The secretary to the Sri Aurobindo Society, Navajata, and the governor of Pondicherry, Anjani, sabotaged Mother's request to the Ford Foundation. From Suresh Hindocha's speech at the Town Hall, 24.2.2009:

At that time a group of traditional urban planners were working at Kolkata (Calcutta) and about to end their term. They were funded by the Ford Foundation. It was felt by Anjani Dayanand, the then chief secretary of Pondicherry and Navajata, secretary of Sri Aurobindo Society, that rather than going in for a planning effort by Planning Research Corporation, the experts at Kolkata should be called in. They were totally against the proposal to engage the services of Dr. Firstman. We explained to them that we were not proposing to do mere urban planning. Systems engineering was much more than that.

Our proposal was for a totally integrated approach taking into consideration all aspects of Auroville, including finance and industries. We were not talking about patching up an existing city. Auroville would start from scratch. It would be planned first underground for things like water, electricity, sewerage, etc. and built on that. ...

Before we were to submit the proposal to Ford Foundation, Anjani Dayanand again asked me to visit her. She asked me not to submit our proposal for the above reasons. We had to ignore her request, since the Mother had already signed the proposal, as the president of Sri Aurobindo Society.

My brother and I went to Ford Foundation, at Delhi, where we met Mr. Preston Andrade. Dr. Firstman wanted us to meet him, as per instructions from Mr. Douglas Ensminger, the chief of Delhi operations.

We were totally shocked when we were told by Mr. Andrade that, just a few days ago, they had received a counter proposal from Auroville. Basically, we were told that Auroville must get their act together, since one group did not know what the other group was doing. I do not have to elaborate the devastating consequences of this really damaging and outrageous action.

When we returned to Pondicherry, we got a letter from Ford Foundation that they declined to support our proposal to finance a feasibility study for planning of Auroville. It was quite obvious that the counter proposal also did not succeed, for the same reason.