

Objection to removal of security tents **Admn to take legal opinion**

Chandigarh, August 19

Sparing a thought for the security aspect of ministers and some judges, the UT administration today decided to put the issue pertaining to security tents pitched on public land adjoining their residences to senior standing counsel for legal opinion before taking any action.

Confirming this, Finance Secretary Sanjay Kumar said: "Since the matter related to the security of some bureaucrats and judges, a legal opinion would be sought before reviving action against the encroachers. Senior standing counsel Anupam Gupta would be asked to deliberate the issue with the Chief Justice of India."

After the issue was highlighted by The Tribune, the municipal corporation had identified 80 such sites where security tents had been pitched on public places, leading to inconvenience to residents living in the vicinity.

The High Court had taken suo motu cognizance of the matter and issued directions to the administration to remove the encroachments.

The municipal corporation conducted a two-day special drive and identified 80 such sites.

Under the drive, around 30 tents were removed. However, during the campaign, certain objections were raised by prominent persons, including security staff of Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, All-India Anti-Terrorist Front president Maninderjeet Singh Bitta and the family of former Chief Minister Beant Singh along with some judges, to the removal of security tents from the vicinity of their residences.

Also, UT IG SK Jain wrote to the municipal corporation to review the removal of tents of some of VIPs because of their security issue.

Thereafter, the corporation approached the administration seeking further directions in the matter.