

Regarding the FAMC

1. The FAMC has been defined in sections 2 and 5.1.b. of the Rules of the Auroville Foundation as “FAMC means the Funds and Assets Management Committee established by the Governing Board under section 16.1 of the Auroville Foundation Act.” Section 5.1.b. further specifies that the Secretary of the Foundation shall be the Convener of the FAMC, and limits the membership of the FAMC to “not exceeding ten other members including the Financial Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development”.
2. Section 16 of the Auroville Foundation Act specifies that “16. (1) The Governing Board may appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under this Act.” And 16.(2) The Governing Board shall have the power to co-opt as members of any committee appointed under sub-section (1), such number of persons who are not members of the Governing Board as it may think fit, and the persons so co-opted shall have the right to attend the meetings of the committee, and take part in the proceedings of the committee, but shall not have the right to vote.
3. The powers of the Governing Board are mentioned in section 4 of the Auroville Foundation Rules.
4. Sections 4.1.d and 4.1.e explicitly mention that the powers of the Board have to be executed in consultation with the Working Committee and the FAMC of the Residents’ Assembly.
5. Sections 4.1.g, 4.h., 4.1.i, 4.2, 4.3 mention: “in consultation with the Working Committee and the FAMC”.

From the above it becomes obvious that the Rules regarding the FAMC are inconsistent.

- 1) If The FAMC is constituted by the Governing Board, the FAMC would only have as voting members Board members, while all the other members would be co-opted without having the right to vote.
- 2) The Financial Adviser as ex-officio Board member would be the only FAMC member who could vote. Obviously, it was never intended for an IAS officer at the level of the Financial Adviser whose office is in New Delhi to attend meetings of the FAMC.
- 3) It is obvious that there was no intention to formulate two FAMCs in the Rules, one constituted by the Board and another one.

From the above it follows that the definition of the FAMC in sections 2 and 5.1.b. of the Rules of the Auroville Foundation is mistaken. The FAMC is to be seen as a committee constituted by the Residents’ Assembly under section 19.3 of the Auroville Foundation Act and section 5.3 of the Auroville Foundation Rules.

When the Auroville Foundation Rules were promulgated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the then Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Shri Bala Baskar, immediately wrote to the HRD Ministry pointing out this mistake with the request for correction. Since then, there has been a voluminous correspondence between the HRD Ministry, the Auroville Foundation and the Working Committee about changes to be made in the Rules. However, so far this has not resulted in any official

adaptation of the Rules of the Auroville Foundation, even though this was continuously requested by the Working Committee in its addresses to the Governing Board over the years, since 1997. The minutes of one of the last meetings of the former Governing Board (September 2019) contain an explicit acknowledgement of the delay. “12. Governing Board shared the concerns of the Working Committee about delay in the reconstitution of the International Advisory Council and the Rules of the Auroville Foundation.”