A multi-crore scam reported by SC Monitoring Committee in Delhi

What is the issue?

- A Supreme Court (SC) Monitoring Committee said that a land distribution scheme of 1975 has turned into a multi-crore scam.
- This is said at the same time when the Delhi government and the Centre are pushing to regularise over 1,797 unauthorised colonies in Delhi.

What was the scheme?

- This scheme was part of Indira Gandhi's **20-Point Programme (TPP)** launched in 1975. The Programme is now called TPP-2006.
- Under the scheme, the plots were allotted to the poor in two batches (1981-1985 and 1985-89) and were meant for **residential use only**.

Why the Monitoring Committee was set up?

- It was set up on March 24, 2006 by the Supreme Court.
- It was set up **to oversee the implementation of the Law**, namely sealing of offending premises in terms of the letter and spirit of the court's directions.

What are the observations of the Committee?

- It reported to the Supreme Court (SC) on August 8, 2019.
- **Field visit**- Area behind sector 7 of Dwarka sub city in the Najafgarh Zone, in October 2018.
- **Observations** - Major unauthorised constructions like huge showrooms, restaurants, gyms, etc. were found in the area.
- These commercial activities were being carried out in/on small plots amalgamated, though allotted for weaker sections under TPP.

What was the Supreme Court order and afterwards?

- This SC order was a **response to the December 2018 report** submitted by the Committee to the SC.
- **On January 14, 2019** - The SC said that the SDMC should explain why they haven't taken any action under the provisions of DMC (Delhi Municipal

Corporation) Act for unauthorised constructions.

- The Committee's latest report said that **no follow-up action** had been taken as per the SC's order.
- **On July 1, 2019** - The Committee asked for details of houses sites and plots allotted under the TPP.
- **On August 3, 2019** - It received the lists of original allottees from the Revenue department.
- But the Committee's recent report noted that there was **still no clarity** about the large-scale commercialisation, transfer of ownership, amalgamation of plots and the obvious dubious deals.

What happens next?

- The Committee acknowledged that the **efforts to identify** the rightful allottees and the defaulters had **reached a dead end**.
- It **urged the SC to issue orders to the Revenue department** and other local bodies to carry out a detailed survey of all the plots and properties that come under the ambit of TPP.
- Further action will be taken by the Committee after it receives relevant information from the concerned authorities.

What is the reason behind regularising the unauthorised colonies/plots?

- Unauthorised colonies are a **result of unplanned growth**, but since they are often **densely populated** and offer **large vote banks**, politicians are inclined to get them "regularised".
- In other words, they are approved, and **residing in them becomes legal**, so that infrastructure related to water supply, drainage, roads, educational institutions etc. can be set up.

Source: The Indian Express

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