



Farmers are angry because they had to wait for years to get possession of the commercial plots and showrooms under the land-pooling system. HT highlighted the issue on January 8-9. HT FILE

LAND POOLING

# Landowners' interest is our top priority, says GMADA

HT Correspondent

chandigarh@hindustantimes.com

**MOHAL:** The Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) will carry out the acquisition of around 4,500 acres in various villages in the surrounding areas of the Chandigarh International Airport.

The acquisition will be done under the land pooling mode after GMADA takes consent from the owners. At present, the social impact assessment of the proposal is being conducted.

**FARMERS RESENTFUL**

Meanwhile, farmers have been resentful of GMADA's policies wherein it proposes to provide commercial plots to the farmers in lieu of their fields.

They are also angry because they had to wait for years to get possession of the commercial plots and showrooms under the land pooling system, while on the other hand GMADA earned profits from their land for years.

Some farmers have yet not been given possession of their plots even though their land was acquired in 2011.

Thus, learning from the past experience, farmers are now resisting GMADA's move to acquire the 4,500 acres of land near the airport's periphery under the land pooling scheme.

On January 8-9, Hindustan Times had highlighted this issue.

» We are clearing backlog of all landowners. We are also allotting plots and commercial units to those whose land was acquired for executing the project.

RAVI BHAGAT, chief administrator, GMADA

**'CONDUCTED DRAW OF LOTS FOR PLOTS'**

Speaking about the delay in allotment of residential plots and commercial properties to land owners, GMADA chief administrator Ravi Bhagat said "interest of landowners is the top priority of GMADA".

He said, "GMADA is clearing the backlog of all landowners. We are allotting plots and commercial establishments to landowners whose land was acquired for execution of projects."

He added, "We have conducted draws for allotment of plots, booths and bay shops."

Last year in September, over 205 residential plots were allotted to landowners whose land was acquired for development in Sectors 76 to Sector 80.

Under the special package scheme which was approved for acquisition of 102 acres, acquired in Sectors 76 to 80, two draws for allotment of 17 SCOs to the land

owners were conducted.

Letter of Intents were issued to land owners and the allotment letters of the same will be issued soon, disclosed the chief administrator.

Apart from this, 82 land owners of Sectors 76 to 80 have been allotted commercial properties as per their entitlement in a draw which was held in October last year.

**APPLICATION FOR 900 PLOTS SOON**

Talking about the allotment of plots and commercial properties to the owners whose land falls in vicinity of the international airport, which GMADA proposes to acquire in near future, additional chief secretary of the department of housing and urban development, Vini Mahajan said, "The priority of our department is to allot the plots at the earliest."

She said, "We are in the process of clearing the deficit of allotment of plots and commercial properties to the landowners and oustees in lieu of land acquired earlier for its projects."

She added, "GMADA will soon come up with schemes and will invite applications from people for allotment of around 650 residential plots in IT City and approximately 250 plots in Eco City-II. However, the schemes will be floated only after a draw for allotment of land to the landowners whose land was acquired for these projects."