

# Madurai-based NGO booked by CBI

It has been charged with FCRA violations

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The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC), a Madurai-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), and its programme unit, the People's Watch, on charges of violating the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.

## Complaint from MHA

Acting on a complaint dated July 22, 2014, lodged by A.K. Sinha, the then Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the CBI's Economic Offences Wing booked the NGO for alleged FCRA violations that surfaced during two inspections conducted by MHA officials in Madurai in May 2012 and 2014.

During the inspections

for the period 2005-06 to 2010-11 and 2011-12 to 2012-13, it was found that after the suspension of FCRA registration, the CPSC had withdrawn ₹28 lakh on July 23, 2012.

It also withdrew ₹1.69 crore from 2008-09 to May 2012, which did not tally with available vouchers.

People's Watch was functioning like a separate entity and communicating directly to the foreign contribution grantee organisations, and most of the bills/receipts were in the name of People's Watch.

The First Information Report said CPSC had withdrawn foreign contribution to the tune of ₹44.54 lakh during 2011-12 and 2012-13 on 240 occasions. They used foreign contribution for a purpose other than what it was meant for.