

THE TAMIL NADU PANCHAYATS ACT, 1994

(Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994)

(As modified upto the 30th June 1995)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

LAW DEPARTMENT

THE TAMIL NADU PANCHAYATS ACT, 1994

(TAMIL NADU ACT 21 OF 1994)

(As modified upto.the 30th June 1995)

PREFERENCE TO PAPERS CONNECTED WITH THE PRINCIPAL ACT
AND THE AMENDING ACT

1. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (*Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994*).

(For Statement of Objects and Reasons, *see* Part IV- Section 1 of the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* Extraordinary, dated the 18th April 1994, page 264; For Act, *see* Part IV Section 2 of the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* Extraordinary, dated the 22nd April 1994, page 68-170.)

2. Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 1994. (*Tamil Nadu Act 51 of 1994*).

(For Statement of Objects and Reasons, *see* Part IV - Section 1 of the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* Extraordinary, dated the 8th November 1994, page 490; For Act, *see* Part IV Section 2 of the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* Extraordinary, dated the 28th November 1994, page 342.)

THE TAMIL NADU PANCHAYATS ACT, 1994

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PREAMBLE.

CHAPTER - I.

PRELIMINARY.

SECTIONS :

1. Short title, extent and commencement
2. Definitions

CHAPTER - II.

GRAMA SABHA

3. Grama Sabha.

CHAPTER - III.

FORMATION AND CONSTITUTION OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS,
PANCHAYAT UNION COUNCILS AND DISTRICT PANCHAYATS
VILLAGE PANCHAYATS.

4. Formation of panchayat villages.
5. Extension of provisions of Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, or of any rules made thereunder.
6. Constitution of village panchayats and their incorporation.
7. Alteration of classification of panchayat villages.
8. Strength of a village panchayat.
9. Duration of village panchayats.
10. Election of members of village panchayat.
11. Reservation of seats.
12. Division of panchayat village into wards.
13. Term of office of members.
14. Electoral roll for village panchayats.

P ANCHAYAT UNION COUNCILS.

15. Formation of panchayat union.
16. Constitution of panchayat union councils and their incorporation.
17. Composition and strength of panchayat union council.
18. Duration of panchayat union council.
19. Election of members of panchayat union council.
20. Reservation of seats.
21. Division of panchayat union into wards.
22. Term of office of members.
23. Electoral roll for the panchayat union council.

DISTRICT PANCHAYATS.

24. Formation and incorporation of district panchayat.
25. Constitution of district panchayat.
26. Election of members.
27. Determination of elected members after census.
28. Delimitation of territorial wards.
29. Term of office of members.
30. Electoral roll for district panchayat.
31. Duration of district panchayat.
32. Reservation of seats.

QUALIFICATION, DISQUALIFICATION, ETC., OF MEMBERS.

33. Qualification of candidates.
34. Disqualification of officers and servants of Government and local bodies, etc.
35. Disqualification of persons convicted of election offences.
36. Disqualification of voters.
37. Disqualification of candidates.
38. Disqualification of members.
39. Restoration of members to office.
40. Oath or affirmation to be made by members.
41. Authority to decide the questions of disqualification of members.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

42. President and vice-president of village panchayat.
43. Election of president.
44. Election of vice- president.
45. Cessation of office of president and vice-president.
46. Functions of president.
47. Devolution and delegation of president's functions and the filling up of vacancies in the office of president.
48. Delegation of functions of president.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

49. Chairman and vice-chairman of panchayat union council.
50. Election of chairman of panchayat union council.
51. Election of vice-chairman of panchayat union council.
52. Functions of chairman.
53. Cessation of office of chairman and vice-chairman of a panchayat union council.
54. Devolution and delegation of chairman's functions and filling up of vacancies in the office of chairman.
55. Chairman and vice-chairman of district panchayat.
56. Election of chairman and vice-chairman of district panchayat.
57. Reservation of seats in the office of the president and chairman, etc.

CHAPTER-IV.

OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

58. Infringement of secrecy of election.
59. Minimum penalty for personation at an election.
60. Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.
61. Prohibition of public meetings on the day preceding the election day and on the election day.
62. Disturbances at election meeting.
63. Restriction on the printing of pamphlets, posters, etc.
64. Officers, etc., at elections not to act for candidates or to influence voting.
65. Prohibition of canvassing in or near polling stations.
66. Penalty for disorderly conduct in or near polling stations.
67. Penalty for misconduct at the polling stations.
68. Penalty for illegal hiring or procuring of conveyances at elections.
69. Breaches of official duty in connection with election.
70. Removal of ballot papers from polling stations to be an offence.
71. Other offences and penalties therefor.
72. Cognizance of certain election offences.

REQUISITIONING OF PROPERTY FOR ELECTION PURPOSES.

73. Requisitioning of premises, vehicles, etc., for election purposes.
74. Payment of amount.
75. Power to obtain information.
76. Power of entry into and inspection of premises, etc.
77. Eviction from requisitioned premises.
78. Release of premises from requisition.
79. Delegation of function of the Government with regard to requisitioning.

MEMBERS.

81. Rights of individual member.
82. No president, vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman or member to receive remuneration.

CHAPTER V.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.

83. Executive authority of village panchayat.
84. Functions of executive authority.

COMMISSIONER.

- 85. Commissioner.
- 86. Emergency power of executive authority and commissioner.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

- 87. Chief executive officer.
- 88. Functions, powers and duties of chief executive officer.

CHAPTER VI.

PROCEDURE.

- 89. Presidency at meetings of panchayat.
- 90. Meetings of panchayat.
- 91. Members when to abstain from taking part in discussion and voting.
- 92. Minutes of proceedings.
- 93. Power of panchayat to call for records.
- 94. Proceedings of panchayat and committees.
- 95. Appointment of joint committees.
- 96. Committees.
- 97. Standing committees.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

- 98. Administration report of village panchayats.
- 99. Administration report of panchayat union councils and district panchayats.

VALIDATION OF PROCEEDINGS.

- 100. Acts of village panchayats, panchayat union councils and district panchayats not to be invalidated by any infirmity, vacancy, etc.

CHAPTER VII.

ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF PANCHAYATS.

- 101. Establishment of panchayats.
- 102. Conditions of service of officers and servants of panchayats.
- 103. Appointment of common officers.
- 104. Transfer of officers and servants of village panchayats and panchayat union councils.
- 105. Power of Government to transfer officers and servants of district panchayat.
- 106. Power to punish officers and servants of panchayats.
- 107. Applicability of certain directions to public health establishment.
- 108. Teachers including headmasters and basic servants in the panchayat union schools to be Government servants.
- 109. Health assistants, auxiliary nurses, midwives and maternity assistants in public health establishments of panchayat union councils to be Government servants.

CHAPTER VIII.

FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND PROPERTY OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS,
PANCHAYAT UNION COUNCILS AND DISTRICT PANCHAYATS.

110. Duty of village panchayat to provide for certain matters.
111. Power of village panchayat to provide for certain other matters.
112. Duty of panchayat union council to provide for certain matters.
113. Entrustment of execution of National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development to panchayat union councils.
114. Entrustment of certain schemes to panchayat union councils.
115. Power of panchayat union council to provide for certain other matters.
116. Common burial and burning grounds, etc.
117. Lighting of public roads and public places.
118. Maintenance of common dispensaries, child welfare centres, etc.
119. Transfer of immovable property, management of institutions, execution or maintenance of works, etc., to a village panchayat.
120. Transfer to village panchayats of unreserved forests.
121. Power of Government to resume possession of unreserved forest vested in a village panchayat and payment of compensation, etc.
122. Power of Commissioner of Land Administration to transfer or resume control of endowments and inams.
123. Government's power to add to functions of panchayat union council.
124. Limitation of power to accept donations and trusts.
125. Vesting of public roads in village panchayats.
126. Vesting of public roads in panchayat union councils.
127. Duty of village panchayat in respect of public roads excluded from the operation of the Act.
128. Precautions in case of dangerous structures.
129. Precautions in case of dangerous trees.
130. Fencing of buildings or lands and pruning of hedges and trees.
131. Prohibition against obstructions in or over public roads, etc.
132. Vesting of communal property or income in village panchayat.
133. Maintenance of irrigation works, execution of kudi maramat, etc.
134. Village panchayat to regulate the use of certain porambokes in ryotwari tracts.
135. Village panchayat to regulate the use of certain communal lands in estates governed by the Tamil Nadu Estates Land Act, 1908.
136. Collected rubbish, etc., to belong to village panchayat.
137. Immovable property required by village panchayats and panchayat union councils may be acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.
138. Contributions from persons having control over places of pilgrimage, etc.
139. Power to order closure of places of public entertainment.

140. Minors suffering from dangerous diseases not to attend schools.
141. Compulsory vaccination.
142. Obligation to give information of small-pox or cholera.
143. Precautions in case of dangerous tanks. wells, holes, etc.
144. Removal of filth or noxious vegetation from lands and buildings.
145. Power of commissioner or executive authority to use or sell materials of dangerous structure taken down, etc.
146. Limitation of compensation.
147. Public markets.
148. Licensing of private markets.
149. Decision of disputes as to whether places are markets.
150. Prohibition of sale in unlicensed private markets, etc.,
151. Prohibition against sale in public roads.
152. Classification of markets.
153. Acquisition of right of persons to hold private market.
154. Public landing places and cart stands, etc.
155. Private cart stand.
156. Public slaughter houses.
157. Prohibition or regulation of the use of places for slaughtering animals and the licensing of slaughterers.
158. Numbering or naming of building, etc.
159. Purposes for which places may not be used without a licence.
160. Permission for construction of factories and the installation of machinery.
161. Power of Government to make rules in respect of the grant and renewal of licences and permissions.
162. Modification of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888.
163. Functions of district panchayat.
164. General powers of district panchayat.
165. Annual report of district panchayat.
166. Returns and reports of district panchayat.

CHAPTER IX.

TAXATION AND FINANCE.

167. Local cess.
168. Local cess surcharge.
169. Rules regarding collection of local cess.
170. Land revenue assignment.
171. Taxes leviable by village panchayats.
172. House-tax.
173. Vehicle-tax.

174. Appeal against assessments.
175. Duty on transfer of property.
176. Exemption.
177. Power to require land revenue staff to collect taxes and fees due to village panchayats.
178. Write-off of irrecoverable amounts.
179. Local Education Grant.
180. Local Cess Surcharge Matching Grant.
181. Classification of panchayat development blocks.
182. Local Roads Grant.
183. Village House-tax Matching Grant.
184. Deduction from grant in certain cases.
185. Constitution of Panchayat Union Fund and Village Panchayat Fund.
186. Panchayat Union (General) Fund.
187. Panchayat Union (Education) Fund.
188. Village Panchayat Fund.
189. District Panchayat (General) Fund.

EXPENDITURE.

190. Application of money received and expenditure from funds.
191. Expenditure from Village Panchayat Fund and Panchayat Union Fund.
192. Preparation and sanction of budgets.
193. Appointment of auditors.
194. Contribution to expenditure by other local authorities.
195. Recovery of loans and advances made by Government.
196. Application of certain sections of this Act to district panchayat.
197. Certain powers and functions of district panchayat to be notified by the Government
198. Finance Commission.

CHAPTER X.

CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES.

199. Appointment of officers to supervise panchayats.
200. Powers of inspecting officers.
201. Powers of officer for purpose of control.
202. Power to suspend or cancel resolution, etc., under the Act.
203. Emergency powers of Collector and Inspector.
204. Power to take action in default of a village panchayat, president or executive authority, etc.
205. Removal of president.
206. Removal of vice-president.
207. Removal of chairman of panchayat union council.

- 208. Removal of vice-chairman of panchayat union council.
- 209. Removal of chairman of district panchayat.
- 210. Removal of vice-chairman of district panchayat.
- 211. Motion of no confidence in vice-president of village panchayat.
- 212. Motion of no confidence in vice-chairman of panchayat union council.
- 213. Motion of no confidence in vice-chairman of district panchayat.
- 214. Dissolution of village panchayat.
- 215. Dissolution of panchayat union council.
- 216. Dissolution of district panchayats.
- 217. Powers of officers acting on behalf of panchayat and liability for payment of compensation.
- 218. Delegation of powers.
- 218. Revision.

CHAPTER XI.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

LICENSES AND PERMISSIONS.

- 220. General provisions regarding licences and permissions.
- 221. Government and market committees not to obtain licence and permission.

POWER TO ENFORCE NOTICES, ORDERS, ETC.

- 222. Time for complying with notice, order etc., and power to enforce in default.

POWER OF ENTRY AND INSPECTION.

- 223. Power of entry and inspection.
- 224. Testing of weights and measures.
- 225. Power to call for information from Village Administrative Officer.

LIMITATION.

- 226. Limitation for recovery of dues.

PROSECUTIONS, SUITS, ETC.

- 227. Persons empowered to prosecute.
- 228. Composition of offences.
- 229. Prosecutions and compositions to be reported to village panchayat, panchayat union council or district panchayat.
- 230. Sanction of prosecution.
- 231. Notice of action against village panchayat, etc.
- 232. Protection of chairman, president and officers acting in good faith.
- 233. Injunction not to be granted in election proceedings.
- 234. Liability of the president, executive authority, members, etc., for loss, waste or misapplication of property.
- 235. Assessment, etc., not to be impeached.
- 236. Public roads, markets, wells, tanks, etc., to be open to all.
- 237. Power to farm out fees.

- 238. Adjudication of disputes between local authorities.
- 239. State Election Commission.
- 240. Preparation of development plan.
- 241. District Planning Committee.

RULES.

- 242. Power of Government to make rules.

CHAPTER XII.

PENALTIES.

- 243. Penalties for breach of rules.
- 244. By-laws and penalties for their breach.
- 245. General provisions regarding penalties specified in the Schedules.
- 246. Penalty for acting as member, president or vice-president of a village panchayat or as member, chairman or vice-chairman of a panchayat union council or district panchayat when disqualified.
- 247. Penalty for acquisition by an officer or servant of interest in contract work.
- 248. Wrongful restraint of executive authority or commissioner or chief executive officer or his delegates.
- 249. Prohibition against obstruction of panchayats.
- 250. Prohibition against removal or obliteration of notice.
- 251. Penalty for not giving information or giving false information.

CHAPTER XIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- 252. Construction of reference to panchayats, etc.
- 253. Special provisions relating to newly constituted panchayats.
- 254. Construction of reference to local boards, "Madras Local Boards Act, 1920", etc.
- 255. Repeal and savings.
- 256. Power to remove difficulties.
- 257. Power, authority and responsibilities of panchayats.

DISPUTES REGARDING ELECTION.

- 258. Election petitions.
- 259. Grounds for declaring elections to be void.
- 260. Corrupt practices.
- 261. Transitory provision.
- 262. Rules, notifications and orders to be placed before the Legislative Assembly.

SCHEDULE-I.

SCHEDULE-II.

SCHEDULE-III.

SCHEDULE-IV.

The following Act of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly received the assent of the Governor on the 22nd April 1994 and is hereby published for general information :

ACT No. 21 OF 1994.

An Act to repeal and re-enact the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958.

WHEREAS it is expedient to repeal and re-enact the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958, for establishing a three tier panchayat raj system in the State to the elected bodies at the village, intermediate and district level in keeping with the Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992, relating to panchayats for greater participation of the people so as to make them institutions of self-government and for more effective implementation of rural development programmes;

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Forty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Tamil Nadu except,-

(i) the City of Madras;

Tamil Nadu
Act 15 of 1971.

(ii) the City of Madurai constituted under the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971;

Tamil Nadu
Act 25 of 1981.

(iii) the City of Coimbatore constituted under the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981;

Tamil Nadu
Act V of 1920.

(iv) the municipalities, town panchayats and industrial townships constituted under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920; and

Central Act II
of 1924.

(v) the cantonments constituted under the Cantonments Act, 1924.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification, appoint.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

Definitions

(1) 'building' includes a house, out-house, tent, stable, latrine, shed, hut, wall (other than a boundary wall not exceeding 2.5 metres in height) and any other such structure, whether of masonry, bricks, wood, mud, metal or any other material whatsoever;

(2) 'casual vacancy' means a vacancy occurring otherwise than by efflux of time and 'casual election' means an election held to fill a casual vacancy;

(3) 'chairman' means the chairman of a panchayat union council or a district panchayat, as the case may be;

(4) 'chief executive officer' means the chief executive officer of a district panchayat;

(5) 'collector' means the collector of a revenue district;

(6) 'commissioner' means the commissioner of a panchayat union;

(7) 'company' means a company as defined in the Companies Act, 1956 and includes a foreign company within the meaning of section 591 of that Act;

Central Act 1
of 1956.

(8) 'district' means a revenue district;

(9) 'district panchayat' means the district panchayat constituted under sub section (I) of section 24;

(10) 'drain' means a rain or storm water drain and water tables, chutes and the side drain exclusively meant to drain away the rain water falling on the surface of any street, bridge or causeway, but does not include a drain or sewer within the meaning of the Madras Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1978;

Tamil Nadu
Act 28 of 1978.

(11) 'executive authority' means a secretary of a village panchayat appointed by the Government under section 83;

(12) 'Government' means State Government

(13) 'Grama Sabha' means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a panchayat village comprised within the area of village panchayat concerned;

(14) 'house' means a building fit for human occupation, whether as a residence or otherwise, having a separate principal entrance from the common way; and includes any shop, workshop or warehouse or any building used for garaging or parking buses or as a bus-stand;

(15) 'hut' means any building which is constructed principally of wood, mud, leaves, grass or thatch and includes any temporary structure of whatever size or any small building of whatever material made, which the panchayat may declare to be a hut for the purposes of this Act;

(16) 'Inspector' means any officer not below the rank of a Collector appointed by the Government to exercise or perform any of the powers or duties of the Inspector under this Act;

(17) 'latrine' includes privy, water-closet and urinal;

(18) 'member' means a member of the village panchayat, the panchayat union council or the district panchayat, as the case may be;

(19) 'ordinary vacancy' means a vacancy occurring by efflux of time and 'ordinary election' means an election held to fill an ordinary vacancy;

(20) 'owner' includes-

(a) the person for the time being receiving or entitled to receive whether on his own account or on behalf of another person as agent, trustee, guardian, manager or receiver or for any religious or charitable purpose, the rents or profits of the property in connection with which the word is used; and

(b) the person for the time being in charge of the animal or vehicle in connection with which the word is used;

(21) 'panchayat' means a village panchayat, a panchayat union council or a district panchayat constituted under this Act;

(22) 'panchayat development block' means the area declared by the Government from time to time to be a panchayat development block for the purpose of this Act;

(23) 'panchayat union' means any local area which is declared to be a panchayat union under this Act;

(24) 'panchayat union council' means the body constituted for the administration of a panchayat union under this Act;

(25) 'panchayat village' means any local area over which a village panchayat has jurisdiction;

(26) 'president' means the president of a village panchayat;

(27) 'private road' means any street, road, square, court, alley, passage, carttrack, foot-path or riding-path which is not a 'public road' but does not include a pathway made by the owner of premises on his own land to secure, access to, or the convenient use of, such premises;

(28) 'public road' means any street, road, square, court, alley, passage, carttrack, foot-path or riding-path, over which the public have a right of way, whether a thoroughfare or not, and includes

(a) the roadway over any public bridge or causeway;

(b) the footway attached to any such road, public bridge or causeway; and

(c) the drains attached to any such road, public bridge or causeway, and the land, whether covered or not by any pavement, veranda, or other structure, which lies on either side of the roadway upto the boundaries of the adjacent property, whether that property is private property or property belonging to the State or Central Government;

(29) a person is deemed to have his residence' or to 'reside' in any house if he sometimes uses any portion thereof as a sleeping apartment, and a person is not deemed to cease to reside in any such house merely because he is absent from it or has elsewhere another dwelling in which he resides, if he is at liberty to return to such house at any time and has not abandoned his intention of returning;

(30) 'revenue district' means any local area which for the purposes of revenue administration is under the charge of a Collector, after excluding therefrom all areas included in-

(a) the City of Madras;

Tamil Nadu Act 15 of 1971. (b) the City of Madurai constituted under the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971;

Tamil Nadu Act 25 of 1981. (c) the City of Coimbatore constituted under the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981;

Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920. (d) the municipalities, town panchayats and industrial townships constituted under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920; and

Central Act II of 1924 (e) the cantonments constituted under the Cantonments Act, 1924;

(31) 'Scheduled Castes' shall have the same meaning as in the Constitution;

(32) 'Scheduled Tribes' shall have the same meaning as in the Constitution;

(33) 'State Election Commission' means the State Election Commission referred to in section 239;

(34) 'State Election Commissioner' means the State Election Commissioner referred to in section 239;

(35) 'unreserved forest' means a forest not notified under section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 and includes unreserved land at the disposal of the Government;

Tamil Nadu Act
V of 1882.

(36) 'village' means any local area which is declared to be a panchayat village under sub-section (I) of section 4, and 'revenue village' means any local area which is recognised as a village in the revenue accounts of Government after excluding therefrom the areas, if any, included in

(a) the City of Madras;

(b) the City of Madurai constituted under the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act 1971;

Tamil Nadu
Act 15 of 1971.

(c) the City of Coimbatore constituted under the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981;

Tamil Nadu
Act 25 of 1981.

(d) the municipalities, town panchayats and industrial townships constituted under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920; and

Tamil Nadu
Act V of 1920.

(e) the cantonments constituted under the Cantonments Act, 1924;

Central Act II
of 1924.

(37) 'village panchayat' means a panchayat constituted as a village panchayat under sub-section (I) of section 6;

(38) 'water-course' includes any river, stream or channel, whether natural or artificial;

(39) 'year' means the financial year.

CHAPTER II.

GRAMA SABHA.

3. (1) There shall be a Grama Sabha for every village panchayat consisting of Grama Sabha. persons registered in the electoral roll relating to the panchayat village, comprised within the area of the said village panchayat.

(2) Subject to the general orders of the Government, the Grama Sabha shall meet atleast thrice in a year but six months shall not intervene between any two meetings'. If the village panchayat fails to convene the Grama Sabha, the Inspector shall convene the Grama Sabha.

(3) (a) The Grama Sabha shall,

(i) approve the village plan;

(ii) approve the village budget for the year; and

(iii) review the progress of the implementation of all schemes entrusted to the village panchayat.

(b) The Government may, by notification, entrust to the Grama Sabha such other functions as may be specified.

(4) The village panchayat shall give due consideration to the recommendations and suggestions of the Grama Sabha.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Grama Sabha shall be one-third of the total number of the members of the Grama Sabha and the procedure for convening and conducting such meetings of the Grama Sabha shall be such as may be prescribed.

(6) Every meeting of the Grama Sabha shall be presided over by the president and in his absence, by the vice-president and in the absence of both the president and vice-president, by a member chosen by the members present at the meeting.

CHAPTER III.

FORMATION AND CONSTITUTION OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS,
PANCH AYAT UNION COUNCILS AND DISTRICT PANCHAYATS.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS.

Formation of
panchayat
villages.

4. (1) The Inspector,

(a) shall, by notification, classify and declare every local area comprising a revenue village or villages or any portion of a revenue village or contiguous portions of two or more revenue villages with a population estimated at not less than five hundred as a panchayat village for the purposes of this Act; and

(b) shall, by notification, specify the name of such panchayat village.

(2) (a) The Inspector may, by notification, exclude from a panchayat village any area comprised therein, provided that the population of the panchayat village after such exclusion, is not less than five hundred.

(b) In regard to any area excluded under clause (a), the Inspector shall by notification under sub-section (1) declare it to be a panchayat village if it has a population of not less than five hundred or if its population is less than five hundred, include it in any contiguous panchayat village under clause (c) (i).

(c) The Inspector may, by notification,

(i) include in a panchayat village any local area contiguous thereto; or (ii)

cancel or modify a notification issued under sub-section (1); or

(iii) alter the name of any panchayat village specified under sub-section (1).

(d) Before issuing a notification under clause (a) or under clause (b) read with sub-section (1) or under clause (c), the Inspector shall give the village panchayat or village panchayats which will be affected by the issue of such notification, a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against the proposal and shall consider the explanations and objections, if any, of such village panchayat or village panchayats.

(3) Any rate-payer or inhabitant of such area or any village panchayat concerned, may, if he or it objects to any notification under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), appeal to the government within such period as may be prescribed.

(4) The Inspector may pass such orders as he may deem fit-

(a) as to the disposal of the property vested in a village panchayat which has ceased to exist, and the discharge of its liabilities;

(b) as to the disposal of any part of the property vested in a village panchayat which has ceased to exercise jurisdiction over any local area, and the discharge of the liabilities of the village panchayat relating to such property or arising from such local area.

(5) An order made under sub-section (4) may contain such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as the Inspector may deem necessary, and in particular may direct

(i) that any tax, fee or other sum due to the village panchayat or where a village panchayat has ceased to exercise jurisdiction over any local area, such tax, fee or other sum due to the village panchayat as relates to that area shall be payable to such authorities as may be specified in the order;

(ii) that appeals, petitions, or other applications with reference to any such tax, fee or sum which are pending on the date on which the village panchayat ceased to exist or, as the case may be, on the date on which the village panchayat cease to exercise jurisdiction over the local area, shall be disposed of by such authorities as may be specified in the order.

Tamil Nadu
Act V of 1920

5. (1) The Inspector may, whether at the request of the village panchayat or otherwise, by notification, declare that any of the provisions of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 or of any rules made thereunder, shall be extended to, and be in force in, the panchayat village or any specified area therein.

Extension of provisions of Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 or of any rules made thereunder.

(2) The provisions so notified shall be construed with such alterations (not affecting the substance) as may be necessary or proper for the purpose of adapting them to the panchayat village or specified area therein.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, all references in the provisions so notified to a municipal council or the chairman or the executive authority thereof shall be construed as references to the village panchayat or the president or the executive authority of the village panchayat and all references to any officer or servant of a municipal council as references to the corresponding officer or servant of the village panchayat, and all references to the municipal limits as references to the limits of the panchayat village or specified area therein, as the case may be.

6. (1) A village panchayat shall be constituted for each panchayat village consisting of such number of elected members, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification issued in that behalf by the Inspector.

Constitution Of village panchayats and their incorporation

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the administration of the panchayat village shall vest in the village panchayat but the village panchayat shall not be entitled to exercise functions expressly assigned by or under this Act or any other law to its president or to any panchayat union council or the district panchayat or other authority .

(3) Every village panchayat shall be a body corporate by the name of the panchayat village specified in the notification issued under section 4, shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and subject to any restriction or qualification imposed by or under this Act or any other law, shall be vested with the capacity of suing or being sued in its corporate name, of acquiring, holding and transferring property, movable or immovable, of entering into contracts, and of doing all things necessary, proper or expedient for the purposes for which it is constituted.

7. (1) The Government may alter any classification notified under sub-section (1) of section 4, if in their opinion the panchayat village satisfies or ceases to satisfy the conditions referred to in that sub-section.

Alteration of classification of panchayat villages.

(2) Any decision made by the Government under this section shall not be questioned in a court of law.

8. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 12 or any other provisions of this Act, the total number of members of a village panchayat (exclusive of its president) shall be notified by the Inspector in accordance with such scale as may be prescribed with reference to population of the panchayat village concerned, as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published.

Strength of a village panchayat.

(2) The Inspector may, from time to time, by notification, alter the total number of members of a village panchayat notified under sub-section (1).

(3) The number notified under sub-section (1) or the number as altered by notification under sub-section (2) shall not be less than five or more than fifteen.

9. (1) Every village panchayat unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting after each ordinary election and no longer.

Duration of village panchayats.

(2) Where a village panchayat is dissolved before the expiration of the said period of five years, election to constitute such village panchayat shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of section 214 as soon as may be, and in any case before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of such dissolution.

Provided that where a village panchayat is dissolved, within six months before the expiration of the said period of five years, it shall not be necessary to hold any election to such village panchayat.

Election of members of village panchayat.	<p>10. The members of the village panchayat shall be elected in such manner as may be prescribed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Provided that no person shall be eligible to be elected under this Act as a member of more than one village panchayat.</p>
Reservation of seats.	<p>11.(1) Seats shall be reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in every village panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that village panchayat as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that village panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that village panchayat area bears to the total population of that area:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Provided that for the first election for the village panchayat to be held immediately after the commencement of this Act, the provisional population figures of the panchayat village as published in relation to 1991 census shall be deemed to be the population of the panchayat village.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) Seats shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from among the seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which shall not be less than one third of the total number of seats reserved for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(3) Seats shall be reserved for women in the village panchayat and the number of seats reserved for women shall be, as nearly as may be, one third including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of the total number of seats in the village panchayat:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Provided that such seats reserved for women shall be allotted by rotation to different wards in such a manner as the Inspector may, by notification, direct.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(4) The reservation of seats under sub-sections(1) and (2) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article 334 of the Constitution.</p>
Division of panchayat village into wards..	<p>12. For the purpose of election of members to a village panchayat, the Inspector may, after consulting the village panchayat, by notification, divide the panchayat village into wards and determine the number of members to be returned by each ward in accordance with such scale as may be prescribed.</p>
Term of office of members.	<p>13.(1) The term of office of the members of every village panchayat who are elected at ordinary elections, shall, save as otherwise expressly provided, be five years from the date appointed for the first meeting of such village panchayat after ordinary election.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) Ordinary vacancies in the office of an elected member of the village panchayat shall be filled at ordinary elections which shall be fixed by the State Election Commissioner to take place on such day or days within six months before the occurrence of the ordinary vacancies, as he thinks fit.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(3) The member of a village panchayat elected in a casual vacancy shall enter upon office forthwith, but shall hold office only so long as the member in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office if the vacancy had not occurred.</p>
Electoral roll for village panchayats.	<p>14.(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), the electoral roll of the panchayat union council for the time being in force in a panchayat village shall be deemed to be the electoral roll for such village panchayat.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) No amendment, transposition or deletion of any entry in the electoral roll of the panchayat union council made after the last date of making nominations for an election in any village panchayat ward and before the notification of the result of such election, shall form part of the electoral roll for such election for the purpose of this section.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(3) The executive authority of the village panchayat shall maintain in the prescribed manner, an electoral roll for each ward of the panchayat village.</p>

PANCHAYAT UNION COUNCILS.

15.(1) The Government may, from time to time, publish a notification of their intention,-

Formation of
panchayat
union.

(a) to declare any local area forming a development block for the purposes of the National Extension Service Scheme or Community Development, to be a panchayat development block; and

(b) to constitute for every such panchayat development block a panchayat union.

(2) Any inhabitant of a local area in respect of which any such notification has been published may submit his objection in writing to anything contained in the notification to the Government within six weeks from the publication of the notification and the Government shall take all such objections into consideration.

(3) After the expiry of six weeks from the publication of the notification and after considering the objections, if any, which have been submitted, the Government may, by notification-

(a) declare the local area to be a panchayat development block;

(b) declare the said panchayat development block to be a panchayat union;

and

(c) specify the name of the panchayat union.

(4) The Government may, by notification-

(i) exclude from a panchayat development block any area or village comprised therein, or

(ii) include in a panchayat development block any area contiguous to it, or

(iii) cancel or modify a notification issued under sub-section (3), or

(iv) alter the name of a panchayat union.

(5) Before issuing a notification under sub-section (4), the Government shall consult the district panchayat concerned and give the panchayat union councilor panchayat union councils and the village panchayat or village panchayats which will be affected by the issue of such notification, a reasonable opportunity for showing cause against the proposal and shall consider their explanations, and objections, if any.

(6) The Government may pass such orders as they may deem fit

(a) for the disposal of the assets of, or institutions belonging to, the panchayat union council which has ceased to exist, and for the discharge of the liabilities, if any, of such panchayat union council relating to such assets or institutions, or

(b) for the disposal of any part of the assets of, or institutions belonging to, a panchayat union council which has ceased to exercise jurisdiction over any panchayat development block and for the discharge of the liabilities, if any, of the panchayat union council relating to such assets or institutions.

(7) An order made under sub-section (6) may contain such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as the Government may deem necessary, and in particular may direct

(i) that any tax, fee or other sum due to the panchayat union council or where a panchayat union council has ceased to exercise jurisdiction over any panchayat development block, such tax, fee or other sum due to the panchayat union council as relates to that block shall be payable to such authorities as may be specified in the order;

(ii) that appeals, petitions or other applications with reference to any such tax, fee or sum which are pending on the date on which the panchayat union council ceased to exist, or as the case may be, on the date on which the panchayat union council ceased to exercise jurisdiction over the panchayat development block, shall be disposed of by such authorities as may be specified in the order.

Constitution of panchayat union councils and their incorporation.

16.(1) A panchayat union council shall be constituted for each panchayat union with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification issued in that behalf by the Government.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the administration of the panchayat union shall vest in the panchayat union council but the panchayat union council shall not be entitled to exercise functions expressly assigned by or under this Act or any other law to its chairman or the commissioner or to the village panchayat or district panchayat or any other authority:

Provided that if and so long as there is no village panchayat in any part of a panchayat union, the panchayat union council shall exercise all the powers including the power of taxation, discharge the duties, perform the functions and be credited with the receipts and debited with the charges of the village panchayat, and the chairman and the commissioner of the panchayat union council shall exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the function of the president and the executive authority, respectively, in such part of the panchayat development block.

(3) Every panchayat union council shall be a body corporate by the name of the panchayat union specified in the notification issued under section 15, shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and, subject to any restriction or qualification imposed by or under this Act or any other law, shall be vested with the capacity of suing or being sued in its corporate name, of acquiring, holding and transferring property, movable or immovable, of entering into contracts, and of doing all things necessary, proper or expedient for the purposes for which it is constituted.

Composition and strength of panchayat union council.

17. (1) A panchayat union council constituted for any panchayat union, shall consist of-

(a) the elected members as notified under section 19;

(b) the members of the House of People and the members of the State Legislative Assembly representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly of the panchayat union;

(c) the members of the Council of States who are registered as electors within the panchayat union;

(d) such number of presidents of village panchayats chosen in the manner specified under sub-section (2).

(2) The number of presidents to be elected to the panchayat union council shall be one fifth of the total number of elected members as notified under section 19, elected by such presidents in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.

(3) The members of the House of People, the State Legislative Assembly, the Council of States and the presidents of village panchayats referred to in clauses (b), (c) and (d) of sub-section (1), shall be entitled to take part in the proceedings of, and vote at the meetings of, the panchayat union council.

Duration of panchayat union council.

18.(1) Every panchayat union council unless sooner dissolved shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting after each ordinary election and no longer.

(2) Where a panchayat union council is dissolved before the expiration of the said period of five years, election to reconstitute such panchayat union council shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of section 215 as soon as may be, and in any case, before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of such dissolution:

Provided that where a panchayat union council is dissolved within six months before the expiration of the said period of five years it shall not be necessary to hold any election to such panchayat union council.

Election of members of panchayat union council.

19. The elected members of a panchayat union council shall consist of persons elected from the wards in the panchayat union, as may be notified from time to time by the Government at the rate of one member for every five thousand population of

the panchayat union area as ascertained in the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published :

Provided that no person shall be eligible to be elected under this Act as a member of more than one panchayat union council.

20. (1) Seats shall be reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in every panchayat union council and the number of seats so reserved shall bear as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that panchayat union council as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that panchayat union area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that panchayat union area bears to the total population of that area:

Reservation of seats.

Provided that for the first election for the panchayat union council to be held immediately after the commencement of this Act, the provisional population figures of the panchayat union as published in relation to 1991 census shall be deemed to be the population of that panchayat union.

(2) Seats shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from among the seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which shall not be less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) Seats shall be reserved for women in the panchayat union council and the number of seats reserved for women shall not be less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats in the panchayat union council:

Provided that such seats reserved for women shall be allotted by rotation to different wards in such manner as the Inspector may, by notification, direct.

(4) The reservation of seats under sub-sections (1) and (2) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article 334 of the Constitution.

21.(1) For the purpose of election of members to the panchayat union council, the Inspector shall, after consulting the panchayat union council, by notification, divide the panchayat union area into wards. and determine the number of members to be elected in accordance with such scale as may be prescribed.

Division of panchayat union into wards

(2) Only one member shall be elected from each ward.

22. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, members of the panchayat union council elected at an ordinary election, shall hold office for a term of five years.

Term of office of members.

(2) The term of office of the members elected at an ordinary election shall commence on the date appointed for the first meeting of the panchayat union council after ordinary election.

(3) The member of a panchayat union council elected in a casual vacancy, shall enter upon office forthwith but shall hold office only so long as the member in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office if the vacancy had not occurred.

23. (1) Subject to the provision of sub-section (2), the electoral roll of the district panchayat for the time being in force for such part of the panchayat union shall be deemed to be the electoral roll for such panchayat union council.

Electoral roll for panchayat union council.

(2) No amendment, transposition or deletion of any entry in the electoral roll of the district panchayat made after last date for making nominations for an election in any panchayat union council ward and before the notification of the result of such election, shall form part of the electoral roll for such election, for the purpose of this section.

(3) The Commissioner of panchayat union council shall maintain in the prescribed manner, electoral roll for each ward in the panchayat union.

DISTRICT PANCHAYATS.

- Formation and incorporation of district panchayat. 24.(1) The Government may, by notification, constitute for each district with effect from such date as may be prescribed in the said notification, a district panchayat having jurisdiction over the entire district excluding such portions of the district as are included in a municipality or town panchayat or industrial township or under the authority of a municipal corporation or a cantonment.
- (2) Every district panchayat shall be a body corporate by the name of the district, shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and subject to such restrictions as are imposed by or under this or any other enactment, shall be vested with the capacity of suing or being sued in its corporate name, of acquiring, holding and transferring property, movable or immovable, whether without or within the limits of the area over which it has authority, of entering into contracts and of doing all things necessary, proper or expedient for the purpose for which it is constituted.
- Constitution of district panchayat. 25. (1) Every district panchayat shall consist of,
- (a) the elected members as determined under section 27;
- (b) the members of the House of People and the members of the State Legislative Assembly representing a part or whole of the district whose constituencies lie within the district;
- (c) the member of the Council of States who is registered as elector within the district;
- (d) such number of chairman of panchayat union councils chosen in the manners specified under sub-section (2)
- (2) The number of chairmen to be elected to the district panchayat shall be one fifth of the total number of elected members as determined under section 27 elected by such chairmen in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.
- (3) The members of the House of People, the State Legislative Assembly, Council of States and the chairmen of panchayat union councils referred to in clauses (b), (c) and (d) of sub-section (1), shall be entitled to take part in the proceedings, and vote at the meeting of the district panchayat.
- Election of members. 26. The number of elected members of a district panchayat shall consist of persons elected from the wards in the district panchayat, as may be notified from time to time by the Government based on the population of the district as ascertained at the last preceding census. :
- Provided that no person shall be eligible to be elected under this Act as member of more than one district panchayat.
- Determination of elected members after census. 27. Upon the publication of the figures for each census, the number of elected members of a district panchayat shall be determined in accordance with such scale as may be prescribed on the basis of the population of the district as ascertained at the last preceding census:
- Provided that the determination of the members as aforesaid, shall not affect the then composition of the district panchayat until the expiry of the term of office of the elected members then in office:
- Provided further that for the first election to the district panchayat to be held immediately after the commencement of this Act, the provisional population figures of the district panchayat as published in relation to 1991 census, shall be deemed to be the population of the district panchayat as ascertained in that census.
- Delimitation of territorial wards. 28. The Government shall, by notification,-
- (a) divide the area, within the jurisdiction of every district panchayat, for the purpose of election to such district panchayat into as many single member territorial wards as the number of members required to be elected under section 26;
- (b) determine the extent of each territorial ward which shall be a panchayat village or panchayat union or part of a panchayat village or panchayat union; and

(c) determine the territorial ward or wards in which seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

29. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, members of a district panchayat elected at an ordinary election, shall hold office for a term of five years.

Term of office of members.

(2) The term of office of the members elected at an ordinary election shall commence on the date appointed for the first meeting of the district panchayat after ordinary election.

(3) The member of a district panchayat elected in a casual vacancy, shall enter upon the office forthwith but shall hold office only so long as the member in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office, if the vacancy had not occurred.

30. (1) The electoral roll of a district panchayat shall be the same as the electoral roll of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly prepared and revised in accordance with the provisions of the law for the time being in force in the district and as revised, modified, up-dated and published in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2).

Electoral roll for district panchayat.

(2) Subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the State Election Commission, the electoral roll shall be revised, modified, up-dated and published by such officer as may be designated by the State Election Commission in this behalf in the prescribed manner.

(3) No amendment, transposition or deletion of any entry in the electoral roll of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly made after the last date for making nomination for election in any district panchayat territorial ward and before the notification of the result of such election, shall form part of the electoral roll for such election, for the purpose of this section.

31. (1) Every district panchayat constituted under this Act unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting after each ordinary election and no longer.

Duration of district panchayat.

(2) Where a district panchayat is dissolved before the expiration of the said period of five years, election to reconstitute such district panchayat shall be completed as soon as may be, and in any case, before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of such dissolution:

Provided that where a district panchayat is dissolved within six months before the expiration of the said period of five years, it shall not be necessary to hold any election to such district panchayat.

32. (1) Seats shall be reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in every district panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that district panchayat as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that district panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that district panchayat area bears to the total population of that area:

Reservation of seats.

Provided that for the first election for the district panchayat to be held immediately after the commencement of this Act, the provisional population figures of the district panchayat area as published in relation to 1991 census, shall be deemed to be the population of that district panchayat area.

(2) Seats shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from among the seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which shall not be less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) Seats shall be reserved for women in the district panchayat and number of seats reserved for women shall not be less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats in the district panchayat:

Provided that such seats reserved for women shall be allotted by rotation to different territorial wards in such manner as the Government may, by notification, direct.

(4) The reservation of seats under sub-sections (1) and (2) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article 334 of the Constitution.

(5) Reservation of seats under this section, section 11 and section 20, shall be made by the Government or by any officer authorised by the Government in this behalf.

(6) While determining the number of seats in village panchayats, Panchayat union councils and district panchayats under this section, section 11, and section 20 for the purpose of reservation, any fraction thereof shall be disregarded.

QUALIFICATION, DISQUALIFICATION, ETC., OF MEMBERS.

Qualification of candidates.

33. No person shall be qualified for election as a member or president or chairman of a panchayat unless

- (i) his name appears on the electoral roll of the concerned panchayat; and
- (ii) he has completed his twenty-first year of age.

Disqualification of officers and servants of Government and local bodies, etc.

34. (1) No Village Administrative Officer, or village servant and no other officer or servant of the State or Central Government or of a village panchayat, panchayat union council, district panchayat, municipal council or the municipal corporation of Madras, or of Madurai or of Coimbatore or of any other municipal corporation that may be constituted under any law for the time being in force or of any industrial township or of cantonment or of any body corporate, owned or controlled by the State or Central Government, shall be qualified for election as a member or for holding office as a member.

(2) If any question arises either before or after an election whether any person is or is not disqualified under this section, the question shall be referred to the Government whose decision shall be final.

(3) Before taking any decision on any such question, the Government shall obtain the opinion of the State Election Commission and shall act according to such opinion.

Disqualification of persons convicted of election offences.

35. Every person convicted of an offence punishable under sections 58 to 71 of this Act or under Chapter IX-A of the Indian Penal Code, or is so disqualified by or under any law for the time being in force for the purposes of election to the Legislative Assembly of the State or is disqualified by or under any law for the time being in force, shall be disqualified from voting or from being elected in any election to which this Act applies or from holding the office of president or member of a village panchayat or of the office of chairman or member of a panchayat union council or a district panchayat, for a period of five years from the date of his conviction.

Central Act
XLV of 1860.

Disqualification of voters.

36. No person who is of unsound mind and declared so by a competent court and no person who is disqualified under section 35 shall be qualified to vote so long as the disqualification subsists.

Disqualification of candidates.

37. (1) A person who has been sentenced by a criminal court to imprisonment for any offence involving moral delinquency (such sentence not having been reversed) shall be disqualified for election as a member while undergoing the sentence and for five years from the date of the expiration thereof.

(2) A person convicted of an offence punishable under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, shall be disqualified for election as a member for a period of five years from the date of such conviction.

Central Act
XXII of 1955.

(3) A person shall be disqualified for election as a member if, at the last date for filing of nomination or at the date of election he is

- (a) of unsound mind, or a deaf-mute:
- (b) an applicant to be adjudicated as an insolvent or an undischarged insolvent:
- (c) interested in a subsisting contract made with or any work being done for, any panchayat except as a share holder (other than a director) in a company:
- (d) employed as paid legal practitioner on behalf of the panchayat or as legal practitioner against the panchayat:
- (e) already a member of a panchayat, whose term of office will not expire before his fresh election can take effect or has already been elected as a member of a panchayat whose term of office has not yet commenced: or
- (f) in arrears of any kind due by him (otherwise than in a fiduciary capacity) to a panchayat upto and inclusive of the previous year

38. Subject to the provision of section 41, a member shall cease to hold office as such, if he-

- (a) is sentenced by a criminal court to such punishment and for such offence as is described in sub-section (1) of section 37
- (b) is convicted of an offence punishable under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:
- (c) becomes of unsound mind or of deaf-mute'
- (d) applies to be adjudicated, or is adjudicated, as an insolvent:
- (e) acquires any interest in any subsisting contract made with or work being done for any panchayat except as a shareholder (other than a director) in a company or except as permitted by rules made under this Act:
- (f) is employed as paid legal practitioner on behalf of any panchayat or accepts employment as legal practitioner against any panchayat:
- (g) is appointed as an officer or servant under this Act
- (h) ceases to reside in the village, the panchayat union or the district, as the case may be:
- (i) fails to pay arrears of any kind due by him (otherwise than in a fiducial) capacity to any panchayat within three months after such arrears became due or
- (j) absents himself from the meetings of the panchayat for a period of three consecutive months reckoned from the date of the commencement of his term of office, or of the last meeting which he attended, or of his restoration to office as member under sub-section (I) of section 39, as the case may be, or if within the said period, less than three meetings have been held, absents himself from the three consecutive meetings held after the said date:

Provided that no meeting from which a member absented himself shall be counted against him under this clause if

- (i) due notice of that meeting was not given to him or
- (ii) the meeting was held after giving shorter notice than that prescribed for an ordinary meeting: or
- (iii) the meeting was held on a requisition of members.

39. (1) Where a person ceases to be a member under section 35 or clause (a) or clause (b) of section 38, such person shall be restored to office for such portion of the period for which such person was elected, as may remain unexpired at the date of such restoration, if and when the conviction or sentence is annulled on appeal or revision; and any person elected to fill the vacancy in the interim, shall on such restoration, vacate office.

(2) Where a person ceases to be a member under clause (j) of section 38, the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer as the case may

Disqualification
of members

Central Act XXII
of 1955.

Restoration of
members to
office.

be, shall, at once intimate the fact in writing to such person and report the same to the panchayat concerned at its next meeting. If such person applies for restoration *suo moto* to the panchayat concerned on or before the date of its next meeting or within fifteen days of the receipt by him of such intimation, such panchayat may at the meeting next after the receipt of such application restore him to his office of member:

Provided that a member shall not be restored more than twice during his term of office.

Oath or affirmation to be made by members.

40. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Oaths Act, 1969, every person who is elected to be a member or who becomes a member shall, before taking his seat, make, at a meeting of the panchayat an oath or affirmation in the following form, namely:

"I, A.B, having been elected a member having become a member of this village panchayat/panchayat union council/district panchayat do swear in the name of *God!* solemnly affirm that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter".

(2) Any person who, having been elected to be a member or who, having become a member, fails to make within three months of the date on which his term of office commences or at one of the first three meetings held after the said date, whichever is later, the oath or affirmation laid down in sub-section (1), shall cease to hold his office and his seat shall be deemed to have become vacant.

(3) Any person who has been elected to be a member or who has become a member shall not take his seat at a meeting of the panchayat or do any act as such member unless he has made the oath or affirmation as laid down in sub-section (1).

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3), the president or the chairman of a panchayat or the member of a committee constituted under this Act, who has not made the oath or affirmation as a member, shall be entitled to act as such president, chairman or member provided he makes the oath or affirmation and takes his seat at the first meeting of the panchayat which he attends within two months after he is elected or appointed as, or becomes entitled to exercise the functions of, the president, chairman or member, as the case may be.

Explanation. - For the purposes of this section-

(i) 'president' includes a vice-president exercising the functions of the president under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 47 and the temporary president appointed under sub-section (3) of that section; and

(ii) 'chairman' includes vice-chairman exercising the functions of the chairman under sub-section (1) or sub-section (5) of section 54 or a revenue divisional officer who is *ex-officio* chairman under sub-section (2) of that section.

Authority to decide the questions of disqualification of members.

41. (1) Whenever it is alleged that any person who has been elected as a member of a panchayat or who becomes a member of a panchayat is not qualified or has become disqualified under sections 33, 35, 37, 38 and 40, the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer as the case may be, shall, by notice in writing inform such member of the allegation and place the matter at the next meeting of the panchayat concerned. If before the date of the expiry of two months from the date of receipt of such notice, such member does not apply to the prescribed judicial authority under sub-section (2), he shall become not qualified or disqualified from such date of expiry of the said two months.

(2) The executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer, as the case may be, if so directed by the panchayat or by the State Election Commissioner, shall, or any such member or any other member may apply to the prescribed judicial authority whose decision on such allegation shall be final.

(3) Where an application has been made under sub-section (2), the member shall, pending decision on such application be entitled to act as if he is qualified or was not disqualified.

Central Act X of 1969.

(4) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to affect the provisions of section 39.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT.

42. There shall be a president and a vice-president for every village panchayat.

President and vice president of village panchayat.

43. (1) (a) The president shall be elected by the persons whose names appear in the electoral roll for the village panchayat from among themselves in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.

Election of president.

(b) If at an ordinary or casual election, no president is elected, a fresh election shall be held:

Provided that a person who stands for election as president shall not be eligible to stand for election as a member:

Provided further that a person who stands for election as a member shall not be eligible to stand for election as president:

Provided also that no member shall be eligible to stand for election as president.

(2) The election of the president may be held ordinarily at the same times and in the same places as the ordinary elections of the members of the village panchayat.

(3) The term of office of the president who is elected at an ordinary election shall, save as otherwise expressly provided in, be five years beginning at noon on the day on which the ordinary vacancy occurs.

(4) Any casual vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled by a fresh election and a person elected as president in any such vacancy shall enter upon office forthwith and hold office only so long as the person in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office, if the vacancy had not occurred.

(5) Unless the State Election Commissioner otherwise directs, no casual vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled within six months before the date on which the ordinary election of the president under sub-section (1) is due.

(6) The provisions of sections 34 to 41 (both inclusive), shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the office of the president as they apply in relation to the office of an elected member of the panchayat.

(7) The president shall be an *ex-officio* member of the village panchayat and shall have all the rights and privileges of an elected member of the village panchayat.

44. (1) The vice-president shall be elected by the village panchayat from among its elected members in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.

Election of vice-president.

(2) If at an election held under sub-section (1), no vice-president is elected, a fresh election shall be held for electing a vice-president.

45. The president or vice-president shall cease to hold office as such

Cessation of office as president and vice-president.

(a) in the case of the president, on his becoming disqualified for holding the office or on his removal from office or on the expiry of his term of office or on his otherwise ceasing to be a president;

(b) in the case of the vice-president, on the expiry of his term of office as a member or on his otherwise ceasing to be a member.

46. (1) The president shall-

Functions of the president.

(a) convene the meetings of the village panchayat;

(b) have full access to the records of the village panchayat;

(c) discharge all the duties specifically imposed and exercise all the powers conferred on the president by this Act.

(2) No official correspondence between the village panchayat and the Government shall be conducted except through the president. The president shall be bound to transmit communications addressed through him by the executive authority to the Government or by the Government to the executive authority.

Devolution and delegation of president's functions and filling up of vacancies in the office of president.

47. (1) When the office of president is vacant, the vice-president shall exercise the functions of the president until a new president is declared elected and assumes office.

(2) If the president has been continuously absent from jurisdiction for more than thirty days or is incapacitated, his functions during such absence or incapacity shall, except in such circumstances as may be prescribed, devolve on the vicepresident.

(3) When the office of president is vacant or the president has been continuously absent from jurisdiction for more than thirty days or is incapacitated and there is either a vacancy in the office of vice-president or the vice-president has been continuously absent from jurisdiction for more than thirty days or is incapacitated, the functions of the president shall devolve on a member of the village panchayat appointed by the Inspector in this behalf, and if no member of the village panchayat is available for such appointment, on such person as may be appointed by the Inspector in this behalf.

The member of the village panchayat or the person so appointed (who shall be called as the temporary president) shall perform the functions of the president subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed, until a new president or vice-president is declared elected and assumes office, or either the president or the vice-president returns to jurisdiction or recovers from his incapacity, as the case may be.

(4) Any vacancy in the office of president shall be reported to the State Election Commissioner by such person and within such time as may be prescribed and the State Election Commissioner shall arrange for the election of the president.

(5) The president shall have power to control and revise the exercise or discharge of any' functions devolving on the vice-president under sub-section (2).

Delegation of functions of president.

48. Subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed, the president may by an order in writing delegate any of his functions as such to the vice-president and in the absence of the vice-president to any other member, provided that the exercise or discharge of any functions so delegated shall be subject to such further restrictions and conditions as may be laid down by the president and shall also be subject to his control and revision:

Provided that he shall not delegate any functions which the village panchayat expressly prohibits him to delegate.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Chairman and vice-chairman of panchayat union council.

49. There shall be a chairman and a vice-chairman for every panchayat union council.

Election of chairman of panchayat union council.

50. (1) The chairman shall be elected by the panchayat union council from among its elected members in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.

(2) If at an election held under sub-section (1), no chairman is elected, a fresh election shall be held for electing a chairman.

Election of vice-chairman of panchayat union council.

51. (1) The vice-chairman shall be elected by the panchayat union council from among its elected members in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed.

(2) If at an election held under sub-section (1), no vice-chairman is elected, a fresh election shall be held for electing a vice-chairman.

52. (1) The chairman shall

(a) convene the meetings of the panchayat union council, and

(b) discharge all the duties specifically imposed and exercise all the powers conferred on the chairman by this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) The chairman shall have full access to all the records of the panchayat union council and no official correspondence between the council and the Government shall be conducted except through the chairman. The chairman shall be bound to transmit communications addressed through him by the commissioner to the Government or by the Government to the commissioner.

53. The chairman and vice-chairman shall cease to hold office as such

(a) in the case of the chairman of a panchayat union council on his becoming disqualified for holding the office or on his removal from office or on the expiry of his term of office or on his otherwise ceasing to be chairman or member of the panchayat union council;

(b) in the case of the vice-chairman, on the expiry of his term of office as a member of the panchayat union council or on his otherwise ceasing to be a member of the panchayat union council.

54. (1) When the office of chairman is vacant, the vice-chairman shall exercise the functions of the chairman until a new chairman assumes office.

(2) When the office of chairman is vacant and there is either a vacancy in the office of vice-chairman, or the vice-chairman has been continuously absent from jurisdiction for more than thirty days or is incapacitated and until a new chairman or vice-chairman is elected and assumes office, or the vice-chairman returns to jurisdiction or recovers from his incapacity, as the case may be, the revenue divisional officer shall, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, or in the rules or notifications issued thereunder, be *ex-officio* member and chairman of the panchayat union council.

(3) An out-going chairman or vice-chairman is eligible for re-election.

(4) The chairman may, by an order in writing, delegate any of his functions to the vice-chairman:

Provided that he shall not delegate any functions which the panchayat union council expressly forbids him to delegate.

(5) If the chairman has been continuously absent from jurisdiction for more than thirty days or is incapacitated, his functions during such absence or incapacity shall, except in such circumstances as may be prescribed, devolve on the vice-chairman.

(6) If the vice-chairman also has been continuously absent from jurisdiction for more than thirty days or is incapacitated or if the office of vice-chairman is vacant, the chairman may, by an order in writing, delegate any of his functions to any member of the panchayat union council who shall be called "chairman delegate" during the period of delegation:

Provided that-

(i) when an order of delegation made under this sub-section is in force, no further orders of delegation of any function shall be made in favour of any member other than the member in whose favour the order in force was made;

(ii) no delegation under this sub-section shall be made for any period exceeding in the aggregate ninety days in any year without the special sanction of the panchayat union council; and

(iii) every order made under this sub-section shall be communicated to the panchayat union council at its next meeting.

Functions of the chairman.

Cessation of office of chairman and vice-chairman of a panchayat union council.

Devolution and delegation of chairman's functions and filling up of vacancies in the office of chairman.

(7) The exercise or discharge of any functions delegated under this section shall be subject to such restrictions, limitations and conditions as may be laid down by the chairman.

55. There shall be a chairman and a vice-chairman for every district panchayat.

Chairman and vice-chairman of district panchayat.

Election of chairman and vice-chairman of district panchayat.

56.(1) The elected members of the district panchayat shall as soon as may be, elect two members from among themselves, to be respectively the chairman and vice-chairman.

(2) The provisions of sections 52, 53 and 54 shall as far as may be, apply in relation to the office of the chairman and vice-chairman of district panchayat, as they apply in relation to the office of the chairman and vice-chairman of panchayat union council and any reference to panchayat union council or commissioner in the said sections shall be deemed to be a reference to the district panchayat or chief executive officer as the case may be, in so far as it applies to the office of chairman and vice-chairman of district panchayat.

Reservation of seats in the office of president, chairman, etc.

57.(1) Office of the presidents of village panchayats, chairman of panchayat union councils and chairman of district panchayats, shall be reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the number of seats so reserved shall bear as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of offices in the State as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or the Scheduled Tribes in the State bear to the total population of the State:

Provided that not less than one third of the total number of office of the presidents of village panchayats, chairman of the panchayat union councils and the chairman of district panchayats in the State, shall be reserved for women:

Provided further that the offices reserved under this section, shall be allotted by rotation to different panchayats at each level in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Reservation of the offices of the presidents of village panchayats, chairman of panchayat union councils and chairman of district panchayats, shall be made by the Government or by any officer authorised by the Government in this behalf.

(3) The reservation of the offices of presidents of the village panchayats, chairman of the panchayat union councils and chairman of the district panchayats made under sub-section (1) in respect of the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article 334 of the Constitution.

(4) While determining the number of offices of presidents of village panchayats, chairman of panchayat union councils and chairman of district panchayats, under subsection (1) for the purpose of reservation, any fraction thereof shall be disregarded.

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

	<p>58. Every officer, clerk, agent or other person performing any duty in connection with the recording or counting of votes at an election who, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicates to any person any information showing directly or indirectly for which candidate any voter has voted, and every person who by any improper means, procures any such information, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both.</p>	<p>Infringement of secrecy of election.</p>
<p>Central Act XLV of 1860.</p>	<p>59. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 171 -F of the Indian Penal Code, any person who in connection with an election under this Act commits an offence of personation punishable under that section shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months and not more than two years and with fine.</p>	<p>Minimum penalty for personation at an election.</p>
	<p>60. Any person who in connection with an election under this Act promotes or attempts to promote on grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language, feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of India shall be Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine, or with both.</p>	<p>Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.</p>
	<p>61. (1) No person shall convene, hold or attend any public meeting in any local area comprised in a panchayat within forty-eight hours before the date of termination of the poll or on the date or dates on which a poll is taken for an election in that panchayat.</p>	<p>Prohibition of public meetings on the day</p>
	<p>(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.</p>	<p>Preceding the election day and on the election day.</p>
	<p>62. (1) Any person who at a public meeting to which this section applies acts or incites others to act, in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was called shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.</p>	<p>Disturbances at election meeting.</p>
	<p>(2) This section applies to any public meeting of a political character held in any local area comprised in a panchayat between the earliest date for making nomination of candidates for an election and the date in which such election is held.</p>	
	<p>(3) If any police officer reasonably suspects any person of committing an offence under sub-section (1), he may, if requested so to do by the chairman of the meeting, require that person to declare to him immediately his name and address and, if that person refuses or fails so to declare his name and address, or if the police officer reasonably suspects him of giving a false name or address, the police officer may arrest him without warrant.</p>	
	<p>63. (1) No person shall print or publish or cause to be printed or published, any election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face the names and address of the printer and the publisher thereof.</p>	<p>Restrictions on printing of pamphlets, posters, etc.</p>
	<p>(2) No person shall print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster</p> <p>(a) unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is personally known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate; and</p>	
	<p>(b) unless, within a reasonable time, after the printing of the document, one copy of the declaration is sent by the printer together with one copy of the document to the executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer, as the case may be.</p>	

(3) For the purposes of this section

(a) any process for multiplying copies of a document, other than copying it by hand, shall be deemed to be printing and the expression 'printer' shall be construed accordingly; and

(b) "election pamphlet or poster" means any printed pamphlet, hand-bill or other document distributed for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of a candidate or group of candidates or any placard or poster having reference to an election, but does not include any hand-bill, placard or poster merely announcing the date, time, place and other particulars of an election meeting or routine instructions to election agents or workers.

(4) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of sub-section (I) or sub-section (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.

Officers, etc., at elections not to act for candidates or to influence voting.

64. (1) No person who is a returning officer, or an assistant returning officer or a presiding or polling officer at an election, or an officer or clerk appointed by the returning officer or the presiding officer to perform any duty in connection with an election shall in the conduct or the management of the election do any act (other than the giving of vote) for the furtherance of the prospects of the election of a candidate.

(2) No such person as aforesaid, and no member of the police force, shall endeavour

(a) to persuade any person to give his vote at an election, or

(b) to dissuade any person from giving his vote at an election, or

(c) to influence the voting of any person at an election in any manner.

(3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (J) or subsection (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both.

Prohibition of canvassing in or near polling stations.

65. (1) No person shall, on the date or dates on which a poll is taken at any polling station, commit any of the following acts within the polling station or in any public or private place within a distance of one hundred metres of the polling station, namely:

(a) canvassing for votes; or

(b) soliciting the vote of any elector; or

(c) persuading any elector not to vote for any particular candidate; or

(d) persuading any elector not to vote at the election; or

(e) exhibiting any notice or sign (other than an official notice) relating to the election.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees:

(3) An offence punishable under this section shall be cognizable.

Penalty for disorderly conduct in or near polling stations.

66. (1) No person shall, on the date or dates on which a poll is taken at any polling station.,

(a) use or operate within or at the entrance of the polling station, or in any public or private place in the neighbourhood thereof, any apparatus for amplifying or reproducing the human voice, such as a megaphone or a loudspeaker, or

(b) shout, or otherwise act in a disorderly manner within or at the entrance of the polling station or in any public or private place in the neighbourhood thereof, so as

to cause annoyance to any person visiting the polling station for the poll, or so as to interfere with the work of the officers and other persons on duty at the polling station.

(2) Any person who contravenes, or wilfully aids or abets the contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine, or with both.

(3) If the polling officer of a polling station has reason to believe that any person is committing or has committed an offence punishable under this section, he may direct any police officer to arrest such person, and thereupon the police officer shall arrest him.

(4) Any police officer may take such steps, and use such force, as may be reasonably necessary for preventing any contravention of the provisions of subsection (1) and may seize any apparatus used for such contravention.

Explanation.- In this section, the expression "polling officer" means the polling officer of a polling station or if there is a presiding officer at the polling station, such presiding officer.

67. (1) Any person who during the hours fixed for the poll at any polling station misconducts himself or fails to obey the lawful directions of the polling officer may be removed from the polling station by the polling officer or by any police officer on duty or by any person authorised in this behalf by such polling officer.

Penalty for misconduct at the polling station.

(2) The powers conferred by sub-section (1) shall not be exercised so as to prevent any elector who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having opportunity of voting at that polling station.

(3) If any person who has been so removed from a polling station, re-enters the polling station without the permission of the polling officer, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine, or with both.

(4) An offence punishable under sub-section (3) shall be cognizable.

Explanation.- In this section, the expression "polling officer" has the same meaning as in section 66.

68. (1) No candidate or his agent or any other person with the consent of a candidate or his agent shall hire or procure whether on payment or otherwise any vehicle or vessel for the conveyance of any elector (other than the candidate himself, the members of his family or his agent) to or from any polling station:

Penalty for illegal hiring or procuring of conveyance at elections.

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to

(a) the hiring of a vehicle or vessel by an elector or several electors at their joint cost for the purpose of conveying him or them to or from the polling station, if the vehicle or vessel so hired is a vehicle or vessel not propelled by mechanical power; and

(b) the use of any public transport vehicle or vessel or any railway carriage by any elector at his own cost for the purpose of going to or coming from the polling station.

Explanation.- In this sub-section, the expression "vehicle" means any vehicle used or capable of being used for the purpose of road transport whether propelled by mechanical power or otherwise and whether used for drawing other vehicles or otherwise.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) at or in connection with an election shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.

69. (1) If any person to whom this section applies is without reasonable cause guilty of any act or omission in breach of his official duty, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

Breaches of official duty in connection with election.

(2) No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any such person for damages in respect of any such act or omission as aforesaid.

(3) The persons to whom this section applies are the returning officers, assistant returning officers, presiding officers, polling officers and any other person appointed to perform any duty in connection with the receipt of nominations or withdrawal of candidatures, or the recording or counting of votes at an election; and the expression "official duty" shall for the purpose of this section be construed accordingly; but shall not include duties imposed otherwise than by or under this Act.

Removal of ballot papers from polling station to be an offence.

70. (1) Any person who at any election fraudulently takes, or attempts to take, a ballot paper out of the polling station, or wilfully aids or abets the doing of any such act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

(2) If the presiding officer of a polling station has reason to believe that any person is committing or has committed an offence punishable under sub-section (1), such officer may, before such person leaves the polling station, arrest or direct a police officer to arrest such person and may search such person or cause him to be searched by a police officer:

Provided that when it is necessary to cause a woman to be searched, the search shall be made by another woman with strict regard to decency.

(3) Any ballot paper found upon the person arrested on search shall be made over for safe custody to a police officer by the presiding officer or when the search is made by a police officer, shall be kept by such officer in safe custody.

(4) An offence punishable under sub-section (1) shall be cognizable.

Other offences and penalties therefor.

71. (1) No person at an election shall

- (a) fraudulently deface or fraudulently destroy any nomination paper; or
- (b) fraudulently deface, destroy or remove any list, notice or other document affixed by or under the authority of a returning officer; or
- (c) fraudulently deface or fraudulently destroy any ballot paper or the official mark on any ballot paper; or
- (d) without due authority supply any ballot paper to any person or receive any ballot paper from any person or be in possession of any ballot paper; or
- (e) fraudulently put into any ballot box anything other than the ballot paper which he is authorised by law to put in; or
- (f) without due authority destroy, take, open or otherwise interfere with any ballot box or ballot paper then in use for the purpose of the election; or
- (g) fraudulently or without due authority, as the case may be, attempt to do any of the foregoing acts or wilfully aid or abet the doing of any such acts.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall

(a) if he is a returning officer or an assistant returning officer or a presiding officer at a polling station or any other officer or clerk employed on official duty in connection with the election, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine, or with both;

(b) if he is any other person, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed to be on official duty if his duty is to take part in the conduct of an election or part of an election including the counting of votes or to be responsible after an election for the used ballot papers and other documents in connection with such election, but the expression "official duty" shall not include any duty imposed otherwise than by or under this Act.

(4) An offence punishable under clause (b) of sub-section (2) shall be cognizable.

72. No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under section 64 or under section 69 or under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 71 except on complaint in writing made by order of, or under authority from, the Government.

Cognizance of certain election Offences.

REQUISITIONING OF PROPERTY FOR ELECTION PURPOSES.

73. (1) If it appears to the Government, that in connection with an election under this Act

Requisitioning of premises, vehicles, etc., for election purposes.

(a) any premises other than residential buildings actually occupied are needed or likely to be needed for the purpose of being used as a polling station or for the storage of ballot boxes after a poll has been taken, or

(b) any vehicle, vessel or animal is needed or is likely to be needed for the purpose of transport of ballot boxes to or from any polling station, or transport of members of the police force for maintaining order during the conduct of such election or transport of any officer or other person for performance of any duty in connection with such election, the Government may, by order in writing, requisition such premises, or such vehicle, vessel or animal, as the case may be and may make such further orders as may appear to them to be necessary or expedient in connection with the requisitioning:

Provided that no vehicle, vessel or animal which is being lawfully used by a candidate or his agent for any purpose connected with the election of such candidate shall be requisitioned under this sub-section until the completion of the poll at such election.

(2) The requisition shall be effected by an order in writing addressed to the person deemed by the Government to be the owner or person in possession of the property, and such order shall be served on the person to whom it is addressed.

(3) Whenever any property is requisitioned under sub-section (1), the period of such requisition shall not extend beyond the period for which such property is required for any of the purposes mentioned in that sub-section.

(4) In this section-

(a) 'premises' means any land, building or part of a building and includes a hut, shed or other structure or any part thereof;

(b) 'vehicle' means any vehicle used or capable of being used for the purpose of road transport, whether propelled by mechanical power or otherwise.

74. (1) Whenever in pursuance of section 73, the Government requisition any premises, the persons interested, shall be paid by the Government, an amount which shall be determined by the Government by taking into consideration the following, namely:

Payment of amount

(i) the rent payable in respect of the premises or if no rent is so payable the rent payable for similar premises in the locality:

Provided that the rent payable in respect of the premises to which the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960 apply shall be the fair rent payable for the premises under that Act.

Tamil Nadu Act 18 of 1960.

(ii) If in consequence of the requisition of the premises, the person interested is compelled to change his residence or place of business, the reasonable expenses if any, incidental to such change:

Provided that where any person interested, being aggrieved by the amount so determined makes an application to the Government within one month from the date of service of the order determining the amount, for referring the matter to an arbitrator, the amount to be paid shall be such as the arbitrator appointed by the Government may determine:

Provided further that where there is any dispute as to the title to receive the amount or as to the apportionment of the amount, it shall be referred by the Government to an arbitrator appointed in this behalf by the Government for determination and shall be determined in accordance with the decision of such arbitrator.

Explanation:- In this sub-section, the expression "person interested" means the person who was in actual possession of the premises requisitioned under section 73 immediately before the requisition, or where no person was in such actual possession, the owner of such premises.

(2) Whenever in pursuance of section 73, the Government requisition any vehicle, vessel or animal, there shall be paid by the Government to the owner thereof an amount which shall be determined by the Government on the basis of the fares or rates prevailing in the locality for the hire of such vehicle, vessel or animal:

Provided that where the owner of such vehicle, vessel or animal being aggrieved by the amount so determined makes an application to the Government within one month from the date of service of the order determining the amount for referring the matter to an arbitrator, the amount to be paid shall be such sum as the arbitrator appointed in this behalf by the Government may determine:

Provided further that where immediately before the requisitioning, the vehicle or vessel was by virtue of a hire purchase agreement in the possession of a person other than the owner, the total amount determined under this sub-section payable in respect of the requisition shall be apportioned between that person and the owner in such manner as they may agree upon, and in default of agreement, in such manner as an arbitrator appointed by the Government in this behalf may decide.

75. The Government may, with a view to requisitioning any property under section 73 or determining the amount payable under section 74, by order, require any person to furnish to such authority as may be specified in the order such information in his possession relating to such property as may be so specified.

Power to obtain information.

76. (1) Any person authorised in this behalf by the Government may enter into any premises and inspect such premises and any vehicle, vessel or animal therein for the purpose of determining whether and if so in what manner, an order under section 73 should be made in relation to such premises, vehicle, vessel or animal or with a view to securing compliance with any order made under that section.

Power of entry into and inspection of premises, etc.

77. (1) Any person remaining in possession of any requisitioned premises in contravention of any order made under section 73 may be summarily evicted from the premises by any officer empowered by the Government in this behalf.

Eviction from requisitioned premises.

(2) Any officer so empowered may, after giving to any woman not appearing in public, reasonable warning and facility to withdraw, remove or open any lock or bolt or break open any door of any building or do any other act necessary for effecting such eviction.

78. (1) When any premises requisitioned under section 73 are to be released from requisition, the possession thereof shall be delivered to the person from whom possession was taken at the time when the premises were requisitioned, or if there were no such person, to the person deemed by the Government to be the owner of such premises and such delivery of possession shall be a full discharge of the Government from all liabilities in respect of such delivery, but shall not prejudice any rights in respect of the premises which any other person may be entitled by due process of law to enforce against the person to whom possession of the premises is so delivered.

Release of premises from requisition.

(2) Where the person to whom possession of any premises requisitioned under section 73 is to be given under sub-section (1) cannot be found or is not readily ascertainable or has no agent or any other person empowered to accept delivery on his behalf, the Government shall cause a notice declaring that such premises are released from requisition to be affixed on some conspicuous part of such premises and publish the notice in the *District Gazette* concerned.

(3) When a notice referred to in sub-section (2) is published in the *District Gazette*, the premises specified in such notice shall cease to be subject to requisition on and from the date of such publication and be deemed to have been delivered to the person entitled to possession thereof, and the Government shall not be liable for any claim in respect of such premises for any period after the said date.

79. The Government may, by notification, direct that any power conferred or any duty imposed on the Government by any of the provisions of sections 73 to 78 shall, under such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the direction, be exercised or discharged by such officer or class of officers as may be so specified.

80. If any person contravenes any order made under section 73 or section 75, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine, or with both.

Delegation of function of the Government with regard to requisitioning. Penalty for contravention of any order of requisitioning.

MEMBERS.

81. (1) Any member may call the attention of the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer, as the case may be, to any neglect in the execution of panchayat work, to any waste of panchayat property or to the wants of any locality, and may suggest any improvement which may appear desirable.

Rights of individual member.

(2) Every member shall have the right to move resolutions and to interpellate the president or chairman on matters connected with the administration of the panchayat, subject to such rules as may be prescribed.

(3) Every member shall have access during office hours to the records of the panchayat after giving due notice to the executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer, provided that the executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer may, for reasons recorded in writing, forbid such access.

82. No president, vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman or member shall receive, or be paid from the funds at the disposal of or under the control of the panchayat, any salary or other remuneration for services rendered by him whether in his capacity as such or in any other capacity.

No president, vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman or member to receive remuneration

CHAPTER-V.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.

Executive
authority of
village
panchayat.

83. In the case of every village panchayat, there shall be appointed by the Government a secretary, subject to such rules as may be prescribed, to perform the functions of the executive authority.

Functions of
executive
authority.

84. The executive authority shall,

(a) carry into effect the resolutions of the village panchayat:

Provided that where the president considers that a resolution has not been legally passed or is in excess of the powers conferred by this Act or that, if carried out, it is likely to endanger human life or health or the public safety, the executive authority shall refer the matter to the Government for orders and their decision shall be final;

(b) control all the officers and servants of the village panchayat;

(c) discharge all the duties specifically imposed and exercise all the powers conferred on the executive authority and subject to all restrictions and conditions imposed, by or under this Act, exercise the executive power for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act and be directly responsible for the due fulfilment of the purposes thereof.

THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner.

85.(1) A commissioner shall be appointed by the Government in the case of each panchayat union council. Such commissioner shall ordinarily be the Development Officer appointed in pursuance of the National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development for the panchayat development block.

(2) No recovery shall be made from the panchayat union council towards the salary and allowances paid to any commissioner or towards his leave allowances, pension and provident fund.

(3) The Government shall have power to regulate the method of recruitment, conditions of service, pay and allowances and discipline and conduct of the commissioner appointed under sub-section (1).

(4) The commissioner shall

(a) have the right to attend the meetings of the panchayat union council or of any committee thereof and take part in the discussions thereat, but without the right to move any resolution or to vote;

(b) attend any meeting of the panchayat union council or of any committee thereof if required to do so by the chairman;

(c) carry into effect the resolutions of the panchayat union council;

(d) furnish to the panchayat union council such periodical reports regarding the progress made in carrying out the resolutions of that body and in the collection of taxes as the council may direct;

(e) control all the officers and servants of the panchayat union council;

(f) perform all the duties specifically imposed and exercise all the powers conferred on the commissioner by this Act and subject, whenever it is hereinafter expressly so provided, to the sanction of the panchayat union council and subject also to all other restrictions, limitations and conditions hereinafter imposed, exercise the executive power for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act and be directly responsible for the due fulfilment of the purposes of this Act.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) of section 16 and subject to all other provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, the panchayat union council shall have power to issue such specific directions as it may think fit regarding the performance by the commissioner of any of the functions assigned to him under this Act:

Provided that where such directions relate to any National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development or any other scheme specially entrusted by the Government to the panchayat union council, the directions issued by the council shall be in conformity with the terms and conditions of such entrustment.

(6) Subject to any directions given or restrictions imposed by the Government or the panchayat union council, the commissioner may, by an order in writing, delegate any of his functions to any officer or servant of the panchayat union council or to any servant of the Government. The exercise or discharge of any functions so delegated shall be subject to such restrictions, limitations and conditions as may be laid down by the commissioner and shall also be subject to his control and revision.

86. The executive authority or the commissioner may in cases of emergency direct the execution of any work or the doing of any act which requires the sanction of the village panchayat or the panchayat union council, as the case may be, and the immediate execution or doing of which is, in his opinion, necessary for the health or safety of the public, and may direct that the expenses of executing such work or doing such act shall be paid from the Village Panchayat Fund or the Panchayat Union Fund, as the case may be:

Emergency powers of executive Authority and commissioner.

Provided that-

(a) he shall not act under this section in contravention of any order of the village panchayat or the panchayat union council prohibiting the execution of any particular work or the doing of any particular act, and

(b) he shall report the action taken under this section and the reasons therefor to the village panchayat or the panchayat union council at its next meeting.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

87. (1) The Government shall appoint an officer not below the rank of Joint Director of Rural Development as chief executive officer of the district panchayat.

Chief executive officer.

(2) The Government shall have power to regulate the method of recruitment and conditions of service, pay and allowances and discipline and conduct of the chief executive officer appointed under sub-section (1).

88. (1) The chief executive officer shall

(a) exercise all the powers specially imposed or conferred upon him by or under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force;

(b) supervise and control the execution of all works of the district panchayat, and have the right to attend meetings of the district panchayat or any committee thereof and take part in the discussions thereat, but without the right to move any resolution or to vote;

(c) attend any meeting of the district panchayat or any committee thereof if required to do so by the chairman;

(d) carry out the resolutions of the district panchayat;

(e) furnish to the district panchayat such periodical reports regarding the progress made in carrying out the resolutions of that body and in the collection of taxes as the council may direct;

(f) control the officers and servants of the district panchayat;

(g) exercise such other powers and discharge such other functions as may be prescribed.

Functions, powers and duties of chief executive officer.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the district panchayat shall have power to issue such specific direction as it may think fit regarding the performance by the chief executive officer of any of the functions assigned to him under this Act.

(3) Subject to any directions given or restrictions imposed by the Government or the district panchayat, the chief executive officer may, by an order in writing, delegate any of his functions to any officer or servant of the district panchayat or to any servant of the Government. The exercise or discharge of any function so delegated shall be subject to such restrictions, limitations and conditions as may be laid down by the chief executive officer and shall also be subject to his control and revision.

(4) The chief executive officer shall within fifteen days from the date of the meeting of the district panchayat or of any of its committee, submit to the Government every resolution of the district panchayat or any of its committee which in his opinion is inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, or any other law and it shall not implement such resolution otherwise than as decided by the Government.

CHAPTER-VI

PROCEDURE.

89. (1) Every meeting of a panchayat shall be presided over by the president or the chairman, as the case may be, and, in his absence by the vice-president or vice-chairman, as the case may be, and in the absence of the president, chairman, vice-president and vice-chairman, by a member chosen by the members present at the meeting to preside for the occasion.

Presidency at meetings of panchayat.

(2) The president or the chairman, as the case may be, shall preserve order and decide all points of order arising at or in connection with meetings. There shall be no discussion on any point of order and the decision of the president or chairman, as the case may be, on any point of order shall be final.

(3) A vice-president, a vice-chairman or member presiding for the occasion shall, for that meeting and during the period he presides over it, have all the powers of the president or chairman, as the case may be.

90. Every panchayat shall meet at such times and places and shall, subject to the provisions of section 89, observe such rules of procedure in regard to transaction of business at its meetings (including the quorum at meetings) as may be prescribed:

Meetings of panchayat.

Provided that not more than sixty days shall elapse between any two meetings of the panchayat.

91.(1) No member shall vote on, or take part in the discussion of, any question coming up for consideration at a meeting of the panchayat or any committee if the question is one in which, apart from its general application to the public he has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest by himself or his partner.

Members when to abstain from taking part in discussion and voting.

(2) The president or chairman, as the case may be, may prohibit any member from voting or taking part in the discussion of any matter in which he believes such member to have such interest, or he may require such member to absent himself during the discussion.

(3) Such member may challenge the decision of the president or chairman, who shall thereupon put the question to the meeting. The decision of the meeting shall be final.

(4) If the president or chairman is believed by any member present at the meeting to have any such pecuniary interest in any matter under discussion, he may, if a motion to that effect is carried, be required to absent himself from the meeting during such discussion.

(5) The member concerned shall not be entitled to vote on the question referred to in sub-section (3) and the president or chairman concerned shall not be entitled to vote on the motion referred to in sub-section(4).

Explanation.-The terms "president" and "chairman" in this section include a vice-president, vice-chairman or member presiding for the occasion.

92. A copy of the minutes of the proceedings of every meeting of a panchayat as well as of all minutes of dissent in respect of such proceedings received from any member present at the meeting, within forty eight hours of the close thereof, shall be submitted by the president or chairman, as the case may be, within three days of the date to the meeting to the Inspector:

Minutes of proceedings.

Provided that the Inspector may direct that such minutes shall be submitted either generally or in any specified classes of cases to any officer empowered by him in this behalf.

Power of panchayat to call for records. 93. A panchayat may require the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer as the case may be, to produce any document which is in his custody and he shall, subject to such rules as may be prescribed, comply with every such requisition.

Proceedings of panchayat and committees. 94. (1) The proceedings of every panchayat, and of all committees thereof shall be governed by such rules as may be prescribed and by regulations, not inconsistent with such rules or the provisions of this Act, made by the panchayat with the approval of the Inspector.

(2) The Inspector may remit for reconsideration and re-submission any regulation or part thereof to the panchayat:

Provided that it shall be competent for the Inspector to add to, omit or alter any regulation which contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder.

Appointment of joint committees. 95. (1) A panchayat may, and if so required by the Inspector, shall, join with one, or more than one, other local authority in constituting a joint committee for any purpose for which they are jointly responsible.

(2) The constitution, powers and procedure of a joint committee and the method of setting differences of opinion arising in connection with the committee between the local authorities concerned shall be in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

Committees. 96. (1) (a) There shall be an Appointments Committee for every panchayat union, which shall be composed of the chairman of the panchayat union council, the commissioner and one member elected annually by the panchayat union council. The chairman of the panchayat union council shall be the chairman of the committee. Subject to the provisions of section 102 and to such rules as may be made by the Government in this behalf, appointments to all posts under the panchayat union council, the pay of which is debitable to the funds of the panchayat union council shall be made with the prior approval of the committee.

(b) (i) There shall be an Agricultural Production Committee for every panchayat union, which shall be composed of the chairman of the panchayat union council who shall be the chairman of that committee, the commissioner and three persons nominated by the panchayat union council.

(ii) No person shall be nominated under sub-clause (i), if-

(A) he is not a member of the panchayat union council; or

(B) in the opinion of the panchayat union council, he does not possess adequate knowledge of, and experience in, agriculture.

(c) There shall be an Education Committee and a General Purposes Committee in every panchayat union. The panchayat union council may, and if so required by the Government, shall appoint such other committees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its duties and functions under this Act. Each of the committee constituted under this clause shall consist of such number of members as may be specified by the council and shall include the chairman *ex-officio*. The members of each committee constituted under this clause, other than the chairman, shall be elected by the panchayat union council from among its elected members.

(2) Subject to such rules, as may be made by the Government in this behalf, the panchayat union council shall have power, by regulations made from time to time, to determine the powers and duties of every committee constituted under subsection (1).

97(1) (a) For the purpose of assisting the district panchayat in exercising such of its powers, discharging such of its duties and performing such of its functions specified under this Act, a district panchayat may constitute standing committees for dealing with-

Standing committees.

- (i) food and agriculture;
- (ii) industries and labour;
- (iii) public works;
- (iv) education;
- (v) health and welfare including prohibition;

(b) a district panchayat may constitute additional standing committees for such purposes as it thinks fit.

(2) Each standing committee shall consist of such number of persons not exceeding five including the chairman as specified by the district panchayat and elected by the district panchayat from among its elected members.

(3) The chairman of the district panchayat shall be the *ex-officio* member in all the standing committees constituted by the district panchayat.

(4) Each standing committee shall elect its own chairman from among its members who are elected members of the district panchayat.

(5) No member of the district panchayat shall be eligible to serve on more than two standing committees.

(6) The chief executive officer shall nominate one of the officers under his control as *ex officio* secretary for each of the standing committees. The chief executive officer shall be entitled to attend the meetings of all the standing committees.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS.

98. (1) Every village panchayat shall submit to the panchayat union council a report on its administration for each year as soon as may be after the close of such year and not later than the prescribed date, in such form, with such details and through such authority as may be prescribed.

Administration reports of village panchayats.

(2) The report shall be prepared by the executive authority and the village panchayat shall consider it and forward the same to the panchayat union council with its resolution thereon.

99. (1) Every panchayat union council shall submit to the district panchayat a consolidated report on its administration and on the administration of all village panchayats in the panchayat union for each year as soon as may be after the close of such year and not later than the prescribed date, in such form, with such details and through such authority as may be prescribed.

Administration report of panchayat union councils and district panchayats.

(2) The report shall be prepared by the commissioner and the panchayat union council shall consider it and forward the same to the district panchayat with its resolution thereon.

(3) The district panchayat shall prepare a general report on the administration of panchayat union councils and village panchayats in the district and submit the same to the Government before such date as may be prescribed. The district panchayat shall also send a copy of the report to the Inspector.

(4) The report and resolution thereon shall be published in such manner as the Government may direct.

VALIDATION OF PROCEEDINGS.

Acts of village panchayat, panchayat union council and district panchayat, etc, not to be invalidated by infirmity vacancy, etc.

100. No act of a village panchayat or of a panchayat union council or of a district panchayat or of a committee thereof or of any person acting as president, vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman or member of such village panchayat or panchayat union council or district panchayat or committee, shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of a defect in the establishment of such panchayat or committee, as the case may be, or on the ground that the president, vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman or member of such village panchayat or panchayat union council or district panchayat or chairman or member of a committee was not entitled to hold or continue in such office by reason of any disqualification or by reason of any irregularity or illegality in his election or by reason of such act having been done during the period of any vacancy in the office of president, vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman or member of such village panchayat, panchayat union council or district panchayat or committee.

CHAPTER VII.

ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF PANCHAYATS.

101. (1) The sanction of the panchayat shall be obtained for all proposals for fixing or altering the number, designations and grades of its officers and servants and the salaries, fees and allowances payable to them.

Establishment of panchayats.

(2) Such proposals shall be taken into consideration by the panchayat, only at the instance of the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer, as the case may be, and the panchayat may sanction the proposal with or without modifications:

Provided that no proposal adversely affecting any officer or servant of a panchayat who has been in the permanent service of such panchayat for more than five years and is drawing a salary of not less than five hundred rupees per mensem shall be considered except at a special meeting convened for the purpose and no such proposal shall be given effect to unless assented to by atleast one-half of the members then in the panchayat.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), the Government in the case of panchayat union councils and district panchayats and the Inspector in the case of village panchayats shall have power to fix or alter the number, designations and grades of, and the salaries, fees and allowances payable to the officers and servants of any village panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat or any class of such officers and servants and it shall not be open to the village panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat to vary the number, designations, grades, salaries, fees or allowances as so fixed or altered except with the previous sanction of the Government in the case of panchayat union councils and district panchayats and of the Inspector in the case of village panchayats.

102 (1) The Government shall have power to make rules regarding the authorities who may appoint the officers and servants of panchayats, other than the commissioners and the chief executive officers and the classification, method of recruitment, pay and allowances, discipline and conduct and conditions of service of such officers and servants.

Conditions of service of officers and servants of panchayats.

Such rules may provide for the constitution of any class of officers or servants of village panchayats, panchayat union councils and the district panchayats, as the case may be, other than the commissioners and the chief executive officers, into a separate service for the whole or any part of the State.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules which the Government may make in this behalf, the panchayat union council or the district panchayat, as the case may be, may frame regulations in respect of the officers and servants on the staff of the panchayat union council or the district panchayat,

- (a) fixing the amount and nature of the security to be furnished;
- (b) prescribing educational and other qualifications;
- (c) regulating the grant of leave, leave allowances, acting allowances and travelling allowances;
- (d) regulating the grant of pensions and gratuities;
- (e) establishing and maintaining provident funds and making contributions thereto compulsory;
- (f) regulating conduct; and
- (g) generally prescribing conditions of service:

Provided-

(i) that the grant of any leave, leave allowances, travelling allowances, pension or gratuity provided for in such regulations shall in no case, without the special sanction of the Government exceed what would be admissible in the case of Government servants of similar standing and status;

(ii) that the conditions under which such allowances are granted or any leave, superannuation or retirement is sanctioned shall not without similar sanction, be more favourable than those for the time being prescribed for such Government servants.

(3) A rule may be made under sub-section (I) in so far as it relates to officers and servants of village panchayats and panchayat union councils, so as to have retrospective effect on and from a date not earlier than the date of commencement of this Act.

Appointment of common officers.	103. Two or more village panchayats or two or more panchayat union councils may, subject to such rules as may be prescribed, and shall if so required by any authority empowered in this behalf by rules, appoint the same officer or servant to exercise or discharge any powers or duties of a similar nature for both or all of them.	
Transfer of officers and servants of village panchayats and panchayat union councils.	<p>104. (1) Any officer or servant of a village panchayat may be transferred to the service of any panchayat union council or any other village panchayat by the Inspector:</p> <p>Provided that no officer or servant shall be so transferred except after consulting the commissioner or the executive authority concerned:</p> <p>Provided further that in making a transfer under this sub-section, the Inspector may issue such general or special directions as may in his opinion be necessary for the purpose of giving due effect to such transfer.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, any officer or servant of a panchayat union council (including the commissioner) may be transferred by the Government to the services of any other panchayat union council or any municipality constituted under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 :</p> <p>Provided that no officer or servant (other than the commissioner) shall be so transferred except after consulting the panchayat union councils or municipal councils concerned :</p> <p>Provided further that the Government while making a transfer under this subsection may issue such general or special directions as may in their opinion be necessary for the purpose of giving due effect to such transfer.</p>	<p>Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920.</p> <p>Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920.</p>
Power of Government to transfer officers and servants of district panchayats.	<p>105. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained. in this Act or in the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Government shall have power,</p> <p>(a) to transfer any officer or servant of the district panchayat (including the chief executive officer) to the service of any other district panchayat or to any municipality constituted under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920;</p> <p>(b) to issue general or special direction as they may think necessary for the purpose of giving due effect to any transfer made under clause (a).</p>	<p>Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920.</p> <p>Tamil Nadu Act V of 1920.</p>
Power to punish officers and servants.	106. Subject to such control as may be prescribed, the executive authority, the commissioner or the chief executive officer may censure, fine, withhold increments or promotion from, or reduce to a lower rank in the seniority list, or to a lower post or time-scale or to a lower stage in a time-scale, suspend, remove or dismiss any officer or servant in the service of village panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat, as the case may be, for any breach of departmental rules or discipline, or for carelessness, unfitness, neglect of duty or other misconduct.	
Applicability of certain directions to public health establishment.	107. Subject to the provisions of section 109, the provisions of sections 101 to 106 shall also apply to the public health establishments of panchayats, notwithstanding anything contained in the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939.	Tamil Nadu Act III of 1939.

108 (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, on and from the 1st June 1981, all teachers (including headmasters) and basic servants in the panchayat union schools in the State of Tamil Nadu shall become whole-time Government servants.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 96 or in any other provisions of this Act and subject to the provisions of Article 311 of the Constitution, the Government may make rules regulating the conditions of service of the teachers (including headmasters) and basic servants in the panchayat union schools.

109 (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, on and from the 1st October 1982, all health assistants, auxiliary nurses, mid-wives and maternity assistants in the public health establishments of panchayat union councils, in the State shall become whole-time Government servants.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 96 or in any other provisions of this Act and subject to the provisions of Article 311 of the Constitution, the Government may make rules regulating the conditions of service of the health assistants, the auxiliary nurses, mid-wives and maternity assistants in the public health establishments of panchayat union councils.

Teachers including headmasters and basic servants in the panchayat union schools to be Government servants.
Health assistants, auxiliary nurses, mid wives and maternity assistants in public health establishments of panchayat union councils to be Government servants.

CHAPTER VIII.

FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND PROPERTY OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS,
PANCHAYAT UNION COUNCILS AND DISTRICT PANCHAYATS.

Duty of village panchayat to provide for certain matters.

I 10. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, it shall be the duty of village panchayat, within the limits of its funds, to make reasonable provision for carrying out the requirements of the panchayat village in respect of the following matters, namely :

(a) the construction, repair and maintenance of all village roads, that is to say, all public roads in the village (other than those classified as National Highways, State Highways, major district roads and panchayat union roads) and of all bridges, culverts, road-dams and causeways on such roads;

(b) the lighting of public roads and public places in built-up areas;

(c) the construction of drains and the disposal of drainage water and sullage not including sewage;

(d) the cleaning of streets, the removal of rubbish heaps, jungle growth and prickly-pear, the filling in of disused wells, insanitary ponds, pools, ditches pits or hollows and other improvements of the sanitary condition of the village;

(e) the provision of public latrines and arrangements to cleanse latrines whether public or private;

(f) the opening and maintenance of burial and burning grounds;

(g) the sinking and repairing of wells, the excavation, repair and maintenance of ponds or tanks and the construction and maintenance of water-works for the supply of water for washing and bathing purposes; and

(h) such other duties as the Government may, by notification, impose.

Power of village panchayat to provide for certain other matters.

111. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder a village panchayat may also make such provisions as it thinks fit for carrying out the requirements of the village in respect of the following matters, namely:

(a) the planting and preservation of trees on the sides of all public roads in the village subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions between the village panchayat and the authority which maintains the road in case the road is not maintained by the village panchayat itself:

(b) the lighting of public roads and public places in areas other than built-up areas;

(c) the opening and maintenance of public markets other than markets which are classified as panchayat union markets;

(d) the control of fairs and festivals other than those classified as panchayat union fairs and festivals;

(e) the opening and maintenance of public landing places, halting places and cart stands and of public cattle-sheds;

(f) the opening and maintenance of public slaughter-houses;

(g) the opening and maintenance of reading rooms;

(h) the establishment and maintenance of wireless receiving sets, playgrounds, parks, sports clubs and centres of physical culture;

(i) the opening and maintenance of literacy centres and centres for imparting social education; and

(j) the construction of works of public utility and the provisions of other facilities for the safety, health, comfort, convenience, culture or recreation of the inhabitants of the village:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to water supply for non-irrigation purposes and to sewerage.

112. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, it shall be the duty of a panchayat union council, within the limits of its funds, to make reasonable provision for carrying out the requirements of the panchayat union in respect of the following matters, namely:

Duty of panchayat union council to provide for certain matters.

(a) the construction, repair and maintenance of all public roads in the panchayat union which are classified as panchayat union roads and of all bridges, culverts, roaddams and cause ways on such roads;

(b) the establishment and maintenance of dispensaries and the payments of subsidies to rural medical practitioners;

(c) the establishment and maintenance of maternity and child welfare centres, including the maintenance of a thai service and offering advice and assistance to mothers in family planning;

(d) the construction and maintenance of poor houses, orphanages, shops, stalls, plinths, the training and employment of vaccinators, the removal of congestion of population and the provision of house-sites;

(e) the opening and maintenance and expansion or improvement of elementary schools, including the payment of grants to private managements in respect of elementary schools;

(f) preventive and remedial measures connected with any epidemic or with malaria;

(g) the control of fairs and festivals classified by the panchayat union council as those reserved for control by it;

(h) veterinary relief;

(i) the extension of village-sites and the regulation of building;

(j) the opening and maintenance of public markets which are classified as panchayat union markets;

(k) the maintenance of statistics relating to births and deaths;

(l) the establishment and maintenance of choultries;

(m) improvements of agriculture, agricultural stock and the holding of agricultural shows;

(n) the promotion and encouragement of cottage industries; and

(o) such other duties as the Government may, by notification, impose.

113. The Government shall as soon as may be after the constitution of a panchayat union council for a panchayat development block under this Act entrust to the panchayat union council subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be specified by the Government, the execution in the panchayat development block of the National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development, including in particular, all measures relating to the development of agriculture, animal husbandry and village industries organised on an individual or co-operative basis.

Entrustment of execution of National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development to panchayat union councils.

114. (1) Save as otherwise provided in section 113, the Government may, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be specified, entrust all or any of the schemes, programmes and activities for economic development, whether such schemes, programmes and activities are to be executed or implemented either by the Government or by any statutory body or other agency to the panchayat union council for its execution or implementation.

Entrustment of certain schemes to panchayat union councils.

(2) The panchayat union council may, if so notified by the Government, review the schemes, programmes and other activities executed by the Government or by any statutory body or other agency within the panchayat union.

Power of panchayat union council to provide for certain other matters.

115. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, a panchayat union council may, within the limits of its funds, make such provision as it thinks fit for carrying out the requirements of the panchayat union in respect of measures of public utility other than those specified in section 112, calculated to promote the safety, health, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of the panchayat union:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to water supply for non irrigation purposes and to sewerage.

Common burial and burning grounds, etc.

116. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, two or more village panchayats;

(i) may construct and maintain water-works for supply of water for washing and bathing purposes from a common source and may also provide a common burial and burning ground, and

(ii) may entrust to the panchayat union council with its consent and on such terms as may be agreed upon, the management of any institution or the execution or maintenance of any work.

Lighting of public roads and public places.

117. Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (b) of section 111, the Government may, by general or special order, direct any village panchayat or panchayat union council to provide for the lighting of public roads and public places within its jurisdiction and it shall be the duty of the village panchayat or panchayat union council to provide for such light:

Provided that where such a direction is given, the Government shall make such provision for the cost of lighting as they may consider reasonable and the decision of the Government shall be final.

Maintenance of common dispensaries, child welfare centres, etc. Transfer of immovable property, management of institutions, execution or maintenance of works, etc., to a village panchayat.

118. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, two or more panchayat union councils may establish and maintain common dispensaries, child welfare centres, and institutions of such other kind as may be prescribed.

119. (1) The panchayat union council may, subject to such control as may be prescribed, by notification declare that any immovable property vested in itself shall vest in any village panchayat in the same panchayat union and such property shall, from the date specified in the said notification, vest accordingly.

(2) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the Government, Commissioner of Land Administration, the Collector or Revenue Divisional Officer, the district panchayat, the panchayat union council or the chief executive officer, the commissioner, or any person or body of persons, may transfer to the village panchayat, with its consent and subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon, the management of any institution, or the execution or maintenance of any work, or the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty, whether within or without the village, and whether provided for in this Act or not.

Transfer to village panchayat of unreserved forests.

120. (1) (a) All unreserved forests in the village at the commencement of this Act shall vest in the village panchayat and be administered by it for the benefit of such village.

(b) In respect of every forest so vested, the village panchayat shall, if so required by the Collector, pay to the Government such rent as the Collector may, from time to time, subject to the control of the Commissioner of Land Administration, fix in this behalf.

(2) (a) If the Revenue Divisional Officer is of opinion that a village panchayat is not administering properly a forest vested in it under sub-section (1), he may by order,

withdraw such forest from the control of the village panchayat for such period as may be specified in the order, not exceeding the period, if any, prescribed in this behalf. He may in respect of such forest direct that it be vested in the panchayat union council and be administered by it.

(b) The Revenue Divisional Officer may, from time to time, by order, extend the period specified in any order issued under clause (a), subject to the period prescribed in this behalf.

(c) Before issuing an order under clause (a) or (b), a reasonable opportunity shall be given to the village panchayat to show cause against such issue.

(d) When an order is issued under clause (a) or (b), the village panchayat concerned may, within three months of the service of the order, appeal against it to the Collector and the Collector may confirm, modify or reverse the order.

(3) The Commissioner of Land Administration may, at any time, either *suo motu* or on application, call for and examine the record of any order issued by the Revenue Divisional Officer or the Collector under sub-section (2) for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the legality or propriety of such order, and may pass such order in reference thereto as he thinks fit.

121. (I) If in the opinion of the Government any unreserved forest vested in a village panchayat under section 120 is required for any public purpose, they may, by notification, resume the possession and administration of such unreserved forest and upon such resumption by the Government, all rights and interests created in or over such unreserved forest before such resumption shall as against the Government cease and determine.

(2) Whenever the possession and administration of such unreserved forest is resumed by the Government under sub-section (I), there shall be paid to the village panchayat concerned compensation for any improvement made by such village panchayat in such unreserved forest, as determined in the manner hereinafter provided by the Collector within whose jurisdiction such unreserved forest is situate.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this sub-section, 'improvement' means any work or product of a work which adds to the value of the unreserved forest or is suitable to it and consistent with the purpose for which it was vested in the village panchayat and shall include the following works or the products of such works

(a) the erection of buildings or any other structure, the construction of tanks, wells, channels, dams and other works for the storage or supply of water for agricultural or domestic purposes;

(b) the preparation of land for irrigation;

(c) the reclamation, clearance, enclosure or permanent improvement of land for agricultural purposes;

(d) the renewal or reconstruction of any of the foregoing works or alterations therein or addition thereto;

(e) the planting or protection and maintenance of fruit trees, timber-trees and other useful trees and plants.

(3) The compensation payable in respect of the improvements referred to in clauses (a) to (d) of the *Explanation* to sub-section (2) shall be the actual value of such improvements as on the date of resumption of the unreserved forest by the Government which shall include actual cost of the labour, supervision thereof, and of the materials, together with other expenditure, if any, which would be required to make such improvements, less a reasonable deduction on account of the deterioration, if any, which may have taken place from age or other cause. The compensation

Power of Government to resume possession of unreserved forest vested in village panchayat and payment of compensation, etc.

payable in respect of improvement referred to in clause (e) of the *Explanation* to subsection (2) shall be such sum which the trees or plants might reasonably be expected to realise if sold by public auction to be cut and carried away at the time of resumption of the unreserved forest by the Government :

Provided that in computing the actual value of such improvements, the value of the unreserved forest to which such improvements have been made shall not be taken into account:

Provided further that if any grant for the purpose of making such improvements has been paid by the Government to the village panchayat concerned, then, the amount of such grant paid shall be deducted from the amount of compensation payable in respect of such improvements:

Provided also that in the case of trees and plants in the unreserved forest which are of spontaneous growth, the compensation payable in respect of such trees and plants shall be the proper cost of protection and maintenance of such trees and plants.

(4) The amount of compensation referred to in sub-section (2) shall be given to every village panchayat, at its option

(a) in cash in such annual instalments with interest at such rates as may be prescribed, or

(b) in saleable or otherwise transferable promissory notes or other securities or stock certificates of the Government, or

(c) partly in cash or partly in such securities specified in clause (b), as may be required by the village panchayats.

(5) The option of the village panchayat referred to in sub-section (4) shall be exercised by such village panchayat before the expiry of a period of three months from the date of resumption of the possession and administration of the unreserved forest by the Government and the option so exercised shall be final and shall not be altered or rescinded after it has been exercised. Any village panchayat which omits or fails to exercise the option referred to in sub-section (4) within the time specified above shall be deemed to have opted for payment in securities and stock certificates referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (4). The amount of compensation payable in instalments shall be paid, and the securities and stock certificates referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (4) shall be issued, within sixty days from the date of receipt by the Government of the option referred to above or where no such option has been exercised from the date before which such option ought to have been exercised.

(6) Any village panchayat aggrieved by an order relating to compensation under this section may appeal to the Commissioner of Land Administration within such period and in such manner as may be prescribed. The order of the Commissioner of Land Administration on such appeal and where no appeal is preferred, the order which has not been appealed against, shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court of law.

Power of
Commissioner
of Land
Administration
to transfer or
resume control
of endowments
and inams.

122. (1) (a) Subject to the control of the Government, the Commissioner of Land Administration may, by notification, make over to a panchayat union council, with its consent, the management and superintendence of any charitable endowment in respect of which powers and duties attached to the Commissioner of Land Administration under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Endowments and Escheats Regulation, 1817; and thereupon all powers and duties attached to the Commissioner of Land Administration in respect thereof shall attach to the panchayat union council as if it had been specially named in the said Regulation, and the panchayat union council shall manage and superintend such endowment.

(b) The Commissioner of Land Administration may, of his own motion and shall on a direction from the Government, by notification, resume the management and superintendence of any endowment made over to a panchayat union council under

Tamil Nadu
Regulation VII
of 1817.

clause (a) and upon such resumption, all the powers and duties attached to the panchayat union council in respect of the endowment shall cease and determine.

(2) The Government may assign to a panchayat union council with its consent, a charitable inam, resumed by the Government or any other authority, provided that the net income from such inam can be applied exclusively to any purpose to which the funds of such panchayat union council may be applied; and may revoke any assignment so made.

(3) The management and superintendence of any charitable endowment which immediately before the constitution of a panchayat union council for any panchayat development block under this Act was vested in a district board under the Tamil Nadu District Boards Act, 1920 shall, on such constitution, vest in the panchayat union council exercising jurisdiction over the place where the endowment is situated.

Tamil Nadu
Act XIV of
1920.

123. Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the Government, the Commissioner of Land Administration, the Collector or Revenue Divisional Officer or any person or body of persons may transfer to the panchayat union council with its consent and on such terms as may be agreed upon, the management of any institution or the execution or maintenance of any work, or the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty whether within or without the panchayat union and whether provided for in this Act or not.

Government's
power to add to
functions of
panchayat
union council.

124. A panchayat may accept donations for, or trusts relating exclusively to, the furtherance of any purpose to which its funds may be applied.

Limitation of
power to
accept
donations and
trusts.

125. (1) All public roads in any village (other than roads which are classified by the Government as National Highways or State Highways or as major district roads or as panchayat union roads) shall vest in the village panchayat together with all payments, stones, and other materials thereof, all works, materials and other things provided therefor, all drains, drainage works, tunnels and culverts whether made at the cost of the village panchayat or otherwise, in, alongside or under such roads, and all works, materials and things appertaining thereto.

Vesting of
public roads in
village
panchayat.

(2) The Government may, by notification, exclude from the operation of this Act any such public road, drain, drainage work, tunnel or culvert and may also modify or cancel such notification.

126. (1) All public roads in any panchayat union which are classified as panchayat union roads shall vest in the panchayat union council together with all payments, stones and other materials thereof, all works, materials and other things provided therefor, all drains, drainage works, tunnels and culverts, whether made at the cost of the panchayat union council or otherwise, in, alongside or under such roads, and all works, materials and things appertaining thereto.

Vesting of
public roads in
panchayat
union councils.

(2) The Government may, by notification, exclude from the operation of this Act any panchayat union road, drain, drainage work, tunnel or culvert and may also modify or cancel such notification.

127. Where any public road has been excluded from the operation of this Act under sub-section (2) of section 125 or sub-section (2) of section 126 and placed under the control of the Highways Department of Government (hereinafter referred to as the Highways Department), the village panchayat may and if so required by the Government shall make provision

Duty of village
panchayat in
respect of
public roads
excluded from
the operation
of the Act.

(a) for the watering and maintenance of the drainage of such road;

(b) for the provision, maintenance and repair of the drains in, alongside or under such road;

(c) for the provision, maintenance and repair of foot-ways attached to such

Provided that where in carrying out of the above provisions it is necessary for the village panchayat to open and break up the soil or pavement of any such road, the village panchayat shall obtain the previous consent of such officer of the Highways Department as the Government may, by general or special order, specify:

Provided further that in cases of emergency the village panchayat may, without such consent, open and break up the soil or pavement of any such street, but shall, as far as practicable restore such soil or pavement to the condition in which it was immediately before it was opened and broken up; and a report of the action so taken and the reasons therefor shall be sent forthwith to the officer specified under the foregoing proviso:

Provided also that where the execution of any work is required by the Government, the Government shall make provision for the cost thereof.

128. (1) If any structure adjoining a public road vested in a panchayat union council or a village panchayat appears to the commissioner or the executive authority, as the case may be, to be in a ruinous state and dangerous to the passers by, the commissioner or executive authority may, by notice require the owner or occupier to fence off, take down, secure or repair such structure so as to prevent any danger therefrom.

(2) If immediate action is necessary, the commissioner or executive authority shall himself, before giving such notice or before the period of such notice expires, fence off, take down, secure or repair such structure or fence off a part of any road or take such temporary measures as he may think fit to prevent danger, and the cost of doing so shall be recoverable from the owner or occupier in the manner hereinafter provided.

129. (1) If any tree or any branch of a tree standing on land adjoining a public road vested in a panchayat union council or village panchayat appears to the commissioner or executive authority to be likely to fall and thereby endanger any person using, or any structure on such road, the commissioner or executive authority may, by notice, require the owner of the said tree to secure, lop or cut down the said tree so as to prevent any danger therefrom.

(2) If immediate action is necessary, the commissioner or executive authority shall himself: before giving such notice or before the period of such notice expires, secure, lop or cut down the said tree or fence off a part of the public road or take such other temporary measures as he thinks fit to prevent danger and the cost of so doing shall be recoverable from the owner of the tree in the manner hereinafter provided.

130. Where a public road is vested in a panchayat union council or village panchayat, the commissioner or executive authority may, by public notice, require the owner or occupier of any building or land near such road to-

(a) fence the same to the satisfaction of the commissioner or executive authority;

(b) trim or prune any hedges bordering on such road so that they may not exceed such height from the level of the adjoining roadway as the commissioner or executive authority may determine; or

(c) cut and trim any hedges or trees overhanging such road and obstructing it or the view of traffic or causing it damage; or

(d) lower an enclosing wall or fence which, by reason of its height and situation obstructs the view of traffic so as to cause danger.

131 (1) No person shall, except as permitted by rules made under this Act and except in accordance with the conditions imposed by any licence made requisite by such rules

(a) build any wall or erect any fence or other obstruction or projection or make any encroachment whatsoever, whether permanent or temporary, in or over any public road;

Precautions in case of dangerous structures.

Precautions in case of dangerous trees.

Fencing of buildings or lands and pruning of hedges and trees.

Prohibition against obstructions in or over public roads, etc.

(b) make any hole or deposit any matter in or upon any public road;

(c) work a quarry in or remove stone, earth or other material from any place within twenty metres of a public road or of other immovable property vesting in or belonging to a village panchayat or a panchayat union council, provided that nothing in this clause shall be deemed to apply to any work which, in the opinion of the Inspector, is done in connection with a *bona fide* agricultural operation;

(d) erect any building over any drain or any part thereof;

(e) plant any tree on any public road or other property vesting in or belonging to a village panchayat or a panchayat union council; or

(f) fell, remove, destroy, lop or strip bark, leaves, or fruits from, or otherwise damage, any tree which is growing on any such public road or other property or on any poramboke land, the use of which is regulated by a village panchayat under section 134 or section 135 and the right to which has not been established by such person as vesting in or belonging to him.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Village Administrative Officer of every revenue village to report on encroachments on properties vested in village panchayats or panchayat union councils to the executive authority or the commissioner concerned and to the officer of the Revenue Department, and it shall be the duty of the executive authority or the commissioner concerned to institute proceedings under this Act and secure the removal of the encroachments within such time as may be specified by the Government by general or special order. If the removal of the encroachments has not been secured within the period specified in such order, the officers of the Revenue Department shall institute proceedings under the Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905 and secure such removal.

Tamil Nadu
Act III of 1905.

132. Any property or income including any fishery right which by custom belongs to, or has been administered for the common benefit of the inhabitants of the village or of the holders in common of village land generally or of the holders of lands of a particular description or of the holders of lands under particular source of irrigation shall, if so declared by the Government, vest in the village panchayat and be administered by it for the benefit of the inhabitants or holders aforesaid.

Vesting of
communal
property or
income in
village
panchayat.

133. (1) Subject to such conditions and control as may be prescribed, the Government may transfer to any village panchayat or to any panchayat union council the protection and maintenance of any irrigation work, the management of turns of irrigation, or the regulation of distribution of water from any irrigation work to the fields depending on it.

Maintenance of
irrigation
works,
execution of
kudimaramat,
etc.

(2) The village panchayat or the panchayat union council shall have power, subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed, to execute kudimaramat in respect of any irrigation source in the village and to levy such fee and on such basis for the purposes thereof as may be prescribed :

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to relieve the village community or any of its members of its or his liability under the Tamil Nadu Compulsory Labour Act, 1858, in respect of any irrigation source in the village in case the village panchayat makes default in executing the kudimaramat in respect of that irrigation source.

Central Act I of
1858.

(3) Where the maintenance of any irrigation work, is transferred under this section, the fishery rights of Government in such work shall be transferred to and be vested in the village panchayat or the panchayat union council, as the case may be, subject to such terms and conditions including terms and conditions regarding the utilisation of the income, as may be specified by the Government.

Village panchayat to regulate the use of certain porambokes in ryotwari tracts.

134. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply only in ryotwari tracts.

(2) The following porambokes, namely, grazing grounds, threshing floors, burning and burial-grounds, cattle-stands, cart-stands and topes shall vest in the village panchayat, and the village panchayat shall have power, subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed to regulate the use of such porambokes, provided the porambokes are at the disposal of the Government.

(3) The Collector, after consulting the village panchayat, may, by notification, exclude from the operation of this Act, any poramboke referred to in sub-section (2), and may also modify or cancel such notification.

(4) The village panchayat shall also have power, subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed, to regulate the use of any other poramboke which is at the disposal of the Government, if the village panchayat is authorised in that behalf by an order of the Government.

(5) The village panchayat may, subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed, plant trees on any poramboke, the use of which is regulated by it under sub-section (2) or sub-section (4).

Village panchayat to regulate the use of certain communal lands in estates governed by the Tamil Nadu Estates Land Act, 1908.

135. (1) In estates governed by the Tamil Nadu Estates Land Act, 1908, notwithstanding anything contained in that Act, the village panchayat shall have power subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed

Tamil Nadu Act I of 1908.

(a) to regulate the use of lands which are set apart for any of the purposes referred to in item (b) of clause (16) of section 3 of the said Act, namely, threshing floors, cattle-stand, village-sites and other lands situated in the village which are set apart for the common use of the inhabitants of such village;

(b) to exercise the powers vested in the Collector by section 20-A of the said Act, namely, to direct that any land referred to in clause (a) which is no longer required for its original purpose shall be used for any other specified communal purpose, provided that the sanction of the Collector is obtained therefor; and

(c) to plant trees on any land the use of which is regulated by the village panchayat under clause (a):

Provided that nothing contained in clause (b) shall be deemed to affect in any way the operation of the provisions to sub-section (1) of the said section 20-A.

(2) After an estate ceases to be governed by the Tamil Nadu Estates Land Act, 1908, the provisions of sub-section (1) shall apply to the lands referred to in that subsection, to such extent and with such modifications, as may be prescribed.

Tamil Nadu Act I of 1908.

Collected rubbish etc., to belong to village panchayat.

136. All rubbish, filth and other matter collected by a village panchayat under this Act shall belong to it.

Immovable property required by village panchayats and panchayat union councils may be acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

137. Any immovable property which any village panchayat or panchayat union council is authorised by this Act or any rules made thereunder to acquire may be acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and on payment of the compensation awarded under the said Act, in respect of such property and of any other charges incurred in acquiring it, the said property shall vest in the village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be.

Central Act I of 1894.

Contributions from persons having control over places of pilgrimage, etc.

138. Where a mosque, temple, mutt or any place of religious worship or instruction or any place which is used for holding fair or festivals or for other like purposes is situated within the limits of a village or in the neighbourhood thereof and attracts either throughout the year or on particular occasions a large number of persons, any special arrangement necessary for public health, safety or convenience, whether permanent or temporary, shall be made by the village panchayat; but the Government may after consulting the trustee or other person having control over such place require him to make such recurring or non-recurring contribution to the funds of the village panchayat as they may determine.

139. In the event of the prevalence of any dangerous disease within a panchayat development block or a village, the commissioner may by notice require the owner or occupier of any building, booth or tent used for purposes of public entertainment to close the same for such period as they may fix.

Power to order closure of places of public entertainment. Minor suffering from dangerous disease not to attend schools.

140. No person being the parent or having the care or charge of a minor who is or has been suffering from dangerous disease or has been exposed to infection therefrom shall, after a notice from the commissioner or any person duly appointed by such commissioner in this behalf that the minor is not to be sent to school or college permit such minor to attend school or college without having procured from the commissioner or such person or a registered medical practitioner a certificate that in his opinion such minor may attend without risk of communicating such disease to others.

Explanation.-In this section and in section 139 "dangerous disease" means an infectious disease within the meaning of section 52 of the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939, which is notified as a dangerous disease by the Government.

Tamil Nadu
Act III of
1939.

141. The panchayat union council shall enforce vaccination throughout the panchayat union and it may enforce revaccination throughout the panchayat union or in any part thereof, in respect of such persons, to such extent, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

Compulsory vaccination.

142. Where an inmate of any dwelling place is suffering from smallpox or cholera, the head of the family to which the inmate belongs and in default the occupier or person in charge of such place, shall give intimation of the fact to the commissioner or the Village Administrative Officer with the least possible delay.

Obligation to give information of small pox or cholera. Precautions in case of dangerous tanks, wells, holes, etc.

143. (1) If any tank, pond, well, hole, stream, dam, bank or other place appears to him to be, for want of sufficient repair, protection or enclosure, dangerous to the public health or safety, the commissioner or executive authority may with the approval of the panchayat union council or village panchayat, as the case may be, by notice require the owner to fill in, remove, repair, protect or enclose the same so as to prevent any danger therefrom.

(2) If immediate action is necessary, he shall, before giving such notice or before the period of notice expires, himself take such temporary measures as he thinks fit to prevent danger, and the cost of doing so shall be recoverable from the owner in the manner hereinafter provided.

144. (1) The commissioner or executive authority may by notice require the owner or occupier of any building or land which appears to him to be in a filthy or unwholesome state or overgrown with any thick or noxious vegetation, trees or undergrowth injurious to health or dangerous to the public or offensive to the neighbourhood, or otherwise a source of nuisance, to clear, cleanse or otherwise put the building or land in proper state or to clear away and remove such vegetation, trees or under growth or to take such other action as may be deemed by the commissioner or executive authority necessary to remove such nuisance within such period and in such manner as may be specified in the notice.

Removal of filth or noxious vegetation from lands and buildings.

(2) If it appears to the commissioner or executive authority necessary for sanitary purposes so to do, he may by notice require the owner or occupier of any building or land to cleanse or lime-wash the same in the manner and within a period to be specified in the notice.

145. (1) When the commissioner or executive authority takes down any structure or part thereof or cuts down any tree or hedge or shrub or part thereof in virtue of his powers under this chapter, the commissioner or executive authority may sell the materials or things taken down, cut down or removed and apply the proceeds in, or towards payment of the expenses incurred.

Power of commissioner or executive authority to use or sell materials of dangerous structure taken down, etc.

(2) If after a reasonable enquiry it appears to the commissioner or executive authority that there is no owner or occupier to whom notice can be given under any section in this chapter, he may himself take such order with the property mentioned in such section as may appear to him to be necessary and may recover the expenses incurred by the sale of such property (not being immovable property) or of any portion thereof.

Limitation of compensation.

146. No person shall be entitled, save as otherwise expressly provided, to compensation for any damages sustained by reason of any action taken by the authorities of a panchayat union council or a village panchayat in pursuance of their powers under this chapter.

Public markets.

147. (1) The panchayat union council may, after obtaining the previous written permission of the Inspector, provide places for use as public markets and, with the sanction of the Inspector, close any such market or part thereof.

(2) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the village panchayat or panchayat union council may after obtaining the previous written permission of the Inspector, levy anyone or more of the following fees in any public market at such rates, not exceeding the maximum rates, if any, prescribed in that behalf as the panchayat union council or village panchayat may think fit:

(a) fees for the use of, or for the right to expose goods for sale in such market;

(b) fees for the use of shops, stalls, pens or stands in such market;

(c) fees on vehicles including motor vehicles as defined in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 or pack animals bringing, or on persons taking into such market any goods for sale;

Central Act 59 of 1988.

(d) fees on animals brought for sale into or sold in such market;

(e) licence fees on brokers, commission agents, weighmen and measurers practising their calling in such market.

Licensing of private markets.

148. (1) No person shall open a new private market or continue to keep open a private market unless he has obtained a licence from the village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, to do so. Such licence shall be renewed every year.

(2) (a) The village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, shall grant the licence applied for subject to such conditions as it may think fit as to supervision and inspection, sanitation, weights and measures to be used, rents and fees to be charged and such other matters as may be prescribed.

(b) The village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, may, modify the conditions of licence to take effect from a specified date.

(c) The village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, may at any time, suspend or cancel any licence granted under clause (a) for breach of the conditions thereof.

(d) Any person aggrieved by an order of the village panchayat or panchayat union council under clauses (a), (b) or (c) may appeal against such order to the Inspector who may, if he thinks fit, suspend the execution of the order pending the disposal of the appeal.

(3) (a) Any person claiming to levy in a private market lawfully established prior to the coming into force of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1884 fees of the nature specified in sub-section (2) of section 147, shall apply to the Inspector for a certificate recognizing his right in that behalf; and the Inspector shall pass orders on such application after giving due notice to the village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, and considering any representations made by it.

Madras Act V of 1884

(b) Any person aggrieved by an order of the Inspector refusing to grant a certificate under clause (a) may, within six months from the date of communication of such order, institute a suit to establish the right claimed by him, and subject to the result of such suit, the Inspector's order shall be final.

(4) When a licence granted under sub-section (2) does not permit the levy of any fee, it shall be granted free of charges; but when such permission is given, a fee not exceeding fifteen per cent of the gross income of the owner from the market in the preceding year shall be charged by the village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, for such licence.

(5) The village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, or any officer duly authorised by it may, close a private market which is unlicensed or the licence for which has been suspended or cancelled, or which is held or kept open contrary to the provisions of this Act.

149. If any question arises as to whether any place is a market or not, the village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, shall make a reference thereon to the Government and their decision shall be final.

Decision of disputes as to whether places are markets.

150. No person shall sell or expose for sale any animal or article-

Prohibition of sale in unlicensed private markets, etc.

(a) in any public or licensed private market without the permission of the executive authority or commissioner or licensee, as the case may be, or of any person authorised by him, or

(b) in any unlicensed private market.

151. The executive authority or commissioner may, with the sanction of the village panchayat or panchayat union council, as the case may be, prohibit by public notice or licence or regulate the sale or exposure for sale of any animal or article in or upon any public road or place or part thereof.

Prohibition against sale in public roads.

152. The Government shall have power to classify public and private markets situated in a panchayat development block as panchayat union markets and village panchayat market, and provide for the control of any such market, and for the apportionment of the income derived therefrom between the panchayat union council and the village panchayat or the payment of a contribution in respect thereof to the village panchayat or the panchayat union, as the case may be.

Classification of markets.

It shall be open to the Government to revise from time to time the apportionment of income ordered or the contribution directed to be paid under this section if such revision is recommended by the district panchayat.

Central Act I of 1894.

153. (1) A panchayat union council may acquire the rights of any person to hold a private market in any place in a panchayat development block and to levy fee therein. The acquisition shall be made under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and such rights shall be deemed to be land for the purposes of that Act.

Acquisition of right of persons to hold private market.

(2) On payment by the panchayat union council of the compensation awarded under the said Act in respect of such property and any other charges incurred in acquiring it, the rights of such person to hold a private market and to levy fees therein shall vest in the panchayat union council.

154. Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the village panchayat may-

Public landing places and cart-stands, etc.

(a) provide public landing places, halting places and cart-stands (which last expression includes stands for animals and vehicles of any description including motor vehicles) and levy fees for their use; and

(b) where any such place or stand has been provided, prohibit the use for the same purpose by any person, within such distance thereof of any public place or the sides of any public road as the village panchayat may, subject to the control of the Inspector, specify.

Private cart-stand.

155. (1) No person shall open a new private cart-stand or continue to keep open a private cart-stand unless he obtains from the village panchayat a licence to do so. Such licence shall be renewed every year.

(2) The village panchayat shall, as regards private cart-stands already lawfully established, and may at its discretion as regards new private cart-stands, grant the licence applied for, subject to such conditions as the village panchayat may think fit as to supervision and inspection, conservancy and such other matters as may be prescribed; or the village panchayat may refuse to grant such licence for any new cart-stand.

(3) The village panchayat may modify the conditions of the licence to take effect from a specified date.

(4) The village panchayat may at any time suspend or cancel any licence granted under sub-section (2) for breach of the conditions thereof.

(5) The village panchayat may levy on every grant or renewal of a licence under this section, a fee not exceeding two hundred rupees.

Public slaughter houses.

156. A village panchayat may provide places for use as public slaughter-houses and charge rents and fees for their use.

Prohibition or regulation of the use of places for slaughtering animals and the licensing of slaughterers.

157. The Government shall have power to make rules for

(a) prohibiting or regulating the slaughter, cutting up or skinning of animals specified in the rules on all occasions not excepted therein, at places other than public slaughterhouses;

(b) licensing persons to slaughter animals specified in the rules for purposes of sale to the public; and

(c) the inspection of slaughter houses and of the meat therein and the payment of remuneration to the officers employed for such inspection.

Numbering or naming of building, etc.

158 (1) In any area to which this Act applies, such authority as may be prescribed in this behalf, may cause a number to be affixed to the side or outer door of any building or to some place at the entrance of the premises.

(2) With the approval of the Government, the village panchayat or the panchayat union council shall give name to new village road or panchayat union road, as the case may be, and shall also give name to park, playground, bus-stand, arch or new property belonging to, or vesting in, village panchayat or panchayat union council and may, subject to the approval of the Government, alter the name of any such road, park, playground, bus-stand, arch or property.

(3) No person shall, without lawful authority, destroy, pull down or deface any such number.

(4) When a number has been affixed under sub-section (1), the owner of the building shall be bound to maintain such number and to replace it if removed or defaced; and if he fails to do so, the authority referred to in sub-section (1) may by notice require him to replace it.

Purposes for which places may not be used without a licence.

159. (1) The Government may, by notification, specify the purposes which in their opinion, are likely to be offensive or dangerous to human life or health or property.

(2) The panchayat union council in the case of panchayat villages may, with the previous approval of the prescribed authority, notify that no place within the limits of

any panchayat village in the panchayat development block or within the limits of such panchayat village or villages as may be specified in the notification shall be used for any of the purposes specified in the notification issued under sub-section (1) without a licence and except in accordance with the conditions specified in such licence.

(3) No notification issued under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall take effect until sixty days from the date of its publication.

(4) The commissioner shall be the authority competent to grant the licence or to refuse to grant it in the case of panchayat villages.

160. No person shall, without the permission of the panchayat union council in panchayat villages and except in accordance with the conditions specified in such permission,-

(a) construct or establish any factory, workshop or workplace in which it is proposed to employ steam power, water power or other mechanical power or electrical power, or

(b) install in any premises any machinery or manufacturing plant driven by any power as aforesaid, not being machinery or manufacturing plant exempted by the rules.

161. (1) The Government may make rules-

(a) prohibiting or regulating the grant or renewal of licences under section 159 and the period for which such licences shall be valid;

(b) as to the time within which applications for such licences or renewals thereof shall be made; and

(c) prohibiting or regulating the grant of permissions under section 160.

(2) Rules made under clause (c) of sub-section (1) may empower the panchayat union council in panchayat villages and panchayat unions to set apart specified areas for industrial purposes and provide for the refusal of permissions under section 160 in respect of any factory, workshop, workplace or premises outside such areas and also, subject to the sanction of the prescribed authority for the removal to such areas, of any factory, workshop or workplace which has been already established at any place, or any machinery which has already been installed in any premises, situated outside such areas:

Tamil Nadu
Act 27 of 1989.

Provided that no such rule shall authorise the removal of any factory, workshop or workplace or machinery installed in any premises, in the occupation or under the control of the Central or the State Government or of a market committee established under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987.

(3) The Government may either generally or in any particular case, make such order or give such directions as they deem fit in respect of any action taken or omitted to be taken under section 159 or section 160.

(4) The income derived from fees on licences under section 159 and on permission under section 160 shall, if received by the panchayat union council, credited to the funds of the village panchayat concerned.

Tamil Nadu Act
II of 1888.

162. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888, when the Government extend that Act to any village, or part thereof

(a) the authority to whom application shall be made for a licence under the Act in respect of any place or building to be used exclusively for purposes other than the holding of cinematograph exhibitions, and who may grant or refuse such licence, shall be the commissioner in the case of panchayat villages;

(b) the appeal from the order of the commissioner granting, refusing, revoking or suspending a licence, shall lie to the panchayat union council;

Permission for construction of factories and the installation of machinery.

Power of Government to make rules in respect of the grant and renewal of licences and permissions.

Modification of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888.

(c) the income derived from fees on licences under this section shall, if received by the panchayat union council be credited to the funds of the village panchayats concerned.

Functions of district panchayat.

163. (1) The district panchayat shall advise the Government on all matters concerning the activities of village panchayats, panchayat union councils in the district as well as on all matters relating to the development of the economic resources of the district and the services maintained therein for promoting the culture, and welfare of the inhabitants of the district.

(2) In particular, it shall be the duty of the district panchayat to perform the following functions, namely:

(a) advising the Government on all matters relating to the services maintained by and all development schemes undertaken by all village panchayats and panchayat union councils in the district as well as those agencies in the district, which are under the administrative control of the Government;

(b) watching the progress of the measures undertaken by the Government, village panchayats, panchayat union councils and departmental agencies in respect of the services and development schemes aforesaid;

(c) advising the Government on matters concerning the implementation of any provision of law or any order specifically referred to by the Government to the district panchayat such as -

(i) classification of markets as village panchayat markets and panchayat union markets and fixing rates of contribution payable by one authority to the other;

(ii) classification of fairs and festivals as village panchayat fairs, village panchayat festivals and panchayat union fairs and panchayat union festivals;

(iii) classification of public roads (other than roads classified by the Government as National Highways, State Highways and major district roads) as panchayat union roads and panchayat village roads;

(d) advising the Government on all matters relating to development of road transport.

General powers of district panchayat.

164. For the purpose of efficiently performing its functions under this Act, every district panchayat may, within the limits of its jurisdiction,-

(a) undertake such measures as it deems necessary;

(b) collect such data as it deems necessary;

(c) publish statistics or other information relating to the various aspects of the regulation or development of the activities of panchayat union councils and village panchayats in the district;

(d) require any panchayat union council or village panchayat to furnish such information as may be required by it in relation to the measures undertaken by that panchayat union council or village panchayat for the regulation or development of its activities and such other matters as may be prescribed.

Annual report of district panchayat.

165. (1) The district panchayat shall prepare in such form and at such time each year as may be prescribed, an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Government.

(2) The Government shall lay on the table of the Legislative Assembly all such reports together with their comments thereon.

Returns and reports of district panchayat.

166. Every district panchayat shall furnish to the Government such returns, reports, statistics and other informations with respect to its activities as the Government may from time to time require.

CHAPTER IX

TAXATION AND FINANCE

167. (1) There shall be levied in every panchayat development block, a local cess at the rate of one rupee on every rupee of land revenue payable to the Government in respect of any land for every fasli.

Local cess.

Explanation.- In this section and in section 168, 'land revenue' means public revenue due on land and includes water cess payable to the Government for water supplied or used for the irrigation of land, royalty, lease amount or other sum payable to the Government in respect of land held direct from the Government on lease or licence, but does not include any other cess or the surcharge payable under section 168, provided that land revenue remitted shall not be deemed to be land revenue payable for the purpose of this section.

(2) The local cess payable under sub-section (1) shall be deemed to be public revenue due on all the lands in respect of which a person is liable to pay local cess and all the said lands, the buildings upon the said lands and their products shall be regarded as security for the local cess.

Tamil Nadu
Act II of 1864.

(3) The provisions of the Tamil Nadu Revenue Recovery Act, 1864, shall apply to the payment and recovery of the local cess payable under this Act just as they apply to the payment and recovery of the revenue due upon the lands in respect of which the local cess under this Act is payable.

(4) Out of the proceeds of the local cess so collected in every panchayat development block, a sum representing twenty percent of the proceeds shall be credited to the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund.

(5) The balance of the proceeds of the local cess collected in the panchayat development block shall be credited to the funds of the panchayat union council.

168. Every panchayat union council may levy on every person liable to pay land revenue to the Government in respect of any land in the panchayat union, a local cess surcharge at such rate as may be considered suitable as an addition to the local cess levied in the panchayat development block under section 167 provided that the rate of local cess surcharge so levied shall not be less than five rupees and not more than ten rupees on every rupee of land revenue payable in respect of such land.

Local cess
surcharge.

169. The Government may make rules not inconsistent with this Act for regulating the collection of the local cess, the payment thereof to the village panchayats, panchayat union councils and district panchayats and the deduction of any expenses incurred by the Government in the collection thereof.

Rules
regarding
collection of
local cess.

170. The Government shall pay to each panchayat union council a sum representing one rupee for each individual of the population of the panchayat development block concerned from out of the total land revenue (including water-cess) collected in the State during that year. The sum thus credited to the panchayat union council shall be referred to as the Land Revenue Assignment of that block.

Land Revenue
Assignment.

171. (1) Every village panchayat shall levy in the panchayat village a house-tax and a vehicle tax.

Taxes leviable
by village
panchayats.

(2) A duty shall also be levied in every panchayat village on certain transfers of property in accordance with the provisions of section 175.

(3) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed and with the sanction of the Inspector and subject to such restrictions and conditions, if any, as may be imposed by him either at the time of granting sanction or later, the village panchayat may also levy in the village a tax on agricultural land for a specific purpose.

House-tax.

172. (1) The house-tax shall be levied on all houses in every panchayat village on the basis on which such tax was levied in the local area concerned immediately before the commencement of this Act or on the basis of classified plinth area at the rates specified in Schedule I, as the village panchayat may adopt subject to the provisions of sub-section (3).

(2) The house-tax shall, subject to the prior payment of the land revenue, if any, due to the Government in respect of the site of the house, be a first charge upon the house and upon the movable property, if any, found within or upon the same and belonging to the person liable to such tax.

(3) The Government shall, by notification, determine in regard to any panchayat village or any class of panchayat villages whether the house-tax shall be levied every half-year or year and in so doing have regard to the following matters, namely:

(a) the classification of the local areas under section 4;

(b) the annual receipts of the village panchayat;

(c) the population of the panchayat village and the predominant occupation of such population; and

(d) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(4) The Government may make rules providing for

(a) the persons who shall be liable to pay the tax and the giving of notices of transfer of houses;

(b) the grant of vacancy and other remissions;

(c) the circumstances in which, and the conditions subject to which, houses constructed, reconstructed or demolished, or situated in areas included in, or excluded from the panchayat village during any half-year or year, shall be liable or cease to be liable to the whole or any portion of the tax.

(5) If the occupier of a house pays the house-tax on behalf of the owner thereof, such occupier shall be entitled to recover the same from the owner and may deduct the same from the rent then or thereafter due by him to the owner.

Vehicle-tax.

173. The vehicle tax shall, subject to such rules as may be prescribed including rules relating to exemptions and restrictions, be levied every half-year on all vehicles kept or used within the panchayat village at such rates as may be fixed by the village panchayat not being less than the minimum rates and not exceeding the maximum rates prescribed.

Explanation.- In this section, "vehicle" means a conveyance suitable for use on roads and includes any kind of tram-car, carriage, cart, wagon, bicycle, tricycle and rickshaw, but does not include a motor vehicle as defined in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

174. An appeal shall lie to such authority and within such time, as may be prescribed, against any assessment of tax made in pursuance of sections 171 to 173.

Appeal against assessments.

175. (1) The duty on transfer of property shall be levied

Duty on transfer of property.

Central Act II of 1899 as in force for the time being in the State of Tamil Nadu, on every instrument of the description specified below, which relates to immovable property situated in the area under the jurisdiction of a village panchayat; and

(b) at such rate, as may be fixed by the Government, not exceeding five per centum on the amount specified below against each instrument:

(i) Sale of immovable property.

The market value of the property as set forth in the instrument, and in a case where the market value is finally determined by any authority under section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, the market value as so determined by such authority.

Central Act II of 1899.

(ii) Exchange of immovable property.

The market value of the property of the greater value as set forth in the instrument, and in a case where the market value is finally determined by any authority under section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, the market value as so determined by such authority.

Central Act II of 1899.

(iii) Gift of immovable property.

The market value of the property as set forth in the instrument, and in a case where the market value is finally determined by any authority under section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, the market value as so determined by such authority.

Central Act II of 1899.

(iv) Mortgage with possession of immovable property.

The amount secured by the mortgage as set forth in the instrument.

(v) Lease in perpetuity of immovable property.

An amount equal to one sixth of the whole amount or value of the rents which would be paid or delivered in respect of the first fifty years of the lease, as set forth in the instrument.

(2) On the introduction of the duty aforesaid-

(a) section 27 of the said Indian Stamp Act shall be read as if it specifically required the particulars to be set forth separately in respect of property situated in the area under the jurisdiction of village panchayat and in respect of property situated outside such area;

(b) section 64 of the said Act shall be read as if it referred to the village panchayat as well as the Government.

(3) The amount collected in the panchayat village in the panchayat development block as surcharge on the duty on transfers of property under this section shall be pooled every year for the entire block and distributed among all the village panchayats in the block in proportion to the land revenue of the panchayat village.

(4) The Government may make rules not inconsistent with this Act for regulating the collection of the duty, the payment thereof to the village panchayat and the deduction of any expenses incurred by the Government in the collection thereof.

- Exemption.. 176. No exemption from the payment of any surcharge or tax specified in section 168 or 171 shall be granted by the village panchayat or the panchayat union council except in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed:
- Provided that in any particular case, such exemption may be granted with the previous sanction of the Government.
- Power to require land revenue staff to collect taxes and fees due to village panchayats. 177. Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the executive authority or the commissioner shall have power to require the staff of the Land Revenue Department to prepare at quinquennial intervals a House-tax Assessment Register in such form as may be prescribed and to collect any tax or fee due to the village panchayat or panchayat union council on payment of such remuneration not exceeding $6 \frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the gross sum collected as the collector may, by general or special order, determine.
- Write-off of irrecoverable amounts. 178. Subject to such restrictions and control as may be prescribed, a village panchayat or panchayat union council may write-off any tax, fee or other amount whatsoever due to it, whether under a contract or otherwise, or any sum payable in connection therewith, if in its opinion such tax, fee, amount or sum is irrecoverable:
- Provided that where the Collector or any of his subordinates is responsible for the collection of any tax, fee or other amount due to a village panchayat or panchayat union council the power to write-off such tax, fee or amount or any sum payable in connection therewith, on the ground of its being irrecoverable, shall be exercised by the Commissioner of Land Administration or subject to his control, by the Collector or any officer authorised by him.
- Local Education Grant. 179. The Government shall pay annually to every panchayat union council a Local Education Grant the amount of which shall be calculated as follows:
- The total amount of expenditure approved by the Government for being debited to the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund shall be divided into slabs in the manner specified below:
- So much of the expenditure as may be equal to the land revenue assignment of the block referred to in section 170 shall constitute the first slab.
- So much of the expenditure as may be in excess of the first slab subject to a maximum of 250 paise for each individual of the population of the panchayat development block concerned shall constitute the second slab.
- To each panchayat union council, the Government shall make a Local Education Grant which shall be a proportion of the second slab not less than fifty percent and not more than eighty per cent as may be specified by the Government in respect of that block.
- Local Cess Surcharge Matching Grant. 180. The Government shall pay every year to the panchayat union council a Local Cess Surcharge Matching Grant, which shall be a sum calculated at such percentage as may be prescribed of the proceeds of the local cess surcharge levied in the panchayat development block.
- Classification of panchayat development blocks. 181. For the purpose of sanctioning grants to panchayat union councils, the Government may classify panchayat development blocks in such manner as they may deem fit once in every five years and it shall be open to the Government to sanction grants at varying rates for the different classes of panchayat development blocks. It shall also be open to the Government to revise the classification of panchayat development blocks once in every five year.
- Local Roads Grant. 182. The Government shall pay every year to every panchayat union council a Local Roads Grant, which shall be such sum as may be fixed by the Government for each individual of the estimated population in the panchayat development block to be earmarked and spent on the maintenance of roads in its area and such, sum shall be in lieu of the

Tamil Nadu
Act 13 of 1974.

amounts payable before the commencement of this Act, with reference to section 10 (1) of the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1974:

Provided that in calculating the sum to be paid to the panchayat union council by way of Local Roads Grant under this section, the Government shall take into account the length and nature of roads lying in the panchayat development block.

183. On every rupee of house-tax collected by a village panchayat, an equal amount shall be paid by the Government as grant which shall be called the Panchayat Village House-tax Matching Grant.

Village House-
tax Matching
Grant.

184. Where the panchayat union council undertakes a work of common benefit for more than one village panchayat, it may apportion the cost of such work among the different village panchayats benefitted thereby. In such a case, the panchayat union council shall be entitled to recover the share of such cost from the village panchayat out of the amounts payable to the village panchayats under sections 167 and 175.

Deduction
from grant in
certain cases.

185. There shall be constituted

(a) for each panchayat union, a Panchayat Union (General) Fund and a Panchayat Union (Education) Fund;

(b) for each village panchayat, a Village Panchayat Fund.

Constitution of
Panchayat
Union Fund
and Village
Panchayat
Fund.

186. The receipts which shall be credited to the Panchayat Union (General) Fund shall include-

Panchayat
Union
(General)
Fund.

(a) such Part of the local cess collected in the panchayat development block as remains after crediting to the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund and the Village Panchayat Fund under section 167;

(b) the local cess surcharge collected in the panchayat development block under section 168;

(c) the Local Cess Surcharge Matching Grant paid by the Government under section 180;

(d) the Local Roads Grant paid by the Government under section 182;

(e) fees on licences issued and permissions given by the panchayat union councils;

(f) fees levied in public markets classified as panchayat union markets after deducting the contribution, if any, paid by the panchayat union council to the village panchayat on the scale fixed by the Government;

(g) the contribution paid to the panchayat union council by village panchayats in respect of markets classified as village panchayat markets;

(h) fees for the temporary occupation of roads or road margins;

(i) fees for the use of choultries;

(j) receipts from dispensaries maintained by the panchayat union council;

(k) income from endowments and trusts under the managements of the

(l) the proportionate share of the proceeds of the entertainments tax received by the panchayat union council under section 13 of the Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax Act, 1939;

Tamil Nadu
Act X of 1939

(m) contributions from Government, other panchayat union councils, municipalities, other local authorities and persons in aid of every institution or service maintained or financed from panchayat union funds or managed by the panchayat union council;

- (n) sale-proceeds of tools and plants, stores and materials and of trees and avenue produce appertaining to panchayat union roads;
- (o) income from panchayat union ferries and fisheries;
- (p) interest on loans and securities; (q) interest on arrears of revenue;
- (r) income from and sale-proceeds of, buildings, lands and other property belonging to the panchayat union council;
- (s) unclaimed deposits and other forfeitures;
- (t) fines and penalties levied under this Act by the panchayat union council or at its instance or on its behalf;
- (u) all sums other than those enumerated above or in section 187 which arise out of, or are received in aid of, or for expenditure on, any institutions or services maintained or financed from the panchayat union funds or managed by the panchayat union council;
- (v) all other moneys received by the panchayat union council.

Panchayat
Union
(Education)
Fund.

187. The receipt which shall be credited to the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund shall include-

- (a) twenty per cent of the local cess collected under section 167;
- (b) the land revenue assignment paid by the Government under section 170;
- (c) the Local Education Grant paid by the Government;
- (d) such contribution from the Panchayat Union (General) Fund as the Government may decide to be necessary in any year in order to balance the budget of the fund for that year;
- (e) all fines and penalties levied within the jurisdiction of the panchayat union council under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Elementary Education Act, 1920;
- (f) all income derived from any endowments or other property owned or managed by the panchayat union council for the benefit of elementary education;
- (g) all other sums which may be contributed or received by the panchayat union council for the purposes of elementary education.

Tamil Nadu
Act VIII of
1920.

Village
Panchayat
Fund.

188. The receipts which shall be credited to the village panchayat fund shall include-

- (a) the house-tax, the vehicle tax and any other tax or any cess or fee, levied under sections 171 to 173.
- (b) the profession tax levied by village panchayats under the Tamil Nadu Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act, 1992;
- (c) the proceeds of the duty on transfers of property levied under section 175.
- (d) the share of the local cess under section 167;
- (e) in respect of village panchayat fund, the Village House-Tax Matching Grant;
- (f) the taxes and tolls levied in the village under sections 117 and 118 of the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939;
- (g) fees levied in public markets classified as village panchayat markets after deducting the contributions, if any, paid by the village panchayat to the panchayat union council on the scale fixed by the Government;
- (h) the contribution paid to the village panchayat by panchayat union councils in respect of markets classified as panchayat union markets;

Tamil Nadu
Act 24 of 1992.

Tamil Nadu
Act VIII of
1939.

Tamil Nadu
Act X of
1939.

- (i) fees for the temporary occupation of village sites, roads and other similar public places or parts thereof in the panchayat village;
- (j) fees levied by the village panchayat in pursuance of any provision of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder;
- (k) income from endowments and trusts under the management of the village panchayat;
- (l) the net assessment on service inams which are resumed by the Government;
- (m) the proportionate share of the proceeds of the entertainments tax received by the village panchayat under section 13 of the Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax Act, 1939;
- (n) income derived from panchayat village fisheries;
- (o) income derived from ferries under the management of the village panchayat;
- (p) unclaimed deposits and other forfeitures;
- (q) a sum equivalent to the seigniorage fees collected by the Government every year from persons permitted to quarry for road materials in the panchayat village;
- (r) all income derived from porambokes the user of which is vested in the village panchayat;
- (s) where the panchayat village is in a ryotwari tract, all income derived from trees standing on porambokes although the user of the porambokes is not vested in the village panchayat;
- (t) income from leases of Government property obtained by the village panchayat;
- (u) fines and penalties levied under this Act by the village panchayat or at the instance or on behalf of the village panchayat;
- (v) all sums other than those enumerated above which arise out of, or are received in aid of or for expenditure on any institutions or services maintained or financed from the village panchayat fund or managed by the village panchayat;
- (w) all other moneys received by the village panchayat.

189. (1) There shall be constituted for each district panchayat, a District Panchayat (General) Fund and the following shall form part of, or be paid into, the District Panchayat (General) Fund, namely :

- (a) The amount transferred to the District Panchayat (General) Fund by appropriation from out of the Consolidated Fund of the State;
- (b) all grants, assignments, loans and contributions made by the Government;
- (c) all rents from lands or other property of the district panchayat;
- (d) all interests, profits and other moneys accruing by gift, grants; assignments or transfer from private individuals or institutions;
- (e) all proceeds of land, security and other properties sold by the district panchayat;
- (f) all fees and penalties paid to or levied by or on behalf of the district panchayat under this Act;
- (g) all sums received by or on behalf of the district panchayat by virtue of this Act.

(2) The Government shall make a grant to every District Panchayat (General) Fund, to cover the expenses of establishment at such scale as may be determined by it.

District
Panchayat
(General)
Fund.

EXPENDITURE.

Application of moneys received and expenditure from funds.

190. All moneys received by the panchayat union council and the village panchayat shall be applied and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other laws:

Provided that the panchayat union council or the village panchayat shall have power subject to such rules as may be prescribed to direct that the proceeds of any tax or additional tax levied under this Act shall be earmarked for the purpose of financing any specific public improvement. A separate account shall be kept of the receipts from every such tax or additional tax and the expenditure thereof.

Expenditure from Village Panchayat Fund and Panchayat Union Fund.

191. (1) The purposes to which the funds of the panchayat union council or of the village panchayat may be applied include all objects expressly declared obligatory or discretionary by this Act or any rules made thereunder or by any other laws or rules and the funds shall be applicable thereto within the panchayat development block or the panchayat village, as the case may be, subject to such rules or special orders as the Government may prescribe or issue and shall, subject as aforesaid be applicable to such purposes outside the panchayat development block or panchayat village if the expenditure is authorized by this Act or specially sanctioned by the Inspector.

(2) It shall be the duty of every panchayat union council and village panchayat to provide for the payment of

- (a) any amount falling due on any loans contracted by it;
- (b) the salaries and allowances and the pensions, pensionary contributions and provident fund contributions of its officers and servants;
- (c) sums due under any decree or order of a court; and
- (d) any other expenses rendered obligatory by or under this Act or any other law.

(3) A panchayat union council or village panchayat may, with the sanction of the Government, contribute to any fund for the defence of India.

(4) A panchayat union council or village panchayat may, with the sanction of the Inspector also--

- (a) contribute towards the expenses of any public exhibition, ceremony or entertainment in the panchayat development block or panchayat village;
- (b) contribute to any charitable fund, or to the funds of any institution for the relief of the poor or the treatment of disease or infirmity or the reception of indisposed or infirm persons or the investigation of the causes of disease; and
- (c) defray any other extraordinary charges.

Preparation and sanction of budgets

192. (1) The executive authority of the village panchayat and the commissioner, shall in each year frame and place before the village panchayat or the panchayat union council as the case may be, a budget showing the probable receipts and expenditure during the following year.

(2) The budget of a village panchayat or panchayat union council shall after preparation by the executive authority or the commissioner, be submitted on or before such date and to such officer as may be prescribed, and if the prescribed officer is satisfied that adequate provision has not been made therein for the performance of any necessary service or services, he shall have power to return the budget for modification in such manner as may be necessary to secure such provision.

(3) The village panchayat or the panchayat union council, as the case may be, shall sanction the budget with such modification as it thinks fit. If there is a difference of opinion between the officer referred to in sub-section (2) and the village panchayat and the panchayat union council, as the case may be, the budget shall be referred to the Inspector in the case of village panchayat and the Government in the case of the

panchayat union council. The Inspector or the Government, as the case may be, shall have power to modify the budget in such manner as he or they may consider necessary.

(4) If in the course of a year, a village panchayat or panchayat union council finds it necessary to alter the figures shown in the budget with regard to its receipts or to the distribution of the amounts to be expended on the different services undertaken by it, a supplemental or revised budget may be framed, sanctioned, submitted and modified in the manner provided in sub-sections (1) and (2), provided that no such alteration shall be given effect to except with the consent of the prescribed officer.

(5) On or before such date in each year as may be prescribed, every commissioner shall submit to the Government through such officer and in such forms as may be prescribed a budget for the ensuing financial year showing the income and expenditure relating to the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund.

(6) The Government may pass such orders as they think fit in respect of the budget referred to in sub-section (5) and the panchayat union council concerned shall be bound to carry out all such orders.

(7) The accounts of the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund shall be examined and audited by an auditor appointed by the Government under section J.93, and the panchayat union council concerned shall carry out any instruction which the Government may issue on the audit report.

Central Act
XLV of 1860.

193. (1) The Government shall appoint auditors for the accounts Of the receipts and expenditure of the funds of the panchayat. Such auditors shall be deemed to be "public servants" within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

Appointment of auditors.

(2) No contribution shall be recovered by the Government from the panchayat towards the pay and allowances of such auditors or towards any other expenditure involved in the audit of the accounts of the panchayat.

194. If the expenditure incurred by the Government or by any panchayat union council or by any village panchayat or by any other local authority in the State for any purpose authorised by or under this Act, is such as to benefit the inhabitants of the panchayat union or panchayat village, the panchayat union council or the village panchayat, as the case may be, may, with the sanction of the Inspector, and shall, if so directed by him, make a contribution towards such expenditure.

Contribution to expenditure by other local authorities.

Central Act IX
of 1914.

195. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Local Authorities Loans Act, 1914 the Government may-

Recovery of loans and advances made by Government.

(a) by order direct any person having custody of the funds of the panchayat union council or the village panchayat to pay to them in priority to any other charges against such fund, except charges for the service of authorised loans, any loan or advance made by them to the panchayat union council or the village panchayat for any purpose to which its funds may be applied under this Act;

(b) recover any such loan or advance by suit.

(2) The person to whom the order referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) is addressed shall be bound to comply with such order.

196. The provisions of sections 190,191, 192, 194 and 195 (both inclusive) shall, in as far as may be, apply in relation to the district panchayat as they apply in relation to village panchayat and panchayat union council.

Application of certain sections of this Act to district panchayat.

197. (1) It shall be lawful for the Government from time to time to direct by notification that,-

Certain powers and functions of district panchayat to be notified by the Government.

(a) any of the powers and functions of the village panchayat or panchayat union council or of the Government; or

(b) any road, bridge, channel, building or other property movable, or immovable which is vested in the village panchayat or the panchayat union council or the Government and which is situated in the district,

shall with the consent of the district panchayat and subject to such exemption and conditions as the Government may make and impose, be exercised or placed under the control and administration of the district panchayat for the purposes of this Act and thereupon such powers and functions and such road, bridge, channel, building or other property, shall be under the control and administration of the district panchayat, subject to all exceptions and to all charges and liabilities affecting the same.

(2) It shall be competent for the Government by notification, to resume any of the powers and functions or property, placed under the control of the district panchayat under sub-section (1), on such terms as the Government may determine.

Finance
Commission.

198. (1) The Governor shall as soon as may be, after the commencement of this Act, but not later than 24th April 1994 and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year, constitute a Finance Commission referred to in Article 243-1 of the Constitution to review the financial position of the panchayats, and to make recommendations to the Governor as to

(a) the principles which should govern,

(i) the distribution between the State and panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the Government which may be divided between them and allocation between the district panchayats, panchayat union councils and village panchayats of their respective shares of such proceeds;

(ii) the determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to or appropriated by the panchayats;

(iii) the grants-in-aid to the panchayats, from the Consolidated Fund of the State;

(b) the measures needed to improve the financial position of the panchayats ;

(c) any other matter referred to the Finance Commission by the Governor in the interest of sound finance of the panchayats.

(2) The Finance Commission shall consist of a chairman and four other members.

(3) The chairman and members of Finance Commission shall possess such qualifications and shall be appointed in such manner as may be prescribed.

(4) The Finance commission shall determine their procedure.

(5) The chairman or a member of the Finance Commission may resign his office by writing under his hand and addressed to the Finance Secretary to the Government, but he shall continue in office until his resignation is accepted by the Governor.

(6) The casual vacancy created by the resignation of the member or chairman under sub-section (5) or for any other reasons may be filled by fresh appointment and a member or chairman so appointed, shall hold office for the remaining period for which the member or chairman in whose place he was appointed would have held office.

(7) The Finance Commission shall have the following powers in the performance of its functions, namely:

(a) to call for any record from any officer or authority;

(b) to summon any person to give evidence or produce records; and

(c) such other powers as may be prescribed.

(8) The Finance Commission shall prepare a report on the activities of the Commission and submit the same to the Government at the end of each financial year.

(9) The Governor shall cause every recommendation made by the Finance Commission under this section together with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken thereon to be placed in the table of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER-X.

CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES.

199. (1) The Government may appoint such officers as may be required for the purpose of inspecting or superintending the operations of all or any of the panchayats constituted under this Act.

Appointment of officers to supervise panchayats.

(2) The Government shall have power to regulate by rules made under this Act, the classifications, methods of recruitment, conditions of service, pay and allowances and discipline and conduct of the officers referred to in sub-section (1) and of the members of their establishments.

200.(1) The Inspector or the Collector or any officer appointed under section 199 or any other officer or person whom the Government or the Inspector or the Collector may empower in this behalf, may

Powers of inspecting officers.

(a) enter on and inspect any immovable property, or any work in progress, under the control of any panchayat or any executive authority or commissioner or chief executive officer;

(b) enter any school, dispensary, vaccination station or choultry maintained by or under the control of any panchayat or any other institution maintained by or under the control of any panchayat and inspect any records, registers or other documents kept in any such institution;

(c) enter the office of any panchayat and inspect any records, registers or other documents kept therein.

(2) Village panchayats and their presidents, executive authorities, panchayat union councils and their chairmen, commissioners, district panchayats and their chairmen, chief executive officers and the officers and servants of panchayats shall be bound to afford to the officers and persons aforesaid, such access, at all reasonable times, to panchayat property or premises and to all documents as may, in the opinion of such officers or persons, subject to such rules as may be prescribed, be necessary to enable them to discharge their duties under this section.

201. The Inspector or any officer or person whom the Government or the Inspector, may empower in this behalf may,

Powers of officers for purpose of control.

(a) direct the village panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat to make provision for and to execute or provide any public work or amenity, or service of the description referred to in sections 110, 112 and 163;

(b) call for any record, register or other document in the possession, or under the control, of any panchayat or executive authority, or commissioner or chief executive officer;

(c) require any panchayat or executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer to furnish any return, plan, estimate, statement, account or statistics;

(d) require any panchayat or executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer to furnish any information or report on any matter connected with such panchayat;

(e) require any panchayat or executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer to obtain his previous sanction before giving up a claim or closing down any institution which is a source of income;

(f) record in writing for the consideration of any panchayat or executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer, any observations in regard to its or his proceedings or duties.

Power to suspend or cancel resolution, etc. under the Act.

202. (1) The Inspector may, by order in writing,-

(i) suspend or cancel any resolution passed, order issued, or licence or permission granted, or

(ii) prohibit the doing of any act which is about to be done or is being done, in pursuance or under colour of this Act, if in his opinion,

(a) such resolution, order, licence, permission or act has not been legally passed, issued, granted or authorised, or

(b) such resolution, order, licence, permission or act is in excess of the powers conferred by this Act or any other law or an abuse of such powers or is considered by the Inspector to be otherwise undesirable, or

(c) the execution of such resolution or order, or the continuance in force of such licence or permission or the doing of such act is likely to cause danger to human life, health or safety, or is likely to lead to a riot or an affray:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall enable the Inspector to set aside any election which has been held.

(2) The Inspector shall, before taking action on any of the grounds referred to in clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1), give the authority or person concerned an opportunity for explanation.

(3) The power conferred on the Inspector under clause (c) of sub-section (1) may be exercised by the Collector in accordance with the provisions of that clause.

Emergency powers of Collector and Inspector.

203. Subject to such control as may be prescribed, the Inspector or the Collector may, in cases of emergency, direct or provide for the execution of any work, or the doing of any act which a panchayat or executive authority or commissioner or chief executive officer is empowered to execute or do, and the immediate execution or doing of which is in his opinion necessary for the safety of the public, and may direct that the expense of executing such work or doing such act shall be paid by the person having the custody of the Village Panchayat Fund or the Panchayat Union (General) Fund or the District Panchayat (General) Fund in priority to any other charges against such Fund except charges for the service of authorized loans.

Power to take action in default of a village panchayat, president or executive authority, etc.

204. (1) If at any time it appears to the Inspector that a village panchayat, president or executive authority or that a panchayat union council or its chairman or commissioner or a district panchayat or its chairman or chief executive officer, has made default in performing any duty imposed by or under this or any other Act, he may, by order in writing, fix a period for the performance of such duty.

(2) If such duty is not performed within the period so fixed, the Inspector may appoint some person to perform it, and may direct that the expense of performing it shall be paid by the person having the custody of the Village Panchayat Fund or the Panchayat Union Fund or the District Panchayat (General) Fund as the case may be, in priority to any other charges against such Fund except charges for the service of authorized loans.

(3) If on a representation in writing made by the president, the Inspector is satisfied that due to the non-co-operation of the members with the president, the village panchayat is not able to function, the Inspector may, by notification, authorise the president to perform subject to the control of the Inspector, such of the duties imposed upon the village panchayat by law and for such period not exceeding six months as may be specified in such notification. During the period for which the president is so authorised, there shall be no meeting of the village panchayat.

(4) If on a representation in writing made by the chairman, the Government are satisfied that due to the non-co-operation of the members with the chairman, the

panchayat union council or the district panchayat, as the *case* may be, is not able to function, the Government may, by notification, authorise the chairman to perform, subject to the control of the Government or any officer authorised by the Government in this behalf, such of the duties imposed upon the panchayat union council or the district panchayat, as the case may be, by law and for such period not exceeding six months as may be specified in such notification. During the period for which the chairman is so authorised, there shall be no meeting of the panchayat union council or the district panchayat.

205. (I) The Inspector

(a) of his own motion, or

(b) on a representation in writing signed by not less than two-thirds of the sanctioned strength of the village panchayat containing a statement of charges against the president and presented in person to the Inspector by any two of the members of the village panchayat,

is satisfied that the president wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys any provision of this Act, or any rule, by-law, regulation, or lawful order made or issued under this Act or abuses any power vested in him, the Inspector shall, by notice in writing, require the president to offer within a specified date, his explanation with respect to his acts of omission or commission mentioned in the notice.

Removal of
president.

(2) If the explanation is received within the specified date and the Inspector considers that the explanation is satisfactory, he may drop further action with respect to the notice. If no explanation is received within the specified date or if the explanation received is in his opinion not satisfactory, he shall forward to the Tahsildar of the taluk a copy of the notice referred to in sub-section (1) and the explanation of the president If received within the specified date with a proposal for the removal of the president for ascertaining the views of the village panchayat.

(3) The Tashildar shall then convene a meeting for the consideration of the notice and the explanation, if any, and the proposal for the removal of the president at the office of the village panchayat at a time appointed by the Tashildar.

(4) A copy of the notice of the meeting shall be caused to be delivered to the president and to all the members of the village panchayat by the Tahsildar at least seven days before the date of the meeting.

(5) The Tahsildar shall preside at the meeting convened under this section and no other person shall preside thereat. If, within half an hour appointed for the meeting, the Tahsildar is not present to preside at the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time to be appointed and notified to the members and the president by the Tahsildar under sub-section (6).

(6) If the Tahsildar is unable to preside at the meeting, he may, after recording his reasons in writing, adjourn the meeting to such other time as he may appoint. The date so appointed shall be not later than thirty days from the date so appointed for the meeting under sub-section (3). Notice of not less than seven clear days shall be given to the members and the president of the time appointed for the adjourned meeting.

(7) Save as provided in sub-sections (5) and (6), a meeting convened for the purpose of considering the notice and the explanation, if any, and the proposal for the removal of the president under this section shall not for any reason, be adjourned.

(8) As soon as the meeting convened under this section is commenced, the Tahsildar, shall read to the village panchayat the notice of the Inspector and the explanation, if any, of the president, for the consideration of which it has been convened.

(9) The Tahsildar shall not speak on the merits of the notice or explanation nor shall he be entitled to vote at the meeting.

(10) The views of the village panchayat shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting and a copy of the minutes shall forthwith on the termination of the meeting be forwarded by the Tahsildar to the Inspector.

(11) The Inspector may, after considering the views of the village panchayat in this regard, in his discretion either remove the president from office by notification with effect from a date to be specified therein or drop further action.

(12) The Government shall have power to cancel any notification issued under sub-section (11) and may, pending a decision on such cancellation, postpone the date specified in such notification.

(13) Any person in respect of whom a notification has been issued under subsection (11) removing him from the office of president shall, unless the notification is cancelled under sub-section (12), be ineligible for election as president until the date on which notice of the next ordinary elections to the village panchayat is published in the prescribed manner, or the expiry of one year from the date specified in such notification as postponed by the order, if any, issued under sub-section (12) whichever is earlier.

Removal of
vice-president.

206. (1) If in the opinion of the Inspector, the vice-president wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys any provisions of this Act, or any rule, by-law, regulation, or lawful order made or issued under this Act or abuses any power vested in him, the Inspector shall by notice in writing, require the vice-president to offer within a specified date, his explanation with respect to his cases of omission or commission mentioned in the notice.

(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2) to (13) (both inclusive) of section 205 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the removal of the vice-president as they apply in relation to the removal of the president by the Inspector on his own motion.

Removal of
chairman of
panchayat
union council.

207. (1) If the Government,-

(a) of their own motion, or

(b) on a representation in writing signed by not less than two-thirds of the strength of the panchayat union council containing a statement of charges against the chairman of the panchayat union council and presented in person to any officer appointed by the Government in this behalf by any two of the members of the panchayat union council, are satisfied that the chairman wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys the provisions of this Act, or any rules, by-laws, regulations or lawful orders issued thereunder or abuses the powers vested in him, the Government shall, by notice in writing, require the chairman to offer within a specified date, his explanation with respect to his acts of omission or commission mentioned in the notice.

(2) If the explanation is received within the specified date and the Government consider that the explanation is satisfactory, the Government may drop further action with respect to the notice. If no explanation is received within the specified date or if the explanation received is in their opinion not satisfactory, the Government shall forward to the Revenue Divisional Officer of the division concerned, a copy of the notice referred to in sub-section (1) and the explanation of the chairman with a proposal for the removal of the chairman from office for ascertaining the views of the panchayat union council.

(3) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall then convene a meeting for the consideration of the notice and the explanation, if any, and the proposal for the removal of the chairman at the office of the panchayat union council at a time appointed by the Revenue Divisional Officer.

(4) A copy of the notice of the meeting shall be caused to be delivered to the concerned chairman and to all the members of the panchayat union council by the Revenue Divisional Officer at least seven days before the date of the meeting.

(5) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall preside at the meeting convened under this section and no other person shall preside thereat. If within half an hour appointed for the meeting, the Revenue Divisional Officer is not present to preside at the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time to be appointed and notified to the members by the Revenue Divisional Officer, under sub-section (6).

(6) If the Revenue Divisional Officer is unable to preside at the meeting, he may, after recording his reasons in writing, adjourn the meeting to such other time as he may appoint. The date so appointed shall be not later than thirty days from the date appointed for the meeting under sub-section (3). Notice of not less than seven clear days shall be given to the members of the time appointed for the adjourned meeting.

(7) Save as provided in sub-sections (5) and (6), a meeting convened for the purpose of considering the notice and the explanation, if any, and the proposal for the removal of the chairman under this section shall not, for any reason, be adjourned.

(8) As soon as the meeting convened under this section is commenced, the Revenue Divisional Officer shall read to the panchayat union council the notice of the Government and the explanation, if any, of the chairman for the consideration of which it has been convened.

(9) There shall be no debate in any meeting under this section.

(10) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall not speak on the merits of the notice or explanation nor shall he be entitled to vote at the meeting.

(11) The views of the panchayat union council shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting and a copy of the minutes shall forthwith on the termination of the meeting be forwarded by the Revenue Divisional Officer to the Government.

(12) The Government may, after considering the views of the panchayat union council in this regard in their discretion either remove the chairman from office by notification with effect from a date to be specified therein or drop further action.

(13) Any person in respect of whom a notification has been issued under sub-section (12) removing him from the office of chairman shall be ineligible for election as chairman and for holding any of those offices until the date on which notice of the next ordinary elections to the panchayat union council is published in the prescribed manner or the expiry of one year from the date specified in the notification whichever is earlier.

208. (1) If, in the opinion of the Government, the vice-chairman of the panchayat union council wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys any provisions of this Act, or any rules, by-laws, regulations or lawful orders issued thereunder or abuses any power vested in him, the Government shall, by notice in writing, require the vice-chairman to offer within a specified date, his explanation with respect to his acts of omission or commission mentioned in the notice.

Removal of vice-chairman of panchayat union council.

(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2) to (13) (both inclusive) of section 207 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the removal of the vice-chairman as they apply in relation to the removal of the chairman of the panchayat union council by the Government on their own motion.

209.(1) If the Government,-

(a) of their own motion,
or

(b) on a representation in writing signed by not less than two-thirds of the strength of the district panchayat containing a statement of charges against the chairman

Removal of chairman of district panchayat.

of the district panchayat and presented in person to any officer appointed by the Government in this behalf, by any two of the members of the district panchayat,

are satisfied that the chairman wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys the provisions of this Act, or any rules, by-laws, regulations or lawful orders issued thereunder or abuses the powers vested in him, the Government shall, by notice in writing, require the chairman to offer within a specified date, his explanation with respect to his acts of omission or commission mentioned in the notice.

(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2) to (13) (both inclusive) of section 207 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the removal of the chairman of district panchayat as they apply in relation to the removal of the chairman of panchayat union council by the Government on their own motion.

Removal of vice-chairman of district panchayat.

210.(1) If, in the opinion of the Government, the vice-chairman of district panchayat, wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys any provisions of this Act, or any rules, by-laws, regulations or lawful orders issued thereunder or abuses any power vested in him, the Government shall, by notice in writing, require the vice-chairman of district panchayat to offer within a specified date, his explanation with respect to his acts of omission or commission mentioned in the notice.

(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2) to (13) (both inclusive) of section 207 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the removal of the vice-chairman of district panchayat, as they apply in relation to the removal of the chairman of panchayat union council, by the Government on their own motion.

Motion of no confidence in vice-president of panchayat.

211.(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a motion expressing want of confidence in the vice-president of a village panchayat may be made in accordance with the procedure laid down herein.

(2) Written notice of intention to make the motion, signed by members of the village panchayat not less in number than one-half of the sanctioned strength of the village panchayat, together with a copy of the motion which is proposed to be made, and a written statement of the charges against the vice-president, shall be delivered in person to the Tahsildar of the taluk by any two of the members of the village panchayat signing the notice.

(3) A copy of the statement of charges along with the notice of the meeting shall be caused to be delivered to the vice-president concerned by the Tahsildar, and the vice-president shall be required to give a statement in reply to the charges within a week of the receipt of the notice by the vice-president.

(4) The Tahsildar shall, after the expiry of the period of the notice issued under sub-section (3) convene a meeting for the consideration of the motion, at the office of the village panchayat at a time appointed by him.

(5) The Tahsildar shall give to the members notice of not less than fifteen clear days of such meeting and of the time appointed therefor.

(6) The Tahsildar shall preside at the meeting convened under this section, and no other person shall preside thereat. If within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the Tahsildar is not present to preside at the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time to be appointed and notified to the members by the Tahsildar under sub-section (7).

(7) If the Tahsildar is unable to preside at the meeting, he may, after recording his reasons in writing, adjourn the meeting to such other time as he may appoint. The date so appointed shall not be later than thirty days from the date appointed for the meeting under sub-section (4). Notice of not less than seven clear days shall be given to the members, of the time appointed for the adjourned meeting.

(8) Save as provided in sub-sections (6) and (7), a meeting convened for the purpose of considering a motion under this section shall not for any reason be adjourned.

(9) As soon as the meeting convened under this section has commenced, the Tahsildar shall read to the village panchayat, the motion for the consideration of which it has been convened, the statement of charges and the written statement, if any, of the vice-president in reply to the said charges.

(10) There shall be no debate on any motion under this section.

(11) The Tahsildar shall not speak on the merits of the motion, nor shall he be entitled to vote thereon.

(12) A copy of the minutes of the meeting together with a copy of the motion and the result of the voting thereon shall forthwith on the termination of the meeting be forwarded by the Tahsildar to the Inspector.

(13) If the motion is carried with the support of not less than two-thirds of the sanctioned strength of the village panchayat, the Inspector shall, by notification, remove the vice-president of the village panchayat.

(14) If the motion is not carried by such a majority as aforesaid, or if the meeting cannot be held for want of the quorum referred to in sub-section (13), no notice of any subsequent motion expressing want of confidence in the same vice-president shall be received until after the expiry of six months from the date of the meeting.

(15) No notice of a motion under this section shall be received within six months of the assumption of office by the vice-president.

212.(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a motion expressing want of confidence in the vice-chairman of a panchayat union council may be made in accordance with the procedure laid down herein.

Motion of no confidence in vice-chairman of panchayat union council.

(2) Written notice of intention to make the motion, signed by members of the panchayat union council not less in number than one-half of the sanctioned strength of the panchayat union council, together with a copy of the motion which is proposed to be made and a written statement of the charges against the vice-chairman shall be delivered in person to the Revenue Divisional Officer of the division by any two of the members of the panchayat union council signing the notice.

(3) A copy of the statement of charges along with the motion shall be caused to be delivered to the concerned vice-chairman by the Revenue Divisional Officer and the vice-chairman shall be required to give a statement in reply to the charges within a week of the receipt of the motion by the vice-chairman.

(4) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall then convene a meeting for the consideration of the motion at the office of the panchayat union council at a time appointed by him.

(5) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall give to the members notice of not less than fifteen clear days of the meeting and of the time appointed therefor.

(6) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall preside at the meeting convened under this section, and no other person shall preside thereat. If within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the Revenue Divisional Officer is not present to preside at the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time to be appointed and notified to the members by the Revenue Divisional Officer under sub-section(7).

(7) If the Revenue Divisional Officer is unable to preside at the meeting, he may, after recording his reasons in writing adjourn the meeting to such other time as he may appoint. The date so appointed shall not be later than thirty days from the date appointed for the meeting under sub-section (4). Notice of not less than seven clear days shall be given to the members of the time appointed for the adjourned meeting.

(8) Save as otherwise provided in sub-sections (6) and (7), a meeting convened for the purpose of considering a motion under this section shall not for any reason be adjourned.

(9) As soon as the meeting convened under this section has commenced, the Revenue Divisional Officer shall read to the panchayat union council the motion for the consideration of which it has been convened, the statement of charges and the statement, if any, of the vice-chairman in reply to the said charges.

(10) There shall be no debate on any motion under this section.

(11) The Revenue Divisional Officer shall not speak on the merits of the motion, nor shall he be entitled to vote thereon.

(12) A copy of the minutes of the meeting together with a copy of the motion and the result of the voting thereon shall forthwith on the termination of the meeting be forwarded by the Revenue Divisional Officer to the Government.

(13) If the motion is carried with the support of not less than two-thirds of the sanctioned strength of the panchayat union council, the Government shall, by notification, remove the vice-chairman of the panchayat union council.

(14) If the motion is not carried by such a majority as aforesaid, or if the meeting cannot be held for want of the quorum referred to in sub-section (13), no notice of any subsequent motion expressing want of confidence in the same vice-chairman shall be received until after the expiry of six months from the date of the meeting.

(15) No notice of a motion under this section shall be received within six months of the assumption of office by the vice-chairman.

Motion of no confidence in vice-chairman of district panchayat.

213. A motion expressing want of confidence in the vice-chairman of a district panchayat may be made in accordance with the procedure specified in sub-sections (2) to (15) (both inclusive) of section 212, subject to the modification that the reference to Revenue Divisional Officer in the said sub-sections shall be construed as a reference to Collector.

Dissolution of village panchayat.

214.(1) If, in the opinion of the Government, a village panchayat is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in performing the duties imposed on it by law, or exceeds or abuses its powers, they may, by notification, direct that the village panchayat be dissolved with effect from a specified date and reconstituted with effect from a specified date which shall be within a period of six months from the date of such dissolution.

(2) Before publishing a notification under sub-section (1), the Government shall communicate to the village panchayat, the grounds on which they propose to do so, fix a reasonable period for the village panchayat to show cause against the proposal and consider its explanations and objections if any.

(3) On the date fixed for the dissolution of a village panchayat under subsection (1), all its members as well as its president and vice-president shall forthwith be deemed to have vacated their offices as such and thereupon the provisions contained in the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 16 shall apply.

(4) In case the president of a village panchayat which is dissolved under this section is a member of a panchayat union council, he shall with effect on and from the date of the dissolution, be deemed to have vacated his office as such member, notwithstanding anything contained in section 22.

(5) On the reconstitution of the village panchayat after the dissolution, the Government may pass such orders as they deem fit as to the transfer to the village panchayat from the panchayat union council of the assets or institutions which were acquired by the panchayat union council during the period of dissolution on behalf of the village panchayat and as to the discharge of the liabilities if any, of such village panchayat relating to such assets or institutions.

(6) In the case of a village panchayat reconstituted after dissolution, the elected member including the president shall enter upon their offices on the date fixed for its reconstitution and shall hold their offices only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved village panchayat would have continued under sub-section (I) of section 9, had it not been dissolved.

215. (1) If, in the opinion of the Government a panchayat union council is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in performing the duties imposed on it by law or exceeds or abuses its powers, they may, by notification

Dissolution of panchayat union council.

(a) dissolve the panchayat union council from a specified date; and

(b) direct that the panchayat union council be reconstituted with effect from a date which shall not be later than six months from the date of dissolution.

(2) Before publishing a notification under sub-section (I), the Government shall communicate to the panchayat union council the grounds on which they propose to do so, fix a reasonable period for the panchayat union council to show cause against the proposal and consider its explanations and objections, if any.

(3) On the date fixed for the dissolution of a panchayat union council under sub-section (1) all its members as well as its chairman and vice-chairman shall forthwith be deemed to have vacated their offices as such.

(4) During the interval between the dissolution and the reconstitution of a panchayat union council, the Inspector may appoint a person to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the panchayat union council and of its chairman:

Provided that any person to be appointed under the provisions of this subsection shall be a person in the service of the Government not below the rank of a Tahsildar or a commissioner.

(5) The Government may direct that the panchayat union council be reconstituted before the date fixed for its reconstitution under clause (b) of sub-section (I).

(6) The members as well as the chairman and vice-chairman of a reconstituted panchayat union council shall enter upon their offices on the date fixed for its reconstitution and they shall hold their offices only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved panchayat union council would have continued under sub-section (I) of section 18, had it not been dissolved.

(7) When a panchayat union council is dissolved under this section, the Government until the date of the reconstitution of the panchayat union council and the reconstituted panchayat union council thereafter shall be entitled to all the assets and be subject to all the liabilities of the panchayat union council as on the date of the reconstitution respectively.

216. (1) If, in the opinion of the Government, a district panchayat is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in performing the duties imposed on it by law or exceeds or abuses its powers, they may, by notification

Dissolution of district panchayat.

(a) dissolve the district panchayat from a specified date; and

(b) direct that the district panchayat be reconstituted with effect from the date, which shall not be later than six months from the date of dissolution.

(2) The provisions of sub-section (2) to (7) (both inclusive) of section 215 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the dissolution of a district panchayat as they apply in relation to the dissolution of a panchayat union council.

Powers of officers acting on behalf of panchayat and liability for payment of compensation.

217. The Government, the Inspector or any other person lawfully taking action on behalf, or in default, of a panchayat under this Act, shall have such powers as are necessary for the purpose and shall be entitled to the same protection under this Act as the panchayat or its officers or servants whose powers are exercised; and compensation shall be recoverable from the Village Panchayat Fund or the Panchayat Union Fund or the District Panchayat (General) Fund by any person suffering damage from the exercise of such powers to the same extent, as if the action had been taken by the panchayat or their officers or servants.

Delegation of powers.

218. (1) The Government may, by notification, authorize any authority or officer not below the rank of a Collector to exercise in regard to any panchayat or any class of panchayats in any area or all panchayats in any area, any of the powers vested in them by this Act except the power to make rules and may in like manner withdraw such authority.

(2) The Inspector or the Collector may by notification authorise any officer not below the rank of a Revenue Divisional Officer to exercise in respect of any panchayat union council or any class of panchayat union councils or all panchayat union councils in the area under the jurisdiction of such officer, any of the powers vested by this Act on the Inspector or the Collector as the case may be and may in like manner withdraw such authority.

(3) The Inspector or the Collector may, by notification, authorise any officer not below the rank of a commissioner to exercise in respect of any village panchayat or any class of village panchayats or all village panchayats in the panchayat development block any of the powers vested by this Act on the Inspector or the Collector as the case may be and may in like manner withdraw such authority.

(4) The exercise of any power delegated under sub-sections (1) to (3) shall be subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed or as may be specified in the notification and also to control and revision by the delegating authority, or where such authority is the Government by such officer as may be empowered by the Government in this behalf. The Government shall also have power to control and revise the acts or proceedings of any officer so empowered.

(5) The exercise of any power conferred on the Inspector or the Collector by any of the provisions of this Act including sub-sections (2) to (4) of this section shall whether such power is exercised by the Inspector or the Collector himself or by any officer to whom it has been delegated under sub-section (2) or (3) be subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed and also control by the Government or by such officer as may be empowered by them in this behalf. The Government shall also have power to control the acts or proceedings of any officer so empowered.

Revision.

219. (1) The Government may, after consulting the Inspector, Collector or such other officer or authority as they may deem fit, at any time, either *suo motu* or on application, call for and examine the record of any order passed or proceeding recorded under the provisions of this Act by-

(a) the Inspector or the Collector or any officer authorised by the Inspector or the Collector under sub-section (2) or (3) of section 218; or

(b) any officer authorised by the Government under sub-section (1) of that section or any officer empowered by them under sub-section (4) of that section; or

(c) any other authority or officer;

for the purpose of satisfying themselves as to the legality or propriety of such order, or as to the regularity of such proceeding and pass such order in reference thereto as they think fit.

(2) The powers of the nature referred to in sub-section (1) may also be exercised by such authority or officer as may be empowered in this behalf by the Government.

CHAPTER XI.

GENERAL AND

MISCELLANEOUS.

220. (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided in or may be prescribed under this Act, every application for any licence or permission under this Act or any rule, by-law or regulation made thereunder, or for the renewal thereof, shall be made not less than thirty and not more than ninety days before the earliest date with effect from which, or the commencement of the period (being a year or such less period as is mentioned in the application) for which the licence or permission is required.

General provisions regarding licence and permissions.

(2) Save as aforesaid, for every such licence or permission, fees may be charged on such units and at such rates as may be fixed by the panchayat provided that the rates shall not exceed the maximum, if any, prescribed.

(3) Save as aforesaid, if orders on an application for any such licence or permission are not communicated to the applicant within thirty days or such longer period as may be prescribed in any class of cases after the receipt of the application by the executive authority of the village panchayat or the commissioner or the chief executive officer. The application shall be deemed to have been allowed for the period, if any, for which it would have been ordinarily allowed and subject to the law, rules, by-laws and regulations and all conditions ordinarily imposed.

(4) The acceptance of the pre-payment of the fee for any such licence or permission shall not entitle the person making such pre-payment to the licence or permission, but only to a refund of the fee in case of refusal of the licence or permission.

(5) If an act, for which any such licence or permission is necessary is done without such licence or permission, or in a manner inconsistent with the terms of the licence or permission obtained, then-

(a) the executive authority of the village panchayat or the commissioner or the chief executive officer may by notice require the person so doing such act to alter, remove, or as far as practicable restore to its original state, the whole, *or* any part of any property, movable or immovable, public or private affected thereby, within a time to be specified in the notice; and further,

(b) if no penalty has been specially provided in this Act for so doing such act the person so doing it shall be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty rupees for such offence.

(6) Whenever any person is convicted of an offence in respect of the failure to obtain any such licence or permission, the Magistrate shall, in addition to any fine which may be imposed, recover summarily and pay over to the panchayat the amount of the fee chargeable for the licence or permission, and may, in his discretion, also recover summarily and pay over to the panchayat such amount, if any as he may fix as the costs of the prosecution.

Explanation:- The recovery of the fee for a licence or permission under this subsection shall not entitle the person convicted to the licence or permission.

221. Nothing in this Act or in any rule, by-law or regulation made thereunder shall be construed as requiring the taking out of any licence or the obtaining of any permission under this Act or any such rule, by-law or regulation in respect of any place in the occupation or under the control of the Central or the State Government or of a market committee established under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987, or in respect of any property of the Central or the State Government or of any property belonging to such market committee.

Government and market committees not to obtain licence and permission.

POWER TO ENFORCE NOTICES, ORDERS, ETC.

Time for complying with notice, order, etc. and power to enforce in default.

222. (1) Whenever by any notice, requisition or order under this Act, or under any Rule, bye-law or regulation made thereunder, any person is required to execute any work, to take any measures or to do anything, a reasonable time shall be named in such notice, requisition or order within which the work shall be executed, the measure taken or the thing done.

(2) If such notice, requisition or order is not complied with within the time so named:

(a) the executive authority of the village panchayat or the commissioner or the chief executive officer, as the case may be, may cause such work to be executed, or may take any measure or do anything which may, in his opinion, be necessary for giving due effect to the notice, requisition or order, and

(b) if no penalty has been specially provided in this Act for failure to comply with such notice, requisition or order, the said person shall be punishable with fine not exceeding fifty rupees for every such offence.

POWER OF ENTRY AND INSPECTION.

Power of entry and inspection.

223. (1) Subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed, the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer or any person authorised by him may enter on or into any place, building on land, with or without assistants or workmen in order

(a) to make any enquiry, inspection, test, examination, survey, measurement or valuation or to execute any other work, which is authorised by the provisions of this Act or of any rule, bye-law, regulation or order made under it or which it is necessary to make or execute for any of the purposes of this Act or in pursuance of any of the said provisions, or

(b) to satisfy himself that nothing is being done in such place, building or land for which a licence or permission is required under any of the said provisions, without such licence or permission or otherwise than in conformity with the terms of the licence or permission obtained.

(2) No claim shall lie against any person for any damage or inconvenience necessarily caused by the exercise of powers under sub-section (1) or the use of any force necessary for effecting an entrance under that sub-section.

Testing of weights and measures.

224. The executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer or any person authorised by him, may examine and test the weights and measures used in the markets and shops in the panchayat village or the panchayat union or the district panchayat area as the case may be, with a view to the prevention and punishment of offences relating to such weights and measures under Chapter XIII of the Indian Penal Code.

Central Act
XLV of 1860.

Power to call for information from Village Administrative Officer.

225. The executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer may, by an order in writing, require the Village Administrative Officer of any revenue village comprised within the jurisdiction of the village panchayat or panchayat union council or district panchayat to furnish him with information on any matter falling within such categories as may be prescribed in respect of such village or any part thereof or any person or property therein.

(2) The order shall specify the period within which it may be complied with but the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer, may, from time to time, extend such period.

LIMITATION.

226. No distraint shall be made, no suit shall be instituted and no prosecution shall be commenced in respect of any tax or other sum due to a panchayat under this Act or any rule, bye-law, regulation or order made under it after the expiration of a period of six years from the date on which distraint might first have been made, a suit might first have been instituted or prosecution might first have been commenced, as the case may be, in respect of such tax or sum.

Limitation for recovery of dues.

PROSECUTIONS, SUITS, ETC.

227. Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, no person shall be tried for any offence against this Act or any rule or bye-law made thereunder unless complaint is made within three months of the commission of the offence by the police, the executive authority, the panchayat union council, the commissioner, the district panchayat, the chief executive officer or a person expressly authorised in this behalf by the village panchayat, panchayat union council, district panchayat, executive authority or commissioner or the chief executive officer but nothing herein shall affect the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in regard to the power of certain Magistrates to take cognizance of offence upon information received or upon their own knowledge or suspicion: .

Persons empowered to prosecute.

Central Act 2 of 1974.

Provided that failure to take out a licence or obtain permission under this Act shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be a continuing offence until the expiration of the period, if any, for which the licence or permission is required and if no period is specified, complaint may be made at any time within twelve months from the commencement of the offence.

228. The executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer may, subject to such restrictions and control, as may be prescribed, compound any offence against this Act or any rule or bye-law made thereunder, which may by rules be declared compoundable.

Composition of offences.

229. Every prosecution instituted or offence compounded by the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer shall be reported by him to the village panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat, as the case may be, at its next meeting.

Prosecutions and compositions to be reported to village panchayat, panchayat union council or district panchayat.

230. (1) When the president or the executive authority or the chairman or vice-chairman of a panchayat union council or district panchayat or the commissioner or the chief executive officer or any member is accused of any offence alleged to have been committed by him while acting or purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty, no court shall take cognizance of such offence except with the previous sanction of the Government.

Sanction of prosecution.

(2) When according previous sanction under sub-section (1), it shall be open to the Government to direct by order that the president, executive authority, chairman, vice-chairman or commissioner or the chief executive officer, as the case may be, shall not discharge his duties as such until the disposal of the case.

231. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 232, no suit or other legal proceeding shall be brought against any village panchayat or its president or executive authority or any panchayat union council or its chairman or the commissioner or the district panchayat or its chairman or the chief executive officer or any member, officer or servant thereof or against any person acting under the direction of such village panchayat, president, panchayat union council or its chairman, district panchayat or its chairman, executive authority, commissioner, chief executive officer, member, officer or servant, in respect of any act done or purporting to be done under this Act or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Act or any rule, bylaw, regulation or order made under it until the expiration of two months next after notice in writing, stating the cause of action, the nature of the relief sought, the amount of compensation claimed and the name and place of residence of the intended

Notice of action against village panchayat, etc.

plaintiff has been left at the office of the village panchayat or panchayat union council and if the proceeding is intended to be brought against any such president, executive authority, chairman, commissioner, chairman of district panchayat, chief executive officer, member, officer, servant or person, also delivered to him or left at his place of residence.

(2) Every such proceeding shall, unless it is a proceeding for the recovery of immovable property or for a declaration of title thereto, be commenced within six months after the date on which the cause of action arose or in case of a continuing injury or damage, during such continuance or within six months after the ceasing thereof.

(3) If any village panchayat, panchayat union council, or district panchayat or person to whom notice is given under sub-section (I), tenders amount to the plaintiff before the proceeding is commenced and if the plaintiff does not in such proceeding recover more than the amount so tendered, he shall not recover any costs incurred by him after such tender and the plaintiff shall also pay all costs incurred by the defendant after such tender.

Protection of chairman, president and officers acting in good faith.

232. No suit or other legal proceeding shall be brought against the chairman, commissioner, president, executive authority, chief executive officer or any member, officer or servant of a panchayat or any person acting under the direction of a panchayat or of such chairman, commissioner, president executive authority, chief executive officer, member, officer or servant in respect of any act done or purporting to be done under this Act or in respect of any alleged neglect or default on his part in the execution of any act under this Act, or any rule, by law, regulation or order made under it. if such act was done, or such neglect or default occurred in good faith; but any such proceeding shall, so far as it is maintainable in a court, be brought against the panchayat except in the case of suits brought under section 234.

Injunction not to be granted in election proceedings.

233. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or in any other law for the time being in force, no court shall grant any permanent or temporary injunction or make any interim order restraining any proceeding which is being or about to be taken under this Act for the preparation or publication of any electoral roll for the conduct of any election.

Central Act V of 1908.

Liability of the president, executive authority and members, etc. for loss, waste or misapplication of property.

234. (I) The president, executive authority and every member of a village panchayat and the chairman, commissioner and every member of a panchayat union council and the chairman, chief executive officer and every member of a district panchayat shall be liable for the loss, waste or misapplication of any money or other property owned by or vested in the village panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat if such loss, waste or misapplication is a direct consequence of his neglect or misconduct; and a suit for compensation may be instituted against him in any court of competent jurisdiction by the panchayat or panchayat union council or the district panchayat with the previous sanction of the Inspector.

(2) Every such suit shall be commenced within three years after the date on which the cause of action arose.

Assessment etc. not to be impeached.

235 (I) No assessment or demand made, and no charge imposed, under the authority of this Act shall be impeached or affected by reason of any clerical error or by reason of any mistake (a) in respect of the name, residence, place of business or occupation of any person, or (b) in the description of any property or thing, or (c) in respect of the amount assessed, demanded or charged, provided that the provisions of this Act have in substance and effect been complied with and no proceedings under this Act shall, merely for defect in form, be quashed or set aside by any court of law.

(2) No suit shall be brought in any court to recover any sum of money collected under the authority of this Act or to recover damages on account of assessment or collection of money made under the said authority:

Provided that the provisions of this Act have in substance and effect been complied with.

(3) No distraint or sale under this Act shall be deemed unlawful, nor shall any person making the same be deemed a tress passer, on account of any error, defect, or want of form in the bill, notice, schedule, form, summon, notice of demand, warrant of distraint, inventory, or other proceeding relating thereto, if the provisions of this Act, and of the rules and by-laws made thereunder have in substance and effect been complied with:

Provided that every person aggrieved by any irregularity may recover satisfaction for any special damage sustained by him.

236. All roads, markets, wells, tanks, reservoirs and waterways vested in or maintained by a panchayat shall be open to the use and enjoyment of all persons, irrespective of their caste or creed.

Public roads
markets, wells,
tanks etc. to be
open to all.

237. A panchayat shall have power to farm out the collection of any fees due to it under this Act or any rule, by-law or regulation made thereunder for any period not exceeding three years at a time, on such conditions as it thinks fit.

Power to farm
out fees.

238. (I) When a dispute exists between a village panchayat or a panchayat union council or a district panchayat and one or more other local authorities in regard to any matter arising under the provisions of this or any other Act and the Government are of opinion that the village panchayat or the panchayat union council or the district panchayat and the other local authorities concerned are unable to settle it amicably among themselves, the Government may take cognizance of the dispute, and

Adjudication of
disputes between
local authorities.

(a) decide it themselves, or

(b) refer it for inquiry and report, to an arbitrator or a board of arbitrators or to a joint committee constituted for the purpose.

(2) The report referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (I) shall be submitted to the Government who shall decide the dispute in such manner as they deem fit.

(3) Any decision given under clause (a) of sub-section (I) or under sub-section (2) may be modified from time to time by the Government in such manner as they deem fit, and any such decision with the modifications, if any, made therein under this sub-section may be cancelled at any time by the Government:

Provided that any such decision or any modification therein or cancellation thereof shall be binding on the village panchayat, the panchayat union council, the district panchayat and each of the other local authorities concerned and shall not be liable to be questioned in any court of law.

(4) Where one of the local authorities concerned is a cantonment authority or the port authority of a major port, the powers of the Government under this section shall be exercisable only with the concurrence of the Central Government.

239. (I) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the village panchayats, panchayat union councils and district panchayats shall be vested in the State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor under Article 243-K of the Constitution.

State Election
Commission.

(2) (a) No person shall be qualified for appointment as State Election Commissioner unless he is or has been an officer of the Government not below the rank of Secretary to the Government.

(b) The State Election Commissioner shall hold office for a term of two years and shall be eligible for reappointment for two successive terms :

Provided that no person shall hold the office of the State Election Commissioner for more than six years in the aggregate :

Provided further that a person appointed as State Election Commissioner shall retire from office if he completes the age of sixty-two years during the term of his office.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), the conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may by rules determine:

Provided that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court and conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

(4) The Governor shall, when so requested by the State Election Commission make available to the State Election Commission such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the State Election Commission by subsection (1).

240. (1) Every village panchayat shall prepare every year a development plan for the panchayat village and submit it to the panchayat union council before such date and in such form as may be prescribed.

Preparation or development plan.

(2) Every panchayat union council shall prepare every year a development plan for the panchayat union after including the development plans of the village panchayats and submit it to the district panchayat before such date and in such form as may be prescribed.

(3) Every district panchayat shall prepare every year a development plan for the district after including the development plans of the panchayat union councils and submit it to the District Planning Committee constituted under section 241.

241. (1) The Government shall constitute in every district a District Planning Committee (hereinafter in this section referred to as the Committee) to consolidate the plans prepared by the district panchayats, panchayat union councils, village panchayats, town panchayats, municipal councils and municipal corporations in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

District Planning Committee.

(2) The Committee shall consist of,

(a) the members of the House of People who represent the whole or part of the district;

(b) the members of the Council of States who are registered as electors in the district;

(c) chairman of the district panchayat;

(d) Mayor of the municipal corporation or chairmen of the municipal councils having jurisdiction over the headquarters of the districts;

(e) such number of persons, not less than four-fifth of the total number of members of the Committee as may be specified by the Government, elected in the prescribed manner from amongst the members of the district panchayat, town panchayats and councillors of the municipal corporation and the municipal councils in the district, in proportion to the ratio between the population of the rural areas and of the urban areas in the district.

(3) All the members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly whose constituencies lie within the district.

(4) The secretary of the Committee shall be appointed by the Government in such manner and for such period as may be prescribed.

(5) The Chair-person of the Committee shall be chosen in such manner as may be prescribed.

(6) The Committee shall consolidate the plans prepared by the district panchayat, panchayat union councils, village panchayats, town panchayats, municipal councils and the municipal corporation in the district and prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

(7) Every Committee shall, in preparing the draft development plan,-

(a) have regard to,-

(i) the matters of common interest between the district panchayats, panchayat union councils, village panchayats, town panchayats, municipal corporations and municipal councils in the district including spatial planning, sharing of water and other physical and natural resources, the integrated development of infrastructures and environmental conservation;

(ii) the extent and type of available resources whether financial or otherwise;

(b) consult such institutions and organisations as the Governor may, by order, specify.

(8) The chair-person of every committee shall forward the development plan, as recommended by such Committee to the Government.

Tamil Nadu
Act V of 1920.

Tamil Nadu
Act 15 of 1971.

Tamil Nadu
Act 25 of 1981.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this section "town panchayat" and "municipal council", shall mean the town panchayat and the municipal council constituted under the Tamil Nadu District municipalities Act, 1920, and "municipal corporation" means the corporations constituted under the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971 or the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981, or any other municipal corporation that may be constituted under any law for the time being in force, as the case may be.

RULES

242 (1) The Government shall in addition to the rule making powers conferred on them by any other provision contained in this Act, have power to make rules generally to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Power of
Government to
make rules.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, the Government may make rules

(i) as to the principles to be followed in regard to the exclusion of any local area from or the inclusion of any local area in a village under sub-section (2) of section 4;

(ii) providing for-

(a) the adjudication of disputes arising out of election by the district munsif's court and of appeals in such cases to the subordinate judge having jurisdiction, or if no subordinate judge has such jurisdiction, to the district judge having jurisdiction;

(b) all matters relating to electoral rolls or elections, not expressly provided for in this Act, including deposits to be made by candidates standing for election and the conditions under which such deposits may be forfeited, and the conduct of inquiries and the decision of disputes relating to electoral rolls;

(iii) as to the determination of the population for the purposes of this Act;

(iv) as to the resignations of chairman, vice-chairman and members of panchayat union councils and district panchayats and of the presidents, vice-presidents and members of village panchayats and the date on which such resignations shall take effect;

(v) as to the interpellation of the chairman and vice-chairman by the members of a panchayat union council or the district panchayat and of the president of a village panchayat by the members of the village panchayat, and the moving of resolutions at meetings;

- (vi) as to the constitution of committees of the panchayat and the inclusion of outsiders therein and the delegation of functions to such committees;
- (vii) providing for the procedure to be followed at meetings of the panchayats and at committees thereof and for the conduct of business and the number of members which shall form a quorum at any meeting;
- (viii) providing for the classification of resolutions of panchayats as those involving financial implications or otherwise and for laying down the proportion of the sanctioned strength of panchayats with whose support such resolution shall be carried;
- (ix) as to the powers of the panchayat union council and district panchayats, its chairman and committees thereof with respect to the incurring of expenditure and the powers and duties of the commissioner and chief executive officer;
- (x) providing for the travelling and other allowances of the chairman, vice-chairman and other members of the panchayat union council, district panchayat and of members of the committees of the panchayat union council and district panchayat;
- (xi) as to the delegation of any function of a panchayat to the president, chairman, member, any officer of the panchayat or any servant of the Central or State Government;
- (xii) for the lodging and investment of the moneys of the panchayats and for the manner in which such moneys may be drawn upon;
- (xiii) as to the transfer of allotments entered in the sanctioned budget of a panchayat from one head to another;
- (xiv) as to the estimates of receipts and expenditure, returns, statements and reports to be submitted by panchayat;
- (xv) as to the preparation of plans and estimates for works and the power of panchayat and of servants of the Central or State Government to accord professional or administrative sanction to estimates;
- (xvi) as to the accounts to be kept by panchayat, the audit and publication of such accounts and the conditions under which rate-payers may appear before auditors, inspect books and accounts, and take exception to items entered or omitted;
- (xvii) as to the powers of auditors to disallow and surcharge items, appeals against orders of disallowance or surcharge and recovery of sums disallowed or surcharged;
- (xviii) as to the powers of auditors, inspecting and superintending officers and officers authorised to hold inquiries, to summon and examine witnesses and to compel the production of documents, and all other matters connected with audit, inspection and superintendance;
- (xix) as to the conditions on which property may be acquired by a panchayat or on which property vested in or belonging to a panchayat may be transferred by sale, mortgage, lease, exchange or otherwise;
- (xx) as to the conditions on which and the mode in which contracts may be made by or on behalf of panchayat;
- (xxi) as to the assessment of taxes under this Act and the revision of assessments;
- (xxii) as to the acceptance in lieu of any tax due under this Act of any service by way of labour, cartage or otherwise;
- (xxiii) as to the realisation of any tax or other sum due to a panchayat under this Act or any other law or any rules or by-laws, whether by distraint and sale of movable property, by prosecution before a Magistrate, by a suit, or otherwise;

(xxiv) as to the realisation of fees due in respect of the use of cart-stands and the like, whether by the seizure and sale of the vehicle or animal concerned or any part of its burden or otherwise;

(xxv) as to the form and contents of licences, permissions and notices granted or issued under this Act, the manner of their issue or the method of their service, and the modification, suspension or cancellation thereof;

(xxvi) as to the powers of executive authorities, commissioners, chief executive officers to call for information on any matter, to summon and examine witnesses, and to compel the production of documents;

(xxvii) for the use of the facsimiles of the signatures of the executive authorities, commissioners, chief executive officers and officers of panchayat;

(xxviii) as to the grant to the public of copies of any proceeding or record of the panchayat not relating to any matter classified as confidential by the Government or any authority empowered by them, and the fees to be levied for the grant of such copies;

(xxix) as to the opening, maintenance, management and supervision of elementary schools;

(xxx) regulating contracts between the panchayat and the owners or occupiers of private premises for the removal therefrom of rubbish or filth, or any kind of rubbish or filth;

(xxxi) as to the provision of burial and burning grounds; the licensing of private burial and burning grounds; the regulation of the use of all grounds so provided or licensed; the closing of any such grounds; and the prohibition of the disposal of corpses except in such grounds or other permitted places;

(xxxii) as to the licensing of pigs and dogs and the destruction of unlicensed pigs and dogs;

(xxxiii) as to the regulation or restriction of building and the use of sites for building;

(xxxiv) for the removal of encroachments of any description from public roads vesting in panchayat and the repair of any damage caused to such roads by the person causing the damage or at his expense;

(xxxv) for the determination of any claim to trees growing on public roads or other property vesting in or belonging to panchayat or on poramboke or on lands the use of which is regulated by them under section 134 or 135; and for the presumptions to be drawn as regards the ownership of such trees;

(xxxvi) as to the imposition and recovery of penalties for the unauthorised occupation of public roads or other land vesting in or belonging to panchayat and the assessment and recovery of compensation for, and damage caused by, such occupation.

(xxxvii) as to the powers which may be exercised by the panchayat or the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer in respect of any public or private market or the user thereof, and the enforcement of any orders issued in pursuance of such powers;

(xxxviii) for compelling owners of cattle to stall them in cattle-sheds provided by the panchayat and the fees leviable in respect thereof;

(xxxix) as to the disposal of household and farmyard waste in the village, the acquisition of land by the panchayat or laying out plots for digging pits in which such waste may be thrown, the assignment of any of those plots to persons in the village, and the conditions subject to which such assignment may be made, including the rent to be charged;

(xl) as to the duties to be discharged by officers in relation to panchayats and their executive authorities, their chairmen, commissioners and chief executive officers;

(xli) as to appeals against orders (including orders granting or refusing licences or permissions) passed under this Act, and the time within which appeals whether allowed by this Act or by rules or otherwise should be presented;

(xlii) as to the classification of public roads and fairs and festivals as appertaining to the panchayat;

(xliii) for regulating the sharing between local authorities in the State of the proceeds of any tax or income levied or obtained under this or any other Act;

(xliv) for the decision of disputes between two or more local authorities of which one is a panchayat;

(xlv) regulating the principles in accordance with which grants and contributions may be paid by the Government to the panchayat;

(xlvi) as to the accounts to be kept by owners, occupiers and farmers of private markets and the audit and inspection of such accounts;

(xlvii) as to the manner of publication of notifications or notices to the public under this Act.

CHAPTER - XII

PENALTIES

243. In making any rule under this Act, the Government may provide that a breach thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, or in case of a continuing breach, with fine not exceeding fifteen rupees for every day during which the breach continues after conviction for the first breach.

Penalties for breach of rules.

244. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any other law and to such rules as may be prescribed, a panchayat may, with the approval of the Inspector, make by-laws for carrying out any of the purposes for which it is constituted.

By-laws and penalties for their breach.

(2) In making a by-law, the panchayat may provide that any person who commits a breach thereof shall be liable to pay by way of penalty such sum as may be fixed by the panchayat not exceeding fifteen rupees or, in case of a continuing breach, not exceeding five rupees for every day during which the breach continues after a penalty has been levied for the first breach.

(3) The Government shall have power to make rules regarding the procedure for the making of by-laws, the publication thereof, and the date on which they shall come into effect.

245. (1) Whoever

(a) contravenes any of the provisions of this Act specified in the first and second columns of Schedule II; or

(c) contravenes any rule or order made under any of the provisions so specified;

or

(c) fails to comply with any directions lawfully given to him, or any requisition lawfully made upon him under or in pursuance of any of the said provisions,

shall be punishable with fine which may extend to the amount mentioned in that behalf in the fourth column of the said Schedule.

(2) Whoever after having been convicted of

(a) contravening any of the provisions of this Act specified in the first and second columns of Schedule III, or

(b) contravening any rule or order made under any of the provisions so specified,

or

(c) failing to comply with any direction lawfully given to him or any requisition lawfully made upon him under or in pursuance of any of the said provisions, continues to contravene the said provision or the said rule or order, or continues to fail to comply with the said direction or requisition,

shall be punishable for each day after the previous date of conviction during which he continues so to offend, with fine which may extend to the amount mentioned in that behalf in the fourth column of the said Schedule.

Explanation. - The entries in the third column of Schedules II and III headed "Subject" are not intended as definitions of the offences described in the provisions specified in the first and second columns thereof, or even as abstracts of those provisions, but are intended merely as references to the subject dealt with therein.

246. (1) Whoever acts as a member of a panchayat or panchayat union council or district panchayat knowing that, under this Act or the rules made thereunder, he is not entitled or has ceased to be entitled to hold office as such, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding two hundred rupees for every such offence.

(2) Whoever acts as the president, temporary president or vice-president of a village panchayat, or exercises any of his functions including where he is also the executive authority, any of his functions as such and whoever acts as the chairman, temporary chairman or vice-chairman of a panchayat union council or district panchayat or as

General provisions regarding penalties specified in the Schedules.

Penalty for acting as member, president or vice-president of a village panchayat or as member, chairman or vice-chairman of a panchayat union council or district panchayat when disqualified.

commissioner or chief executive officer or exercises any of his functions as such, knowing that, under this Act or the rules made thereunder, he is not entitled or has ceased to be entitled to hold office as such, or to exercise such functions, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees for every such offence.

(3) Any person who having been the president, temporary president or vicepresident of a village panchayat, or the chairman, temporary chairman or vice-chairman of a panchayat union council or district panchayat fails to hand over any documents of, or any moneys or other properties vested in or belonging to the village panchayat or panchayat union council or district panchayat which are in or have come into his possession or control, to his successor in office or other prescribed authority

(a) in every case as soon as his term of office as such president, temporary president or vice-chairman or as such chairman, temporary chairman or vice-chairman expires; .

(b) in the case of a person who was the vice-president also on demand by the president; and

(c) in the case of a person who was the vice-chairman also on demand by the chairman,

shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees for every such offence.

Penalty for acquisition by an officer or servant of interest in contract work.

247. If any officer or servant of a panchayat knowingly acquires, directly or indirectly by himself or by a partner, employer or servant, any personal share or interest in any contract or employment with, by or on behalf of, the panchayat, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 168 of the Indian Penal Code:

Central Act
XLV of 1860

Provided that no person shall, by reason of being a shareholder in, or member of, any company, be held to be interested in any contract entered into between such company and the panchayat unless he is a director of such company.

Wrongful restraint of executive authority or commissioner or chief executive officer or his delegates.

248. Any person who prevents the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer or any person to whom the executive authority or the commissioner or the chief executive officer has lawfully delegated his powers of entering on or into any place, building or land from exercising his lawful power of entering thereon or there into shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 341 of the Indian Penal Code.

Central Act
XLV of 1860.

Prohibition against obstruction of panchayats.

249. Any person obstructing or molesting the president, or the executive authority or the chairman or the commissioner or the chief executive officer or a member of the panchayat, or any person employed by the panchayat or any person with whom a contract has been entered into by or on behalf of the panchayat in the discharge of their duty or of anything which they are empowered or required to do by virtue or in consequence of this Act or of any rule, by-law, regulation or order made thereunder, shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

Prohibition against removal of obliteration of notice.

250. Any person who, without authority in that behalf removes, destroys, defaces or otherwise obliterates any notice exhibited or any sign or mark erected by, or under the orders of, a panchayat or its executive authority, or by the commissioner or by the chief executive officer shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

Penalty for not giving information or giving false information.

251. Any person required by this Act or by any notice or other proceedings issued thereunder to furnish any information, who omits to furnish such information, or knowingly furnishes false information, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one hundred rupees.

CHAPTER -XIII

MISCELLANEOUS

252. In the application of any law, rule, by-law, regulation, notification, scheme, form or order to any area, in the absence of an intention to the contrary appearing in this Act and unless the Government otherwise direct, any reference to a "panchayat" or a "panchayat union council" or a "panchayat village" or a "panchayat union" shall be deemed to include also a reference to the village panchayat or a panchayat union council or a district panchayat or a panchayat village or a panchayat union constituted under this Act.

Construction of reference to a panchayat, etc.

253. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply when a panchayat is constituted for the first time under this Act.

Special provisions relating to newly constituted panchayats.

(2) When a panchayat is newly constituted under this section, the State Election Commissioner shall make arrangements for the election of members and of the president or the chairman, as the case may be, so that the member and the president or the chairman, may come into office on the date specified in the notification issued for the constitution of such panchayat.

(3) When a panchayat is constituted under this section, the Government may appoint a special officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar, for such period not exceeding six months as the Government may, by order, specify, to exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions of the panchayat, its president or chairman as the case may be.

(4) The special officer shall exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions of the panchayat, its president or chairman, until the members of the panchayat have come into office and a president or chairman has been elected.

254. In the application of any law, rule, by-law, regulation, notification, scheme, form or order to any panchayat after the constitution of a panchayat under this Act, in the absence of an intention to the contrary appearing in this Act and unless the Government otherwise direct-

Construction of reference to "local boards", Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 etc.

(i) any reference to a village or local area shall be deemed to be a reference to a panchayat village, panchayat development block or a panchayat union or a panchayat district as the circumstances may require;

(ii) any reference to local boards shall be deemed to be a reference to district panchayats, panchayat union councils or village panchayats as the case may be;

(iii) any reference to the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, shall be deemed to be a reference to the Tamil Nadu District Boards Act, 1920, the Tamil Nadu Village Panchayats Act, 1950, the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 and the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994;

(iv) any reference to the Tamil Nadu District Boards Act, 1920 or the Tamil Nadu Village Panchayats Act, 1950, or the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958, shall be deemed to be a reference to the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994; and

(v) any reference to a district boards or its president shall be deemed to be a reference to the panchayat union council having jurisdiction or its chairman, as the case may be.

255. (1) The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 (hereinafter referred to in this section as the said Act) is hereby repealed.

Repeal and savings.

(2) The repeal, by sub-section (1), of the said Act shall not affect.

(a) the previous operation of the said Act or anything done or duly suffered thereunder; or

(b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the said Act; or

(c) any penalty, forfeiture, or punishment incurred in respect of any offences committed against the said Act; or

(d) any investigation, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid and any such investigation, legal proceedings or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Act had not been passed.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) anything done or any action taken, including any appointment, or delegation made, notification, order, instruction or direction issued, or any rule, regulation or form framed, certificate granted or registration effected, under the said Act shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act and shall continue to have effect accordingly, unless and until superseded by anything done or any action taken under this Act.

Power to remove difficulties.

256. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette*, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and to be in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992 as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section, shall, as soon as may be, after it is made, be placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly.

Power, authority and responsibilities of panchayats.

257. Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the Government may, by notification and subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be specified therein, entrust to a panchayat or any other committee constituted under this Act with such powers and responsibilities with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and also with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to carry out the responsibilities conferred upon them including those in relation to the matters listed in Schedule-IV.

DISPUTES REGARDING ELECTIONS.

Election petitions.

258. (1) No election of a president or a chairman or a member shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to the district judge of the district in which the panchayat is situated, within fifteen days from the date of the publication of the result of the election under this Act.

(2) An election petition calling in question any such election may be presented on one or more of the grounds specified in section 259 by any candidate at such election, by any elector of the ward concerned or by any member.

(3) A petitioner shall join as respondents to his petition all the candidates at the election.

(4) An election petition

(a) shall contain a concise statement of the material facts on which the petitioner relies;

(b) shall, with sufficient particulars, set forth the ground or grounds on which the election is called in question; and

(c) shall be signed by the petitioner and verified in the manner laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 for the verification of pleadings.

Grounds for
declaring
elections to be
void.

259. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), if the District Judge is of opinion-

(a) that on the date of his election a returned candidate was not qualified or was disqualified, to be chosen as a member under this Act, or.

(b) that any corrupt practice has been committed by a returned candidate or his agent or by any other person with the consent of a returned candidate or his agent, or

(c) that any nomination paper has been improperly rejected, or

(d) that the result of the election in so far as it concerns a returned candidate has been materially affected

(i) by the improper acceptance of any nomination, or

(ii) by any corrupt practice committed in the interests of the returned candidate by a person other than that candidate or his agent or a person acting with the consent of such candidate or agent, or

(iii) by the improper acceptance or refusal of any vote or reception of any vote which is void; or

(iv) by the non-compliance with the provisions of this Act or of any rules or orders made thereunder, the court shall declare the election of the returned candidate to be void.

(2) If in the opinion of the court, a returned candidate has been guilty by an agent of any corrupt practice, but the court is satisfied

(a) that no such corrupt practice was committed at the election by the candidate, and every such corrupt practice was committed contrary to the orders, and without the consent of the candidate;

(b) that the candidate took all reasonable means for preventing the commission of corrupt practice at the election; and

(c) that in all other respects the election was free from any corrupt practice on the part of the candidate or any of his agents,

then, the court may decide that the election of the returned candidate is not void.

260. The following shall be deemed to be corrupt practice for the purposes of this Act:

Corrupt
practices.

Central Act
XLIII of 1951.

(1) Bribery as defined in clause (1) of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

(2) Undue influence as defined in clause (2) of the said section.

(3) The systematic appeal by a candidate or his agent or by any other person to vote or refrain from voting on grounds of caste, race, community or religion or the use of or appeal to, religious symbols, or, the use of or appeal to, national symbols such as the national flag or the national emblem, for the furtherance of the prospects of that candidate's election.

(4) The publication by a candidate or his agent or by any other person of any statement of fact which is false, and which he either believes to be false or does not believe to be true, in relation to the personal character or conduct of any candidate, or in relation to the candidate, or withdrawal from contact of any candidate being a statement reasonably calculated to prejudice the prospects of that candidate's election.

(5) The hiring or procuring whether on payment or otherwise of any vehicle or vessel by a candidate or his agent or by any other person for conveyance of any

elector (other than the candidate himself, and the members of his family or his agent) to or from any polling station provided in accordance with the rules made under this Act:

Provided that the hiring of a vehicle or vessel by an elector or by several electors at their joint costs for the purpose of conveying him or them to or for any such polling station shall not be deemed to be a corrupt practice under this clause if the vehicle or vessel so hired is a vehicle or vessel not propelled by mechanical power:

Provided further that the use of any public transport vehicle or vessel or any tram, car or railway carriage by an elector at his own cost for the purpose of going to or coming from any such polling station shall not be deemed to be corrupt practice under this clause.

Explanation.- In this clause the expression "Vehicle" means any vehicle used or capable of being used for the purpose of road transport whether propelled by mechanical power or otherwise and whether used for drawing other vehicles or otherwise.

(6) The holding of any meeting in which intoxicating liquors are served.

(7) The issuing of any circular, playcard or poster having a reference to election which does not bear the name and address of the printer and publisher thereof.

(8) Any other practice which the Government may by rules, specify to be corrupt practice.

Transitory provision.

261. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, or in any other law for the time being in force, the Government may, by notification, if necessary, appoint special officers to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the village panchayats, the panchayat union councils, or the district panchayats, as the case may be, until the day on which the first meetings of the village panchayats, panchayat union councils, or the district panchayats as the case may be, are held after ordinary elections to the said panchayats after the commencement of this Act.

(2) The Special Officers appointed under sub-section (1), shall hold office (upto the 31 st day of December 1995) and no longer.

Rules, notifications and orders to be placed before the Legislative Assembly.

262. (1) All rules, notifications and orders made or issued under this Act except the notifications issued under sections 3, 5, 7 read with section 4, 11, 12, 20, 21, and 32 shall be published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* and unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the day on which they are so published.

(2) All notifications issued under sections 3, 5, 7 read with section 4, 11, 12, 20, 21 and 32 shall be published in the District Gazette concerned and unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the day on which they are so published.

(3) Every rule, notification or order made or issued by the Government under this Act shall, as soon as possible after it is made or issued, be placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so placed or the next session, the Legislative Assembly agrees in making any modification in any such rule, notification or order, or the Legislative Assembly agrees that the rule, notification or order should not be made or issued, the rule, notification or order shall, thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule, notification or order.

This expression was substituted for the words "only for nine months from the date of the commencement of this Act" by section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 51 of 1994).

SCHEDULE - I[See section 172
(1)]

Classification (1)	If the tax is levied every half-year.				If the tax is levied every year.			
	Minimum rate per half-year. (i)	Maximum rate per half-year. (ii)	Minimum Rate per Year. (iii)	Maximum Rate per Year. (iv)	Minimum Rate per Year. (iii)	Maximum Rate per Year. (iv)	Minimum Rate per Year. (iii)	Maximum Rate per Year. (iv)
	RsPs.	RsPs.	RsPs.	RsPs.	RsPs.	RsPs.	RsPs.	RsPs.
(i) Concrete houses, Madras terraced houses storeyed houses.	0.25	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.50	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.50	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	1.00	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.
(ii) Tiled houses.	0.15	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.30	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.30	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.60	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.
(iii) Thatched houses 20 square metres and above.	0.10	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.20	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.20	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.	0.40	Per 9.29 square decimeters of the plinth area.
(iv) Thatched houses below 20 square metres.	0.20	For every 9.29 square metres or part thereof of plinth area.	0.50	For every 9.29 square metres or part thereof of plinth area.	0.40	For every 9.29 square metres or part thereof of plinth area.	1.00	For every 9.29 square metres or part thereof of plinth area.

Explanation-I- In respect of buildings which are partly concrete, terraced, tiled or thatched, the rates applicable to the respective categories as above shall be applicable for the portions covered by each kind:

Provided that in respect of buildings the plinth area of which does not exceed 18.58 square metres and which are fully concrete, terraced or tiled, or partly concrete, terraced or tiled, house tax shall be levied at a flat rate of rupees twenty per half year.

Explanation-II . The use of the building may be classified and surcharge shall be levied on the levy of house tax at the rates specified below :

	<u>Class of usage</u>	<u>Rate of surcharge</u>
(i)	Purely residential	Nil
(ii)	Simple commercial like petty shops and other small commercial establishments.	20%
(iii)	Largely commercial, industrial and business Establishments, Cinema theatres, Hostels, Lodges etc.,	60%

Provided that in respect of buildings used partly as residential and partly as commercial, industrial, etc., purposes the rate of surcharge applicable to the respective categories as above shall be applicable for the portions covered by each class of usage Provided further that Educational institutions (not commercial in nature) exempted from levy of house tax immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue to be exempted under this Act.

SCHEDULE-II.
ORDINARY PENALTIES.
[See section 245 (I).]

<i>Section.</i>	<i>Sub-section or clause.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>	<i>Fine which may be imposed.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
128	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to fence off, take down, secure or repair dangerous structure.	Five hundred rupees.
129	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to secure, lop or cut down dangerous trees.	Fifty rupees.
130		Failure to obey requisition to fence building or land or trim, prune or cut hedges and trees or lower an enclosing wall.	Fifty rupees.
131	(1) (a)	Unlawful building of wall or erecting of fence, etc., in or over public road.	One hundred rupees.
131	(1) (b)	Unlawful making of hole or depositing of matter in or upon public road.	Fifty rupees.
131	(1) (c)	Unlawful quarrying in any place near public road, etc.	Fifty rupees.
131	(1) (d)	Unlawful erection of building over drain.	Two hundred rupees.
131	(1) (e)	Planting of trees without permission on any public road or other property vested in a panchayat or panchayat union council.	Two hundred rupees.
131	(1) (f)	Felling, etc., without permission of trees growing on public road or other property vested in a panchayat or on a poramboke or land the use of which is regulated by it under section 134 or section 135.	Two hundred rupees.
139		Failure to close place of public entertainment.	Two hundred rupees.
140		Sending infected child to school.	Fifty rupees.
142		Failure to give information of small pox	Fifty rupees.
143	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to fill in, etc., tank or other place dangerous to public health or safety.	Fifty rupees.
144	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to clear or cleanse, etc., building or land in filthy state or overgrown with noxious vegetation.	Fifty rupees.
148	(1)	Opening a new private market or continuing to keep open a private market without licence or contrary to licence.	Five hundred rupees.
148	(3)	Levy of fees in private market without a certificate.	One hundred rupees.
150		Sale or exposure for sale in public or private market of any animal or article without permission.	Twenty rupees.
151		Sale, etc., of articles in public roads or places after prohibition or without licence or contrary to regulations.	Ten rupees.
154	(b)	Using any public place or road side as a landing or halting place or as a cartstand within prohibited distance.	Fifty rupees.
155	(1)	Opening a private cart-stand or continuing to keep open a private cart-stand without licence or contrary to licence.	Two hundred rupees.
157	(a)	Slaughtering, cutting up or skinning, etc., of animals outside public slaughter-houses in contravention of rules.	Two hundred rupees.

<i>Section. Sub-section or clause.</i>		<i>Subject.</i>	<i>Fine which may be imposed.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
157	(b)	Slaughtering animals for purposes of sale without licence or contrary licence.	Twenty rupees.
158	(3)	Unlawful destruction, etc., of number affixed of buildings.	Five rupees.
158	(4)	Failure to replace number when required to do so.	Twenty rupees.
159		Using a place for offensive or dangerous trade without licence or contrary to licence.	One hundred rupees.
160		Unlawful erection of factory, workshop, etc.	One thousand rupees.
236		Obstructing a person in the use or enjoyment of a public road, market, well, tank, etc.	One hundred rupees.

SCHEDULE-III.

PENALTIES FOR CONTINUING BREACHES.

[See section 245 (2).]

<i>Section.</i>	<i>Sub-section or clause.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>	<i>Fine which may be imposed.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
128	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to fence off, take down, secure or repair dangerous structure.	Fifty rupees.
129	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to secure, lop or cut down dangerous trees.	Ten rupees.
130		Failure to obey requisition to fence building or land or trim, prune or cut hedges and trees, or lower an enclosing wall.	Ten rupees.
131	(1)(a)	Unlawful building or wall or erecting offence, etc., in or over public road.	Twenty rupees.
131	(1)(b)	Unlawful making of hole or depositing of matter in or upon public road.	Ten rupees.
131	(1)(c)	Unlawful quarrying in any place near public road, etc.	Ten rupees.
131	(1)(d)	Unlawful erection of building over drain.	Fifty rupees.
139		Failure to close place of public entertainment.	One hundred rupees.
143	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to fill in, etc., tank or other place dangerous to public health or safety.	Ten rupees.
144	(1)	Failure to obey requisition to clear or cleanse, etc., building or land in filthy state or overgrown with noxious vegetation.	Ten rupees.
148	(1)	Keeping open a private market without licence or contrary to licence.	One hundred rupees.
148	(3)	Levy of fees in private market without a certificate.	Fifty rupees.
150		Sale or exposure for sale in public or private market of animal or article without permission.	Ten rupees.
155	(1)	Keeping open a private cartstand without licence or contrary to licence.	Twenty rupees.
159		Using a place for an offensive or dangerous trade without a licence or contrary to licence.	Twenty rupees.
160		Unlawful erection of factory, work-shop, etc.	One hundred rupees.

SCHEDULE-IV

(See section 257)

1. Agriculture, including agricultural extension.
2. Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation.
3. Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development.
4. Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry.
5. Fisheries.
6. Social forestry and farm forestry.
7. Minor forest produce.
8. Small scale industries, including food processing industries.
9. Khadi, village and cottage industries.
10. Rural housing.
11. Drinking water.
12. Fuel and fodder.
13. Roads, culverts, bridges, Waterways and other means of communication.
14. Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity.
15. Non-conventional energy sources.
16. Poverty alleviation programme.
17. Education, including primary and secondary schools.
18. Technical training and vocational education.
19. Adult and non-formal education.
20. Libraries.
21. Cultural activities.
22. Market and fairs.
23. Health and sanitation, including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries;

24. Family welfare.
25. Women and child development.
26. Social Welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded.
27. Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
28. Public distribution system.
29. Maintenance of community assets.