

The Times of India - Ludhiana 30.07.2009 **Assistant town planners submit list of these underconstruction illegal structures**

Manvinder Singh, TNN 30 July 2009, 11:26pm IST LUDHIANA:
The tightening of the noose around the officers of the building branch by the municipal corporation (MC) commissioner seems to be yielding the desired results, as the assistant town planners (ATP) have finally submitted the undertaking of 273 under construction illegal buildings in the city.

Acting on orders of MC commissioner GS Ghuman, the ATPs of all four zones submitted the list of these underconstruction illegal structures on Wednesday evening.

Details provided by the ATPs reveal that there are 62 underconstruction illegal buildings in zone A, 51 in zone B, 61 in zone C and 99 in zone D. In its undertaking, the ATPs have stated that according to orders issued by the commissioner, they had asked the draftsmen and all building inspectors to submit details of illegal buildings being constructed in their respective areas. The ATPs have also compiled a report on illegal constructions and the same was now being submitted to Ghuman.

In order to control the mushrooming of illegal buildings and bring transparency in the working of the branch, the MC commissioner had asked all draftsmen and building inspectors to furnish a certificate of undertaking every week regarding the status of illegal buildings in their respective areas to the senior town planner (STP).

Sources said as the ATPs had failed to provide the desired information, the STP issued them a final warning on July 27, following which, they presented the report to Ghuman. Notably, the building branch had been in the line of fire for the mushrooming up of illegal buildings due to the alleged corrupt nexus of officers of the building branch and owners.

Sources said more than 24 officers, including STP Balkar Singh Brar, municipal town planners (MTP) SS Bhatia, Hemant Batra, ATPs Kanwaljeet Kaur, Meharbaan, Harpreet Singh Ghai, Tejveet Singh and Monica Anand have been chargesheeted from time to time for their alleged failure to control the construction of illegal buildings.