

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES TO PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract:

The president of Zila Parishad under section 122 of the Act shall convene, preside and conduct meetings of the Zila Parishad. He shall watch over the financial and executive administration of Zila Parishad and shall submit the detailed report of its functions to the Zila Parishad and the Zila Parishad shall take final decision on it, in its meetings. One of the major operating aspects of the implementation of the constitutional 73rd Amendment is the devolution of a framework, which different State Government are expected to adopt to make the PRIs fully functional. While article 243G of the Constitution visualizes Panchayats as institutions of self-government and it subjects the extent of devolution of powers and functions including 29 items in 11th Schedule to the will of the State Legislatures. The detailed duties and functions of Zila Parishad have been given under section 137 of the Act. Zila Parishad shall advise, supervise and co-ordinate the functions of the Panchayat Samitis in the district.

Key words: convene, preside , conduct, meetings, framework.

INTRODUCTION

“Participation means direct involvement of masses individually or through representatives. Participation cannot be imposed on the people from above; it should be voluntary and based on the will to participate. People’s participation or involvement can better be understood in terms of participation in decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of developmental programmes and projects and the most important is the sharing of the benefits of development.” (Mishra, 1995)¹.

The “Panchayat”, which means an assembly of five persons, is not a new institution in India. The Indian villages were governed by the institution of traditional Panchayats even during the ancient times. The regimes and the dynasties changed but this institution survived and continued to govern the local community life in the form of little republics. The institution of Panchayat was based historically on social consensus of the local community and participation of respected seniors and elders. It focused

primarily on the local disputes. Panchayats are statutory bodies and are supposed to establish modern democratic institutions and practices (Subha, 1995).

Review of literature

Section 118 provides that every Zila Parishad shall consist of the 10 to 30 members directly elected from the wards in a district, the chairman of all Panchayat Samitis within the districts, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly whose constituency lie within the district or part thereof. President and Vice-President shall be elected by and amongst the elected members of the Zila Parishad. Seats are reserved for scheduled castes and women. The offices of the President of the Zila Parishads shall be reserved for scheduled castes and not less than one-third of the total number of offices of President in the Zila Parishads shall be reserved for women. One seat in every Zila Parishad shall be reserved for the persons belonging to backward classes.

The President shall also exercise administrative supervision over the Chief Executive officer for securing implementation of resolutions or decisions of the Zila Parishad.

The president of Zila Parishad under section 122 of the Act shall convene, preside and conduct meetings of the Zila Parishad. He shall watch over the financial and executive administration of Zila Parishad and shall submit the detailed report of its functions to the Zila Parishad and the Zila Parishad shall take final decision on it, in its meetings.

The detailed duties and functions of Zila Parishad have been given under section 137 of the Act. Zila Parishad shall advise, supervise and co-ordinate the functions of the Panchayat Samitis in the district. Zila Parishad shall have also the power to secure the execution of plans, projects, schemes or other works common to two or more Panchayat Samitis in the district and advice Government on the allocation of work among Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis and coordinate their work.

Committees

Zila Parishad may constitute under section 139 such committees, as it may deem necessary for executing its functions. The President of Zila Parishad shall be ex-officio chairman of each such committee. The Chief Executive Officer shall be the ex-officio Secretary of every such Committee. Each committee shall be entitled to require attendance as its meetings of any officer of the Zila Parishad who is connected with the work of each committee.

Material and method

One of the major operating aspects of the implementation of the constitutional 73rd Amendment is the devolution of a framework, which different State Government are expected to adopt to make the PRIs fully functional. While article 243G of the Constitution visualizes Panchayats as institutions of self- government and it subjects the extent of devolution of powers and functions including 29 items in 11th Schedule to the will of the State Legislatures.

As expected, the Government of Haryana initiated the process of devolution of powers and functions to the Panchayat Raj bodies. The State Government vide memo no. DPH-LA-95/23517-726 dated 23.5.95, has delegated certain duties and functions to the three levels of PRIs in respect of 16 important departments²⁰.

These departments are:

1. Development and Panchayat Department.
2. Food and Supply Department.
3. Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Department.
4. P.W.D., Public Health Department.
5. Social Forestry and Farm Forestry Department.
6. Social Defense and Security Department.
7. Horticulture Department.
8. Ayurveda Department.
9. Education Department.
10. Health Department.
11. Irrigation Department.
12. Women & Child Development Department.
13. Rural Development Department.
14. Agriculture Department.

15. Animal Husbandry Department.

16. Power Department.

The complete profile of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Haryana is given in the table No. 1 for the complete knowledge of PRIs in Haryana.

Table1 Number of seats/wards (reserved/unreserved) for panches, sarpanches, member of panchayat samiti (MPs) & member zila parishad in Haryana, 2001

Office of	Total number of seat	Total number of Head	Seats Reserved					No. of unreserved seats i.e., general seats	Grand Total	
			SC		Women & BC	Sub Total				
			SC [Other than SC (w)]	SC (W)	Total (1+2)	Women [other than SC (W)]	BC			[3+4+5]
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)			
Panch	54,764	-	790	405	11,952	13,946	569	31,598	23,166	54,764
Sarpanch	6035	6035	802	408	12,110	1610	-	2820	3215	6035
Panchayat Samiti	2426	114	337	186	523	635	113	1271	1155	2426
Zila Parishad	314	19	43	24	67	86	19	172	142	314

Source: Election Commission of Haryana

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