to be recognized by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (the recognizing authority in case of Primary Schools). Before the Master Plan of Delhi 2021 came into force on 07 February, 2007, a Primary School needed only 200 square meters of land, to be run as per law.

This sudden change in rules made by the DDA, has created a very difficult situation for the schools run in different parts of Delhi, particularly by NGOs working for the underprivileged children. Their applications for recognition by the government authorities are being rejected on the grounds that they do not have sufficient land area as per the norms of MPD 2021. When such schools approach the DDA saying that they should be given some land by it, they are told that they can only buy land in auctions held by the DDA.

The rules relating to schools in MPD 2021 raises several important questions which need your immediate attention. What was the basis for increasing the norms for land for schools by four fold with a particular cut-off date? Also, what happens to the schools which have an area of only 100 square meters (that was the norm initially) and have been duly recognized by the government authorities? When land is not being allotted by the DDA, why not have flexible land norms for schools in Delhi?

Interestingly, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, which is the recognizing authority for Primary Schools in Delhi, has also opposed the provision regarding land requirement for schools in Master Plan of Delhi, 2021. They have in fact written to the DDA suggesting that if the land requirement norms for schools have to be changed in MPD 2021, the land area requirement for Primary Schools should only be increased from 200 square meters to 300 square meters. But the DDA has not made any effort to rectify the norms, till date.

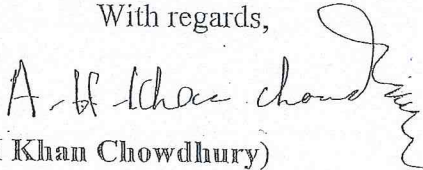
Sir, while on the one hand the DDA has stopped giving land to school on concessional rates, as it used to do earlier, and on the other, the rules regarding land requirement for schools have been made so stringent, that most of the neighbourhood schools in Delhi, which do not have recognition will be forced to close down. 800 square meters of land in any part of Delhi will not cost less than 6 -- 7 crore rupees as of today. In fact, the Chairman of the Education Committee of Municipal Corporation of Delhi has made the same point in his request to the DDA regarding easing the norms for land requirement for schools in Delhi in Masterplan of Delhi, 2021.

You are involved with the field of education yourself and you will appreciate that even small school, can have all the basic facilities for children and provide good education to children. I personally know of several NGOs doing wonderful work in the field of school education in areas of Delhi inhabited by lower middle class or poor families. Changing land requirement norms for schools in Delhi, where land is so exorbitantly expensive doesn't serve the purpose of our society. There are other associated problems as well. Say for example, a school situated in areas which have children from the minority community in large numbers, is unable to get government scholarships for its children, because the school is not recognised.

I shall be very grateful if you could kindly look into the matter and ensure that the DDA amends the norms for land requirement for schools in Delhi in a manner which is both reasonable and feasible. I am enclosing a copy of the news report "MCD seeks flexible Master Plan rules for city schools" which appeared in Hindustan Times dated 09 January, 2012, for your perusal and consideration.

Thanking you,

With regards,

  
(A H Khan Chowdhury)



# SC to hear Talwar's bail plea today

**NEW DELHI:** On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear the bail plea of dentist Rajesh Talwar who has been asked to face trial along with his wife Nupur for their alleged involvement in the murders of their teenaged daughter Aarushi and domestic help Hemraj in 2008. A bench of justices AK

Ganguly and JS Khehar, which had dismissed the couple's plea to quash the criminal proceedings against them, will hear the petition for interim bail.

Fourteen-year-old Aarushi was found dead with her throat slit at the family's Noida residence on the intervening night of May 15-16, 2008. The body of

the Talwars' domestic help Hemraj was found on the terrace the next day.

The apex court had, on January 6, asked the dentist couple to face trial in the case. The bench had said there was nothing wrong in the Ghaziabad magistrate's order of putting them on trial.

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## MCD SEEKS FLEXIBLE MASTER PLAN RULES FOR CITY SCHOOLS

Neelam Pandey  
 neelam.pandey@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** To ensure that neighbourhood schools running in the city do not head towards closure, MCD has written to the Union urban development (UD) minister, asking him to make eligibility guidelines flexible.

As per Delhi Master Plan 2021 guidelines, all primary schools in the city need to have at least 800 sqm of land and a plot area of 0.2 to 0.4 hectares. But a number of private schools do not meet this criterion.

With urban development minister Kamal Nath emphasising the need for a review of the Master Plan, MCD too wants this issue to be addressed.

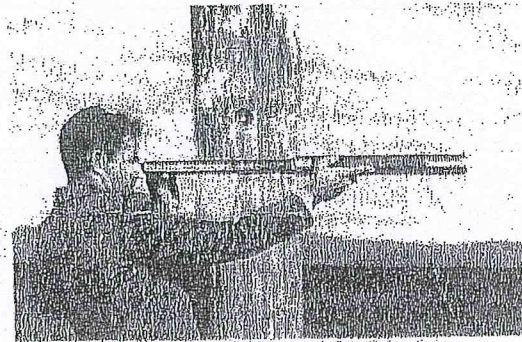
There are about 2,800 primary schools in Delhi, of which 757 are recognised by the MCD. Most are small neighbourhood schools. Also, 400-odd schools are still waiting MCD recognition as they do not fulfil the eligibility criteria.

"We have suggested that the area limit should be lowered to 300 sqm but the proposal is still pending with the government. We are now planning to meet the minister to tackle this issue," said Mahender Nagpal, chairman of MCD's education committee.

According to the MCD officials, all these schools will not be able to fulfil the criteria. "If we follow the Right to Education guidelines, most schools will have to be shut down. In any part of the city, constructing a primary school with 800 sqm area will cost nearly ₹8 crore," said a senior MCD official.

"We have requested the government to make the rules flexible," added Nagpal.

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