

Specimen Municipal Law for Municipalities in India

**Towards Framing New State-specific
Municipal Laws for Implementation in Totality of
The Provisions of The Constitution
(Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 and
The New Compulsions for
Urban Management Reforms**

Volume I

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Supervision and Coordination by

Mr. Nabaroon Bhattacharjee
Program Officer and
Regional Training Advisor
Regional Urban Development Office

United States Agency for International Development

Mr. Lee Baker
Chief of Party
and
Mr. Chetan Vaidya
Principal Urban Management Advisor

Financial Institutions Reform and Expansion Project

Panel of Experts

Mr. D.M. Sukthankar, IAS (Retd.)
Formerly, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
Government of India and
Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra

Mr. K. Dharmarajan, IAS
Formerly, Joint Secretary (UD)
Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India

Mr. Ramanath Jha
Regional Advisor, South Asia
Urban Management Programme (UNDP/UNCHS)

Dr. Gangadhar Jha
Research Professor
National Institute of Urban Affairs

TRF Drafting Team

Principal Policy Advisor

Mr. T.C. Dutt, IAS (Retd.)
Formerly, Chief Secretary and
State Election Commissioner
Government of West Bengal

Legislative Consultant

Mr. S. Maitra
Formerly, Joint Secretary
Law Department
Government of West Bengal

Policy Analyst and Principal Researcher

Mr. R.M. Kapoor
Chief, Urban Studies Centre
The Times Research Foundation

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R.M. Kapoor
Chief, Urban Studies Centre
The Times Research Foundation

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SPECIMEN MUNICIPAL LAW

The Municipal Bill,

A

BILL

to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the municipal governments in the State of in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of India as amended by the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992, based on the principles of participation in, and decentralization, autonomy and accountability of, urban self-government at various levels, to introduce reforms in financial management and accounting systems, internal resource generation capacity and organizational design of Municipalities, to ensure professionalization of the municipal personnel, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of in the year of the Republic of India as follows : -

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Chapter I

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Municipal Act,
- (2) It extends to the whole of the State of excluding cantonment areas therein.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint in this behalf, and different dates may be appointed for different municipal areas.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -
- (1) “*Ad hoc* Committee” means an *Ad hoc* Committee appointed under section 33;
 - (2) “annual value” means the value of any land or building determined under chapter XVI;
 - (3) “Auditor” means an Auditor appointed under section 99, and includes any officer authorized by him to perform all or any of the functions of an Auditor under this Act;
 - (4) “balance sheet” means the balance sheet prepared under section 98;
 - (5) “bio-medical waste” means any waste generated during diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals or in research activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biologicals;
 - (6) “bridge” includes a culvert;
 - (7) “budget estimate” means the budget estimate prepared under section 91;
 - (8) “budget grant” means the total sum entered on the expenditure side of a budget estimate under a major head and adopted by the Municipality, and includes any sum by which such budget grant is increased or reduced by transfer from or to other heads in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder;

- (9) “building” means a structure constructed for whatever purpose and of whatever materials, and includes the foundation, plinth, walls, floors, roofs, chimneys, fixed platforms, verandas, balconies, cornices or projections or part of a building or anything affixed thereto or any wall (other than a boundary wall of less than three metres in height) enclosing, or intended to enclose, any land, sign or outdoor display-structure but does not include a tent, *shamiana* or tarpaulin shelter;
- (10) “cadres of common municipal services” means the cadres of common municipal services constituted under sub-section (1) of section 43;
- (11) “carriage” means any wheeled vehicle, with springs or other appliances acting as springs, which is ordinarily used for the conveyance of human beings, and includes a jin-rickshaw, cycle-rickshaw, bicycle or tricycle, but does not include a perambulator or other form of vehicle designed for the conveyance of children or elderly, infirm or handicapped persons;
- (12) “cart” means any cart, hackney or wheeled vehicle with or without springs, which is not a carriage, and includes a hand-cart, a cycle van and a push van, but does not include any wheeled vehicle which is propelled by mechanical power or its trailer;
- (13) “category ‘A’ post” means a category ‘A’ post classified as such under section 37;
- (14) “category ‘B’ post” means a category ‘B’ post classified as such under section 37;

- (15) “category ‘C’ post” means a category ‘C’ post classified as such under section 37;
- (16) “category ‘D’ post” means a category ‘D’ post classified as such under section 37;
- (17) “Chief Councillor” means, -
- (i) in relation to a Municipal Corporation, the Mayor,
 - (ii) in relation to a Municipal Council, the Municipal Chairperson, and
 - (iii) in relation to a Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal President;
- (18) “Chief Municipal Officer” means, -
- (i) in relation to a Municipal Corporation, the Municipal Commissioner, and
 - (ii) in relation to a Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal Executive Officer;
- (19) “city” means a larger urban area declared to be a city under section 3;
- (20) “Class ‘A’ smaller urban area” means a smaller urban area classified as such under section 7;
- (21) “Class ‘B’ smaller urban area” means a smaller urban area classified as such under section 7;
- (22) “Class ‘C’ smaller urban area” means a smaller urban area classified as such under section 7;

(23) “Councillor”, in relation to a Municipality, means a person chosen by direct election from a ward of that Municipality;

(24) “cubical extent,” with reference to the measurement of a building, means the space contained within the external surface of its walls and roof and the upper surface of the floor of its lowest or only storey;

(25) “dangerous disease” means -

(a) cholera, plague, small-pox, cerebrospinal meningitis, diphtheria, tuberculosis, leprosy, influenza, encephalitis, poliomyelitis, or syphilis; or

(b) any other epidemic, endemic, or infectious disease which the State Government may, by notification, declare to be a dangerous disease for the purposes of this Act;

(26) “Deputy Chief Councillor” means, -

(a) in relation to a Municipal Corporation, the Deputy Mayor,

(b) in relation to a Municipal Council, the Municipal Vice-Chairperson, and

(c) in relation to a Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal Vice President;

(27) “Director of Local Bodies” means an officer appointed as such by the State Government, and includes an Additional Director, a Joint Director, a Deputy Director, or any other officer of the State Government authorized by it to perform the functions of the Director of Local Bodies under this Act;

- (28) “domestic purposes”, in relation to the supply of water, means the purposes other than those referred to in sub-section (3) of section 228;
- (29) “drain” includes a sewer, a house-drain, a drain of any other description, a tunnel, a culvert, a ditch, a channel or any other device for carrying off sullage, sewage, offensive matter, polluted water, rain-water or sub-soil water;
- (30) “drug” means any substance used as medicine or in the composition or preparation of medicine, whether for internal or external use, but does not include a drug within the meaning of clause (b) of section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940;
- (23 of 1940.)
- (31) “dwelling-house” means a masonry building constructed, used, or adapted to be used, wholly or principally for human habitation;
- (32) “Empowered Standing Committee” means the Empowered Standing Committee referred to in section 21;
- (33) “Establishment Schedule” means the Establishment Schedule prepared under section 37;
- (34) “financial statement” means the financial statement prepared under section 97;
- (35) “food” includes every article used for food or drink by man, other than drugs or water, and any article which ordinarily enters into, or is used in the composition or preparation of, human food, and also includes confectionery, flavouring and colouring matters, spices and condiments;

- (36) “footpath” means a pavement for use by pedestrians which abuts a category I or category II or category III or category IV road;
- (37) “habitable room” means a room constructed or adapted for human habitation;
- (38) “hazardous process” means the hazardous process defined in clause (cb) of section 2 of the Factories Act, 1948;
(63 of 1948.)
- (39) “hazardous wastes” means the categories of wastes specified as such in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
(29 of 1986.)
- (40) “house-drain” means any drain of one or more premises used for the drainage of such premises;
- (41) “house-gully” means a passage or a strip of land constructed, set apart or utilized for the purpose of serving as a drain or affording access to a privy, urinal, cesspool or other receptacle for filthy or polluted matter for municipal employees or for persons employed in the cleaning thereof or removal of such matter therefrom, and includes the air space above such passage or land;
- (42) “hut” means any building, no substantial part of which, excluding the walls up to a height of fifty centimetres above the floor or floor level, is constructed of masonry, reinforced concrete, steel, iron or other metal;
- (43) “industrial township” means such urban area or part thereof as the Governor may, having regard to the size of the area and the municipal services being provided or proposed to be provided by an industrial establishment in that area and such other factors as he may deem fit, by notification, specify to be an industrial township;

- (44) “infectious disease” or “communicable disease” means any disease which may be transmitted from one person to another and declared as such by the State Government by notification;
- (45) “Joint Committee” means a Joint Committee constituted under section 34;
- (46) “larger urban area” means a municipal area classified as a larger urban area under section 7;
- (47) “land or building” includes a slum;
- (48) “market” includes any place, by whatever name called, where persons assemble for the sale of meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, live stock, or any other article of food of a perishable nature, or any other article for which there is a collection of shops or warehouses or stalls, declared and licensed by the Municipality as a market;
- (49) “masonry building” means any building, other than a hut, and includes any structure, a substantial part of which is made of masonry, reinforced concrete, steel, iron or other metal;
- (50) “milk” includes cream, skimmed milk, separated milk, and condensed, sterilized, desiccated or toned milk;
- (51) “Municipal Accounts Committee” means a Municipal Accounts Committee constituted under section 107;
- (52) “Municipal Accounting Manual” means the Municipal Accounting Manual prepared and maintained under section 96;
- (53) “municipal area” means an area constituted as a municipal area under section 6;

- (54) “municipal drain” means a drain vested in the Municipality;
- (55) “Municipal Fund” means the Municipal Fund referred to in section 82;
- (56) “Municipal Magistrate” means the Municipal Magistrate appointed under section 481;
- (57) “municipal market” means a market belonging to, or maintained by, the Municipality;
- (58) “Municipal Service Commission” means the Municipal Service Commission constituted under section 44;
- (59) “municipal slaughterhouse” means a slaughterhouse belonging to, or maintained by, the Municipality;
- (60) “Municipal Valuation Committee” means the Municipal Valuation Committee constituted under section 159;
- (61) “Municipality” means an institution of self-government constituted under section 12, read with article 243Q of the Constitution of India, and includes a Municipal Corporation, a Municipal Council, and a Nagar Panchayat, referred to in section 13;
- (62) “notification” means a notification published in the *Official Gazette*;
- (63) “nuisance” includes any act, omission, place or thing which causes, or is likely to cause, injury, danger, annoyance or offence to the sense of sight, smell or hearing, or disturbance to rest or sleep, or which is, or may be, dangerous to life or injurious to health or property;

(64) “occupier” includes any person for the time being paying, or liable to pay, to the owner the rent or any portion of the rent of the land or the building in respect of which the word is used or for damages on account of the occupation of such land or building, and also includes a rent-free tenant :

Provided that an owner living in, or otherwise using, his own land or building shall be deemed to be the occupier thereof;

(65) “offensive matter” means kitchen or stable refuse, dung, dirt, putrid or putrefying substance, or filth of any kind which is not included in sewage;

(66) “other agency” means a company, firm, society, or body corporate in the private sector, or any institution, or government agency, or any joint sector agency, or any agency under any other law for the time being in force;

(67) “owner” includes the person for the time being receiving the rent of any land or building or of any part of any land or building, whether on his own account or as an agent or trustee for any person or society or for any religious or charitable purpose or as a receiver who would receive such rent if the land or the building or of any part of the land or the building were let to a tenant;

(68) “population” means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published;

(69) “premises” means any land or building or part of a building or any hut or part of a hut, and includes –

- (a) the garden, ground and outhouses, if any, appertaining thereto, and
 - (b) any fittings or fixtures affixed to a building or part of a building or hut or part of a hut for the more beneficial enjoyment thereof;
- (70) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (71) “presiding officer” means, –
- (i) in the case of a Municipal Corporation, the Mayor,
 - (ii) in the case of a Municipal Council, the Municipal Chairperson, and
 - (iii) in the case of a Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal President;
- (72) “private drain” means any drain which is not a municipal drain;
- (73) “private street” means any street, road, lane, gully, alley, passage or square which is not a public street, and includes any passage securing access to four or more premises belonging to the same or different owners, but does not include a passage provided in effecting a partition of any masonry building amongst joint owners where such passage is less than two metres and fifty centimetres wide;
- (74) “public building” means a masonry building constructed, used, or adapted to be used, –

- (a) as a place of public worship or as a school, college or other place of instruction (not being a dwelling-house so used) or as a hospital, workhouse, public theatre, public cinema, public hall, public concert-room, public ballroom, public lecture-room, public library or public exhibition room or as a public place of assembly, or
 - (b) for any other public purpose, or
 - (c) as a hotel, lodging-house, refuge or shelter, where the building, in cubical extent, exceeds seven thousand cubic metres or has sleeping accommodation for more than one hundred persons;
- (75) “public street” means any street, road, lane, gully, alley, passage, pathway, square or courtyard, whether a thoroughfare or not, over which the public have a right of way, and includes –
- (a) the access or approach to a public ferry,
 - (b) the roadway over any public bridge or causeway,
 - (c) the footpath attached to any such street, public bridge or causeway,
 - (d) the passage connecting two public streets, and
 - (e) the drains attached to any such street, public bridge or causeway, and, where there is no drain attached to any such street, shall be deemed to include also, unless the contrary is shown, all land up to the boundary wall, hedge or pillar of the premises, if any, abutting on the street, or, where a street alignment has been fixed, up to such alignment;

- (76) “regulations” means the regulations made by a Municipality under this Act;
- (77) “rules” means the rules made by the State Government under this Act;
- (78) “sewage” means night-soil and other contents of privies, urinals, cesspools or drains, and includes trade effluents and discharges from manufactories of all kinds;
- (79) “smaller urban area” means a municipal area classified as a smaller urban area under section 7;
- (80) “State Municipal Service Commission” means the State Municipal Service Commission constituted under section 45;
- (81) “State Municipal Vigilance Authority” means the State Municipal Vigilance Authority appointed under section 46;
- (82) “street” means a public street or a private street;
- (83) “street alignment” means the line dividing the land comprised in, and forming part of, a street from the adjoining land;
- (84) “Subject Committee” means a Subject Committee constituted under section 32;
- (85) “Ward Committee” means a Ward Committee referred to in section 31;
- (86) “Wards Committee” means a Wards Committee constituted under section 30;
- (87) “water-course” includes a river, stream or channel, whether natural or artificial;
- (88) “year” means a financial year beginning on the first day of April.

PART II
CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

Chapter II

**Constitution of Municipal Areas and
Classification of Municipalities**

Declaration of intention to constitute a municipal area.

3. (1) The Governor may, after making such inquiry as he may deem fit, and having regard to the population of any urban area, the density of population therein, the revenue generated for the local administration of such area, the percentage of employment in non-agricultural activities in such area, the economic importance of such area, and such other factors as may be prescribed, by notification, declare his intention to specify such area to be a larger urban area, or a smaller urban area, or a transitional area :

Provided that no such declaration shall be made unless the population*, -

- (a) in the case of a larger urban area, is three lakhs or more,
- (b) in the case of a smaller urban area, is twenty-five thousand or more but is less than three lakhs, and
- (c) in the case of a transitional area, is less than twenty-five thousand :

Provided further that the non-agricultural population in all cases shall be eighty-five per cent or more.

* Each State Government may specify different figures or different percentage having regard to the demographic characteristics of the State.

Explanation. - “revenue generated for the local administration” shall not include –

- (a) taxes, if any, distributed to the Municipality by the State Government,
 - (b) loans and grants from the State Government, and
 - (c) loans and grants from the Central Government or any institution or other source.
- (2) The Governor shall, by notification, declare an area specified as -
- (i) a larger urban area to be a city,
 - (ii) a smaller urban area to be a town, and
 - (iii) a transitional area to be a Nagar Panchayat (by whatever name called).
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Governor may, by notification, determine separate conditions to constitute any hill area, pilgrim centre, tourist centre or *mandi* town as a municipal area.

Publication of declaration.

4. (1) The notification about the constitution of a municipal area shall be published in the *Official Gazette* and in at least two leading newspapers, at least one of which shall be in vernacular intelligible to the inhabitants of the local area concerned.
- (2) A copy of the notification shall also be pasted in a conspicuous place in the office of the Collector of the district and, where there is a Municipality, also in the office of the Municipality, and in such other public places as the State Government may direct.

- (3) A public proclamation about the constitution of a municipal area shall be made either by beating of drum throughout the local area concerned or through any other publicity media.

Consideration of objection.

5. Any inhabitant of the city, town or Nagar Panchayat in respect of which a notification has been published under section 4 may, if he objects to anything contained in the notification, submit his objection in writing to the State Government within one month from the date of its publication, and the State Government shall take such objection into consideration.

Constitution of municipal area.

6. On the expiry of one month from the date of publication of the notification and after consideration of all or any of the objections which may be submitted, the Governor may, by notification, constitute such city, town or transitional area or any specified part thereof as a municipal area under this Act.

Classification of municipal areas.

7. The Governor may, for the purpose of application of the provisions of this Act, classify any municipal area on the basis of the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published, as -

(a) a larger urban area having population above 3,00,000*,

(b) a smaller urban area of –

Class ‘A’ municipal area having population above 1,50,000*
but not exceeding 3,00,000*, or

* Each State Government may adopt a different basis for classification having regard to its demographic characteristics.

Class 'B' municipal area having population above 75,000* but not exceeding 1,50,000*, or

Class 'C' municipal area having population above 25,000* but not exceeding 75,000*, and

(c) transitional area having population not exceeding 25,000* :

Provided that for the purpose of classification of municipal areas in any hill area, pilgrim centre, tourist centre or *mandi* town, the Governor may, by notification, determine separate size of population for each class of such municipal areas.

Power to abolish or alter limits of municipal area.

8. (1) The Governor may, by notification, -

- (a) withdraw any municipal area or part thereof from the operation of this Act, or
- (b) exclude from a municipal area any local area comprised therein and defined in the notification, or
- (c) include within a municipal area any local area contiguous to such municipal area and defined in the notification, or
- (d) divide any municipal area into two or more municipal areas, or
- (e) unite two or more contiguous municipal areas so as to constitute one municipal area, or
- (f) revise the boundary of two or more contiguous municipal areas :

* Each State Government may adopt a different basis for classification having regard to its demographic characteristics.

Provided that the procedure laid down for the constitution of a municipal area under this Act shall be followed *mutatis mutandis* in each such case :

Provided further that the views of the Municipality affected by any such notification shall be invited before a final declaration is made and the State Government shall refer the views of such Municipality to a committee to be constituted by the State Government in the manner provided in sub-section (2) for its consideration and report within such time as the State Government may specify, and the State Government shall, on receipt of the report of the committee, consider the views of the Municipality as aforesaid :

Provided also that no such notification shall be issued where any part of the municipal area or any neighbouring area is a cantonment or part of a cantonment, as defined in the Cantonments Act, 1924.

(2 of 1924.)

- (2) The committee referred to in the second proviso to sub-section (1) shall consist of five persons, nominated by the State Government, of whom –
- (a) one shall be a member of the State Higher Judicial Service, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee,
 - (b) one shall be the Chief Councillor of any other Municipality of the same class,
 - (c) one shall be a chartered accountant or a person having experience in financial management,

(d) one shall be an engineer, and

(e) one shall be an officer of the State Government not below the rank of a Sub-Divisional Officer.

Power to include certain dwelling house, manufactory, etc. within a particular municipal area.

9. Where a dwelling house, manufactory, warehouse, or place of industry or business is situated within the limits of two or more adjacent municipal areas, the State Government may, notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, by notification, declare the municipal area within which such dwelling house, manufactory, warehouse, or place of industry or business shall be deemed to be included for the purposes of this Act.

Power to exempt* municipal area from operation of any provisions of the Act unsuited thereto.

10. (1) The State Government may, by notification, and for reasons to be recorded in writing, exempt Class 'C' municipal areas or Nagar Panchayats from the operation of any of the provisions of this Act considered unsuited thereto, and, thereupon, the said provisions shall not apply to such Class 'C' municipal areas or Nagar Panchayats, as the case may be, until such provisions are applied thereto by notification.
- (2) While a notification under sub-section (1) remains in force, the State Government may make rules consistent with the provisions of this Act in respect of any matter within the purview of such provisions from the operation of which the Class 'C' municipal areas or Nagar Panchayats as aforesaid are exempted.

* In smaller States which have smaller towns and Nagar Panchayats only, the State Government may not provide for such exemption.

Chapter III

Municipality and Municipal Councillors

The Municipality.

11. (1) The Municipality shall consist of such number of elected Councillors as there are wards within the municipal area as determined in accordance with the provisions of any law relating to municipal elections in the State.
- (2) The Municipality shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may, by the name of the Municipality of the city or the town or the Nagar Panchayat, as the case may be, by reference to which the Municipality is known, sue and be sued.
- (3) All executive actions of the Empowered Standing Committee shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the Municipality.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Municipality shall have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of properties.

Constitution of Municipality.

12. (1) The Councillors elected in a general election or a by-election of a Municipality in accordance with the provisions of any law relating to municipal elections in the State, shall constitute the Municipality.
- (2) The Municipality shall, unless dissolved earlier, continue for a period of five years from the date of its first meeting after the general election and no longer.
- (3) An election to constitute a Municipality shall be completed, as the case may be, -

- (a) before the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (2), or
- (b) before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution :

Provided that where the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Municipality would have continued is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold an election for constituting the Municipality for such period.

- (4) The Municipality constituted upon its dissolution before the expiration of the period specified in sub-section (2) shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Municipality would have continued under sub-section (2) had it not been so dissolved.
- (5) In a municipal area newly constituted, the local authority having jurisdiction over such area immediately before such area was constituted a municipal area, shall continue to have jurisdiction and to perform its functions till such time, not exceeding six months from the date of the notification under section 6, as may be necessary for holding elections.
- (6) If, for any reason, it is not possible to hold the general election of a Municipality before the expiry of the period of five years specified in sub-section (2), the Municipality shall stand dissolved on the expiration of the said period, and all the powers and functions vested in the municipal authorities under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force shall be exercised or performed, as the case may be, by such person or persons to be designated as Administrator or Board of Administrators as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.

Composition of Municipality*.

13. Each Municipality shall consist of such number of Councillors as are specified in The Table below :

The Table			
<u>Population Range</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Number of Councillors Incremental Number</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<i>Municipal Corporations</i>			
Above 24 lakhs	140	One additional Councillor for every 1 lakh above 24 lakhs	200
Above 12 lakhs and upto 24 lakhs	110	One additional Councillor for every 40,000 above 12 lakhs	140
Above 6 lakhs and upto 12 lakhs	80	One additional Councillor for every 20,000 above 6 lakhs	110
Above 3 lakhs and upto 6 lakhs	60	One additional Councillor for every 15,000 above 3 lakhs	80
<i>Municipal Councils</i>			
Class 'A' Municipal Council	45	One additional Councillor for every 10,000 above 1,50,000	60
Class 'B' Municipal Council	35	One additional Councillor for every 7,500 above 75,000	45
Class 'C' Municipal Council	25	One additional Councillor for every 5,000 above 25,000	35
<i>Nagar Panchayat</i>			
Nagar Panchayat	10	One additional Councillor for every 1,000 above 10,000	25.

* Each State Government may, having regard to its municipalization characteristics, specify alternative basis of classification of Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats and may, in each Class, provide for alternative population ranges as also the minimum and maximum number of Councillors.

Election of Councillors.

14. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections of Councillors shall be vested in the State Election Commission constituted under the State Election Commission Act or the State Municipal Election Act, as the case may be.

Oath of allegiance to be taken by Councillors.

15. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Oaths Act, 1873, every person who is elected as a Councillor shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Constitution of India before, -

(10 of 1873.)

- (a) in the case of a Municipal Corporation, the Secretary to the State Government in-charge of municipal affairs or his nominee not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to the State Government, and
- (b) in the case of a Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, the District Magistrate or the Magistrate-in-charge of the sub-division in which the municipal area is situated or an officer of the State Government authorized in this behalf by the District Magistrate.

- (2) The oath shall be in the following form :-

“I, A.B., having been elected a Councillor of the municipal area of, 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, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.”

(3) Any person who, having been elected a Councillor, fails to make and subscribe, within three months of the date on which his term of office commences, the oath or affirmation under sub-section (1), shall cease to hold his office and his seat shall be deemed to have become vacant :

Provided that the State Government may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend in each case or class of cases the period of three months as aforesaid by such period as it thinks fit.

Term of office of Councillors of Municipality.

16. Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) or sub-section (4), as the case may be, of section 12, a Councillor shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of the first meeting of the Municipality under section 35 or, in the case of a Councillor chosen to fill a casual vacancy, for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, unless -

- (a) the Municipality is dissolved earlier, or
- (b) he resigns his office by notice, in writing, under his hand addressed to the Chief Councillor, and, thereupon, his office shall become vacant from the date of the notice, or
- (c) his election is void, or is declared to be void, under the provisions of any law relating to municipal elections in the State, or
- (d) the entire area of the ward from which he has been elected is withdrawn from the operation of this Act under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 8.

Recall of Councillor.

17. (1) Every Councillor shall be deemed to have vacated his office forthwith if he is recalled by means of secret ballot by a majority of the total number of voters of the concerned ward of the municipal area casting the vote in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed :

Provided that no process of recall shall be initiated unless a proposal in this behalf is signed by not less than three-fourths* of the total number of Councillors and presented to the Collector :

Provided further that no such process of recall shall be initiated -

- (i) within a period of two years from the date on which a Councillor is elected and enters upon his office, or
- (ii) if half of the term of office of a Councillor elected in a bye-election has not expired :

Provided also that the process of recall of a Councillor shall be initiated once only during the term of his office.

- (2) When a proposal for recall of a Councillor is presented to the Collector under the first proviso to sub-section (1), the Collector shall, after satisfying himself and verifying that not less than three-fourths* of the Councillors have signed the proposal, send the proposal to the State Government, and, thereupon, the State Government shall make a reference to the State Election Commission.

* Each State Government may provide for a different requirement for majority.

- (3) On receipt of the reference under sub-section (2), the State Election Commission shall arrange for voting on the proposal of recall in such manner as may be prescribed.

Disqualification for being a Councillor if employed in a Municipality.

18. No employee of any Municipality shall be eligible to contest an election to become a Councillor of any Municipality.

Remuneration and allowances of Councillors.

19. The Chief Councillor, the other members of the Empowered Standing Committee, and the other Councillors may receive such remuneration and allowances as may be prescribed :

Provided that different rates may be prescribed for different classes of Municipalities.

Chapter IV

Municipal Authorities

Municipal authorities.

20. (1) The municipal authorities for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this Act shall be, -
- (a) in the case of a larger urban area, -
 - (i) the Municipal Corporation,
 - (ii) the Empowered Standing Committee,
 - (iii) the Mayor, and
 - (iv) the Municipal Commissioner;
 - (b) in the case of a Class 'A' or Class 'B' or Class 'C' smaller urban area, -

- (i) the Municipal Council,
 - (ii) the Empowered Standing Committee,
 - (iii) the Municipal Chairperson, and
 - (iv) the Municipal Executive Officer;
- (c) in the case of a transitional area, -
- (i) the Nagar Panchayat,
 - (ii) the Empowered Standing Committee,
 - (iii) the Municipal President, and
 - (iv) the Municipal Executive Officer.

(2) The presiding officer of the Municipality shall be, in the case of -

- (a) the Municipal Corporation, the Mayor,
- (b) the Municipal Council, the Municipal Chairperson, and
- (c) the Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal President.

Constitution of Empowered Standing Committee of Municipality.

21. (1) In every Municipality there shall be an Empowered Standing Committee*.

(2) The Empowered Standing Committee shall consist of -

- (a) in the case of a Municipal Corporation, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and seven other Councillors;

* Any State Government may choose to adopt the Mayor-in-Council System. The Policy Options Paper may be referred to for the corresponding legislative scheme.

- (b) in the case of a Class 'A' or Class 'B' Municipal Council, the Municipal Chairperson, the Municipal Vice-Chairperson, and five other Councillors;
- (c) in the case of a Class 'C' Municipal Council, the Municipal Chairperson, the Municipal Vice-Chairperson, and three other Councillors; and
- (d) in the case of a Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal President, the Municipal Vice-President, and three other Councillors.

(3) The Deputy Mayor or the Municipal Vice-Chairperson or the Municipal Vice-President, as the case may be, of a Municipal Corporation or Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat and other members of the Empowered Standing Committee shall be nominated by the Chief Councillor from among the Councillors within a period of seven days of his entering office and shall assume charge after taking oath of secrecy under section 24.

(4) The Chief Councillor shall be the presiding officer of the Empowered Standing Committee.

(5) The manner of transaction of business of the Empowered Standing Committee shall be such as may be prescribed.

(6) The Empowered Standing Committee shall be collectively responsible to the Municipal Corporation or the Municipal Council or the Nagar Panchayat, as the case may be.

Executive power of Municipality to be exercised by Empowered Standing Committee.

22. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder, the executive power of a Municipality shall be exercised by the Empowered Standing Committee.

Election of Chief Councillor.

23. (1) The Councillors shall, in the first meeting under section 35, elect* in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed one of the Councillors to be the Chief Councillor, who shall assume office forthwith after taking the oath of secrecy under section 24.
- (2) If the Councillors fail to elect a Chief Councillor under sub-section (1), the State Government shall appoint by name one of the Councillors to be the Chief Councillor.
- (3) In the case of any casual vacancy in the office of the Chief Councillor caused by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, the Councillors shall, in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed, elect one of the Councillors to fill up the vacancy.

Oath of secrecy to be taken by Chief Councillor and members of Empowered Standing Committee.

24. (1) The Chief Councillor and the members of the Empowered Standing Committee of a Municipality shall assume office after taking the oath of secrecy in the following form :-

“I, A.B., do swear in the name of God/solemnly affirm that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person or persons any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall become known to me as the presiding officer or as a member of the Empowered Standing Committee except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties.”.

- (2) The oath of secrecy shall be administered by, -
 - (a) in the case of a Municipal Corporation, the Secretary to the State Government in-charge of municipal affairs or his nominee not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to the State Government, and

* Any State Government which wishes to adopt the “direct election method”, i.e., on the basis of adult franchise, may do so in which case there would be a different legislative scheme for election of Chief Councillor, with consequential changes regarding removal of Chief Councillor.

- (b) in the case of a Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, the District Magistrate or the Magistrate-in-charge of the sub-division in which the municipal area is situated or an officer of the State Government authorized in this behalf by the District Magistrate.

Chief Councillor.

25. (1) The Chief Councillor shall cease to hold office as such if he ceases to be a Councillor.
- (2) The Chief Councillor may, at any time, by giving a notice, in writing, to the Municipality, resign his office, and the procedure for acceptance or otherwise of the resignation shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Chief Councillor may be removed from office by a resolution carried by a majority of the total number of Councillors holding office for the time being at a special meeting to be called for this purpose in the manner prescribed, upon a requisition made in writing by not less than one-third of the total number of Councillors, and the procedure for the conduct of business in the special meeting shall be such as may be prescribed :

Provided that no such resolution shall be moved before the expiry of six months from the date of entering office by the Chief Councillor, and if such resolution is not carried by a majority of the total number of Councillors, no further resolution for such purpose shall be moved before the expiry of a period of six months from the date on which the former resolution was moved.

Deputy Chief Councillor.

26. (1) The Deputy Chief Councillor shall, in the absence of the Chief Councillor, preside over the meetings of the Municipality.

(2) When -

- (a) the office of the Chief Councillor falls vacant by reason of death, resignation, removal or otherwise, or
- (b) the Chief Councillor is, by reason of leave, illness or other cause, temporarily unable to exercise the powers, perform the functions, or discharge the duties, of his office,

the Deputy Chief Councillor shall exercise the powers, perform the functions, and discharge the duties, of the Chief Councillor until a Chief Councillor is elected under sub-section (3) of section 23 and enters office or until the Chief Councillor resumes his duties.

(3) The Deputy Chief Councillor shall, at any time, exercise such other powers, perform such other functions, and discharge such other duties, as may be delegated to him under the provisions of this Act.

Term of office of Chief Councillor and members of Empowered Standing Committee.

27. The term of office of the Chief Councillor and the members of the Empowered Standing Committee shall be coterminous with the duration of the Municipality.

Delegation of powers and functions.

28. (1) The Municipality may, by resolution, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the resolution, any of its powers or functions to the Empowered Standing Committee.

(2) The Empowered Standing Committee may, by order in writing, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the

order, any of its powers or functions to the Chief Councillor or to the Chief Municipal Officer.

(3) Subject to such standing orders as may be made by the Empowered Standing Committee in this behalf,-

(a) the Chief Councillor may, by order, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order, any of his powers or functions to the Deputy Chief Councillor or the Chief Municipal Officer;

(b) the Chief Municipal Officer may, by order, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order, any of his powers or functions, excluding the powers or functions under sub-section (2) of section 410 or section 421, to any officer or other employee of the Municipality; and

(c) any officer of the Municipality, other than the Chief Municipal Officer, may, by order, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order, any of his powers or functions to any other officer subordinate to him.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the Empowered Standing Committee, the Chief Councillor, the Chief Municipal Officer, or the other officer referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (3), shall not delegate-

(a) any of its or his powers or functions delegated to it or him under this section, or

(b) such of its or his powers or functions as may be specified by regulations.

Reservation of office of Chief Councillor.

29. The office of the Chief Councillor in the Municipality shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and women to such extent, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

Wards Committee.

30. (1) Every Municipal Corporation having a population of three lakhs or more may, at its first meeting after the election of Councillors thereto or as soon as may be thereafter, group the wards of the Corporation in such manner that each group consists of not less than* contiguous wards, and constitute a Wards Committee for each such group.
- (2) Each Wards Committee shall consist of the Councillors elected from the wards constituting the group.
- (3) A Councillor of the Wards Committee representing a constituent ward shall hold office till he ceases to be the Councillor representing such ward.
- (4) The Councillors of each Wards Committee shall elect from amongst themselves one Councillor, who shall not be a member of the Empowered Standing Committee, to be its Chairperson.
- (5) The Chairperson of a Wards Committee may, at any time, resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Mayor and the resignation shall take effect from the date of acceptance by the Mayor.

* Each State Government may decide upon an appropriate number of contiguous wards

- (6) A Wards Committee shall, subject to the general supervision and control of the Empowered Standing Committee, discharge, within the local limits of the group of wards, the functions of the Municipality relating to the provision of supply-pipes and drainage and sewerage connections to premises, removal of accumulated water on the streets or public places due to rain or otherwise, collection and removal of solid wastes, disinfection, provision of health immunization services and slum services, provision of lighting, repair of category IV and category V roads, maintenance of parks, drains and gullies, issue of licenses under sub-section (1) of section 425, and such other functions as the Municipality may, from time to time, determine by regulations.
- (7) The Empowered Standing Committee shall assign to a Wards Committee such number of officers and other employees as it deems fit and shall designate one of such officers as the Wards Officer of such Wards Committee.
- (8) The manner of transaction of business of the Wards Committee shall be such as may be determined by regulations.
- (9) Subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified by regulations, a Wards Committee may conduct public hearing on any major issue of public interest.

Ward Committee*.

31. (1) Each ward of a Municipality shall have a Ward Committee.
- (2) The Councillor elected from a ward shall be the chairperson of the Ward Committee for that ward.

* Each State Government may take a view whether it proposes to set up a "Ward Committee" for each Ward in addition to a "Wards Committee" for a number of contiguous wards.

Salaries and allowances of officers and other employees.

39. (1) All officers and other employees of a Municipality including the officers referred to in section 36 shall receive salaries and allowances out of the Municipal Fund :

Provided that the State Government may make such contribution towards the salaries and allowances as aforesaid as it may, from time to time, determine.

- (2) The Municipality may also provide for pension, gratuity, provident fund, incentive, bonus, reward or penalty for its officers and other employees in accordance with such rules, norms, scales and conditions as may be prescribed.

Leave and other conditions of service.

40. All officers and other employees of the Municipality shall be subject to such conditions of service including leave and other benefits or obligations, not specifically provided for in this Act, as may be prescribed.

Appointment of officers of State Government for Municipalities.

41. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, the State Government may appoint an officer of that Government possessing such qualifications as may be determined by it for a Municipal Council or class of Municipal Councils or a Nagar Panchayat as Municipal Executive Officer, Municipal Finance Officer, Municipal Engineer or Municipal Health Officer referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 36 or with such designation as the State Government may consider necessary, and in such manner, and on such terms and conditions of service, as may be determined by the State Government in this behalf. The expenditure on account of salaries and allowances of any such officer shall be borne by the State Government :

Provided that the officer so appointed shall be under the administrative control of the Empowered Standing Committee and may be withdrawn by the State Government *suo motu* or if a resolution to that effect is passed by the Councillors at a meeting called for this purpose by a majority of the total number of Councillors holding office for the time being.

C. Municipal Establishment Audit Commission*

Municipal Establishment Audit Commission.

42. (1) The State Government may constitute a Municipal Establishment Audit Commission to review the establishment of the Municipalities in the State at an interval of not less than five years and to submit its reports to the State Government, from time to time, for such action as that Government may consider necessary. A copy of every such report shall be sent to the Empowered Standing Committee of the concerned Municipality.

(2) The Commission shall consist of -

- (a) a Chairperson who is or has been a member of the Indian Administrative Service of a rank not below that of a Secretary to the State Government or an expert in personnel management having experience of not less than fifteen years,
- (b) one engineer of the rank of Chief Engineer of the State Government,
- (c) one chartered accountant of fifteen years' standing or a person having not less than fifteen years of experience in financial management,
- (d) one officer not below the rank of a Deputy Municipal Commissioner or equivalent having not less than fifteen years of experience in municipal administration, and

* Each State Government may consider and decide whether the tasks as assigned to the Municipal Establishment Audit Commission may alternatively be assigned to the State Finance Commission.

- (e) one other person having not less than fifteen years of experience in public administration.
- (3) The Commission may carry out necessary studies for fixing norms and standards of manpower for different tasks performed at various levels of the Municipalities.
- (4) The State Government may, by rules, provide for the salaries, allowances and conditions of service of the Chairperson and the other members of the Municipal Establishment Audit Commission.

D. Municipal Services Cadres*

Cadres of common municipal services, appointments, etc.

43. (1) The State Government may constitute cadres of common municipal services for the State in respect of such officers of the Municipality referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 36 as may be determined by that Government from time to time.
- (2) The Director of Local Bodies shall be the appointing authority of all officers borne in the cadres of common municipal services and shall be the authority to transfer such officers from one Municipality to another.

E. Municipal Service Commission⁺

Municipal Service Commission for Municipal Corporation⁺.

44. (1) Each Municipal Corporation may, and shall, if so directed by the State Government, constitute a Municipal Service Commission consisting of -

* Each State Government may take a view regarding constitution of cadres of common municipal services.

+ Each State Government may take a view for constitution of a Municipal Service Commission for Municipal Corporation.

(a) a Chairperson, and

(b) four other members,

for selection of officers and other employees of such Municipal Corporation.

- (2) The Chairperson shall be a person who is or has been a member of the Indian Administrative Service or the Indian Police Service or the State Civil Service or the State Higher Judicial Service.
- (3) Of the four other members, one shall be a person who is or has been an Engineer in the rank of an Executive Engineer of the State Government, one shall be a chartered accountant or a person having knowledge and experience in financial management and is not lower in rank than that of a Joint Secretary to the State Government, one shall be a woman, preferably from community based organizations or non-government organizations of good standing, and the other shall be an officer of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department of the State Government.
- (4) The Chairperson and the officer of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department of the State Government shall be nominated by the State Government and the other three members shall be nominated by the Municipal Corporation on the recommendation of the Empowered Standing Committee.
- (5) The Chairperson and the other members shall hold office for a period of five years.
- (6) A person who holds office as Chairperson or other member of the Municipal Service Commission shall, on the expiration of the

period of his office, be ineligible for appointment to any post under any Municipality.

- (7) The Municipality shall, by regulations, provide for -
- (a) the salaries and allowances, if any, and conditions of service of the Chairperson and the other members of the Municipal Service Commission,
 - (b) the manner in which the Municipal Service Commission shall perform the duties imposed upon it by or under this Act,
 - (c) the number of officers and other employees of the Municipal Service Commission and their salaries and allowances, and
 - (d) the terms and conditions of service, including discipline, control and conduct, of officers and other employees of the Municipal Service Commission.

State Municipal Service Commission*.

45. (1) The State Government may constitute a State Municipal Service Commission consisting of a Chairperson and two other members for selection of such officers and other employees of a Municipality as may be prescribed :

Provided that the officers and the other employees of a Municipal Corporation having a Municipal Service Commission under section 44 shall be outside the purview of the State Municipal Service Commission :

* Each State Government may take a view regarding constitution of a State Municipal Service Commission.

Provided further that the State Government may constitute one or more Regional Offices of the State Municipal Service Commission for such area or areas as may be deemed necessary, and the number of the other members of the State Municipal Service Commission may be increased by one for every such regional office.

- (2) The State Government may, by rules, provide for -
- (a) the salaries, allowances and conditions of service of the Chairperson and the other members of the State Municipal Service Commission,
 - (b) the manner in which the State Municipal Service Commission shall perform the duties imposed upon it by or under this Act,
 - (c) the number of officers and other employees of the State Municipal Service Commission and their salaries and allowances, and
 - (d) the terms and conditions of service including discipline, and control and conduct of officers and other employees of the State Municipal Service Commission.

F. State Municipal Vigilance Authority*

State Municipal Vigilance Authority.

46. (1) The State Government shall, by notification, and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, appoint a State Municipal Vigilance Authority for inquiring into any complaint of corruption, misconduct, lack of integrity or any other kind of malpractice or misdemeanour on the part of any officer or other employee of a Municipality and for making recommendations to the Empowered Standing Committee.

* Each State Government may take a view regarding setting up of a separate State Municipal Vigilance Authority or entrust this responsibility to the State Vigilance Authority.

- (2) The State Municipal Vigilance Authority shall consist of a Chairperson who is or has been a judge of a High Court and two other members, one of whom shall have experience in municipal administration for not less than fifteen years and the other shall be one who is or has been a member of the Indian Administrative Service or the Indian Police Service or the State Civil Service for not less than fifteen years.
- (3) The Chairperson and the other members of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority shall hold office for a term of five years and shall, on the expiration of the term of office, be ineligible for re-appointment, either as Chairperson or as other member, as the case may be.
- (4) No Councillor and no officer or other employee of any Municipality shall be eligible to be appointed as the Chairperson or as other member of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority.
- (5) The State Municipal Vigilance Authority may appoint such officers and other employees, for such period, and on such pay and allowances, as the State Government may determine :

Provided that no Councillor of any Municipality or member of a Committee thereof and no officer or other employee of any Municipality shall be eligible to be appointed as an officer or other employee under the State Municipal Vigilance Authority.

- (6) The salaries of the Chairperson and the other members of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority and of the officers and other employees appointed under sub-section (5) and all other expenses relating to the establishment of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority shall be paid by the State Government.
- (7) The powers and functions of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority shall be such as may be prescribed.

- (8) The Chairperson or any other member of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority shall not be removed from office without being given an opportunity of being heard.
- (9) The other terms and conditions of service including discipline, control and conduct of officers and other employees under the State Municipal Vigilance Authority shall be such as may be determined by the State Government.
- (10) In the case of non-acceptance or partial acceptance or acceptance in a modified form of any recommendation of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority by the Empowered Standing Committee, the matter shall be placed before the Municipality, and if the Municipality also disagrees with the recommendation of the State Municipal Vigilance Authority, it shall refer the matter to the State Government for decision, and the decision of the State Government thereon shall be final.
- (11) The State Municipal Vigilance Authority may, with the prior approval of the State Government, establish regional offices.

G. Municipal Ombudsman

Appointment and tenure of Municipal Ombudsman.

47. (1) The State Government may, on the recommendation of a Selection Committee of three persons constituted by that Government, appoint one or more persons to be known as Municipal Ombudsman to carry out the functions entrusted to him under section 48.
- (2) The Selection Committee referred to in sub-section (1) shall consist of -
 - (a) the Chief Secretary to the State Government,

(b) a member of the State Public Service Commission, nominated by the Chairman of the said Commission, and

(c) a person of repute having not less than twenty years experience in administration.

(3) The minimum age of a person for appointment as Municipal Ombudsman shall be fifty-five years.

(4) The appointment of a Municipal Ombudsman may be made for a period not exceeding three years :

Provided that the period of appointment of a Municipal Ombudsman may, subject to the recommendation of the Selection Committee referred to in sub-section (1), be extended for a further period not exceeding two years, subject to the age-limit of sixty-five years.

(5) A Municipal Ombudsman shall devote his whole time to the affairs of his office :

Provided that the State Government may, if, in its opinion, it is considered necessary so to do, permit the Municipal Ombudsman to undertake such part-time honorary work as is not likely to interfere with his duties under this Act.

(6) Where the State Government is satisfied that in the public interest or for reason of incapacity of a Municipal Ombudsman, it is necessary so to do, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, and by giving him three months' notice or by paying him three months' consolidated emoluments in lieu of the notice as aforesaid, remove him from his office.

Functions and powers of Municipal Ombudsman.

48. The Municipal Ombudsman shall have the following functions and powers :-

- (a) to receive complaints from any person relating to the provision of municipal services;
- (b) to consider the complaints as aforesaid and to facilitate their satisfaction or settlement by agreement through conciliation and mediation between a Municipality and the aggrieved person by passing an award in this behalf in the manner prescribed; and
- (c) to resolve, by way of arbitration, such disputes between Municipalities or between a Municipality and its citizens as may be agreed upon by the contesting parties in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

(Act 26 of 1996.)

Territorial jurisdiction.

49. (1) The State Government shall specify the territorial limits to which the authority of a Municipal Ombudsman shall extend.

(2) (a) The office of the Municipal Ombudsman shall be located at such place as may be specified by the State Government.

(b) A Municipal Ombudsman may, for expeditious disposal of complaints or conduct of arbitral proceedings, hold sittings at such places within the area of his jurisdiction as he may consider necessary.

Qualifications, remuneration, and office.

50. (1) A Municipal Ombudsman shall be a person of repute and shall have experience in civil services or public or municipal administration or management sector, and if such person is a civil servant, he shall be not below the rank of a Secretary to the State Government or a District Judge having jurisdiction in the State.
- (2) The remuneration and other perquisites payable to a Municipal Ombudsman shall be such as may be determined by the State Government from time to time.
- (3) A Municipal Ombudsman shall be provided with an office with necessary complement of officers and other staff.
- (4) A Municipal Ombudsman shall exercise general powers of superintendence and control over his office and shall be responsible for the conduct of business thereof.
- (5) A Municipal Ombudsman shall prepare an annual budget for his office in consultation with the State Government and shall have the power to incur expenditure for his office from the allotment provided in the budget.

Review Authority.

51. The State Government may set up, on such terms and conditions as it may determine in consultation with the High Court, a Review Authority consisting of a person who is or has been a judge of the High Court before whom an aggrieved party may file an appeal for review of any order or decision of a Municipal Ombudsman.

Publicity.

52. The State Government and the Municipality shall give adequate publicity to the appointment of a Municipal Ombudsman under this Act for the information of the public.

Power to make rules.

53. The State Government may make rules, *inter alia*, for the following matters :-

- (a) grounds and procedure for filing of complaints;
- (b) procedure for redressal of grievances;
- (c) settlement of complaint by agreement;
- (d) award by a Municipal Ombudsman;
- (e) rejection of complaint;
- (f) proceedings before the Review Authority;
- (g) powers of a Municipal Ombudsman and procedure of functioning as an Arbitrator and notification and enforcement of an award; and
- (h) any other matter which is, or may be, required to be provided by rules.

Chapter VI

Functional Domain of Municipalities

Core municipal functions.

54. (1) Every Municipality shall -

(a) provide on its own or arrange to provide through any agency the following core municipal services :-

- (i) water-supply for domestic, industrial, and commercial purposes,
- (ii) drainage and sewerage,
- (iii) solid waste management,
- (iv) preparation of plans for economic development and social justice,
- (v) communication systems including construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths, pedestrian pathways, transportation terminals, both for passengers and goods, bridges, over-bridges, subways, ferries, and inland water transport system,
- (vi) transport system accessories including traffic engineering schemes, street furniture, street lighting, parking areas, and bus stops,
- (vii) community health and protection of environment including planting and caring of trees on road sides and elsewhere,
- (viii) markets and slaughterhouses,
- (ix) promotion of educational, sports and cultural activities, and
- (x) aesthetic environment, and

(b) perform such other statutory or regulatory functions as may be provided by or under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.

(2) The Municipality may, having regard to its managerial, technical, financial and organizational capacity, and the actual conditions obtaining in the municipal area, decide not to take up, or postpone, the performance of, any of the functions as aforesaid.

(3) The State Government may direct a Municipality to perform any of the functions as aforesaid, if such function is not taken up, or is postponed, by the Municipality.

(4) The Municipality may plan, build, operate, maintain or manage the infrastructure required for the discharge of any of the functions, as aforesaid, either by itself or by any agency under any concession agreement referred to in section 223.

Functions assigned by Government*.

55. The Municipality may, subject to the underwriting of the costs by, and approval of, the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, undertake any function belonging to the functional domain of the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, and such functions may include primary education, curative health, transport, supply of energy, arrangements for fire prevention and fire safety, and urban poverty alleviation.

* Each State Government may consider and decide whether the costs for performing such functions which strictly speaking do not belong to the functional domain of the Municipalities shall be underwritten by the sponsoring Government – Central or State.

Other functions*.

56. A Municipality may, having regard to the satisfactory performance of its core functions which shall constitute the first charge on the Municipal Fund, and subject to its managerial, technical and financial capabilities, undertake or perform, or promote the performance of, any of the following functions :-

(1) in the sphere of town planning, urban development and development of commercial infrastructure, -

(a) planned development of new areas for human settlement,

(b) measures for beautification of the municipal area by setting up parks and fountains, providing recreational areas, improving river banks, and landscaping,

(c) collection of statistics and data, significant to the community, and

(d) integration of the development plans and schemes of the municipal area with the district or regional development plan, if any;

(2) in the sphere of protection of environment, -

(a) reclamation of waste lands, promotion of social forestry and maintenance of open spaces,

(b) establishment and maintenance of nurseries for plants, vegetables and trees and promotion of greenery through mass participation,

* Each State Government may consider the various lists in this clause and may add or delete any function.

- (c) organization of flower-shows and promotion of flower-growing as a civic culture, and
 - (d) promotion of measures for abatement of all forms of pollution;
- (3) in the sphere of public health and sanitation, -
- (a) mass inoculation campaigns for eradication of infectious diseases,
 - (b) construction and maintenance of municipal markets and slaughterhouses and regulation of all markets and slaughterhouses,
 - (c) reclamation of unhealthy localities, removal of noxious vegetation and abatement of all nuisances,
 - (d) maintenance of all public tanks and regulating the re-excavation, repair and up-keep of all private tanks, wells and other sources of water-supply on such terms and conditions as the Municipality may deem proper,
 - (e) construction and maintenance of cattle pounds,
 - (f) provision for unfiltered water-supply for non-domestic uses,
 - (g) advancement of civic consciousness of public health and general welfare by organizing discourses, seminars and conferences, and
 - (h) measures for eradication of addiction of all kinds including addiction to drugs and liquor;

(4) in the sphere of education and culture, -

- (a) promotion of civic education, adult education, social education and non-formal education,
- (b) promotion of cultural activities including music, physical education, sports and theatres and infrastructure therefor,
- (c) advancement of science and technology in urban life,
- (d) publication of municipal journals, periodicals and souvenirs, purchase of books, and subscription to journals, magazines and newspapers,
- (e) installation of statues, portraits and pictures in appropriate manner,
- (f) organization, establishment and maintenance of art galleries and botanical or zoological collections, and
- (g) maintenance of monuments and places of historical, artistic and other importance;

(5) in the sphere of public welfare, -

- (a) establishment and maintenance of shelters, in times of drought, flood, earthquake, or other natural or technological disasters, and relief works, for, destitute persons within the limits of the municipal area,

- (b) construction or maintenance of, or provision of aids to, hospitals, dispensaries, asylums, rescue homes, maternity houses, and child welfare centres,
 - (c) provision of shelter for the homeless,
 - (d) implementation programmes for liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers and their families,
 - (e) organization of voluntary labour and co-ordination of activities of voluntary agencies for community welfare, and
 - (f) campaigns for dissemination of such information as is vital for public welfare; and
- (6) in the sphere of community relations, -
- (a) civic receptions to persons of distinction and paying homage on death to persons of repute,
 - (b) organization and management of fairs and exhibitions, and
 - (c) dissemination of information of public interest.

Chapter VII

Conduct of Business

A. Transaction of Business by Municipality

Meetings.

57. (1) The Municipality shall meet not less than once in every month for the transaction of its business.

- (2) The Chief Councillor may, whenever he thinks fit, and shall, upon a requisition in writing by not less than one-fifth of the Councillors, convene a meeting of the Municipality.

Notice of meeting and list of business.

58. A list of business to be transacted at every meeting of the Municipality, except at an adjourned meeting, shall be sent to the registered address of each Councillor at least seventy-two hours before the time fixed for such meeting, and no business shall be brought before, or transacted at, any meeting other than the business of which notice has been so given :

Provided that any emergent business may be brought before, and transacted in, the meeting with the permission of the Chief Councillor :

Provided further that any Councillor may send or deliver to the Municipal Secretary notice of any resolution so as to reach him at least forty-eight hours before the time fixed for the meeting, and the Municipal Secretary shall, with all possible despatch, take steps to circulate such resolution to every Councillor in such manner as he may think fit :

Provided also that no business, which has no relevance to the business of the Municipality, shall be brought before the Municipality.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, “registered address” shall be the address for the time being entered in the register of addresses of Councillors to be maintained by the Municipal Secretary.

Quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of Municipality and method of deciding questions.

59. (1) The quorum necessary for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Municipality shall be one-fifth of the total number of Councillors.

- (2) If at any time during a meeting of the Municipality there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the person presiding over such meeting either to adjourn the meeting or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.
- (3) Where a meeting has been adjourned under sub-section (2), the business which would have been brought before such meeting shall be brought before, and may be transacted at, the adjourned meeting, and no quorum shall be necessary for such adjourned meeting.
- (4) All matters required to be decided at a meeting of the Municipality shall, save as otherwise provided in this Act, be determined by a majority of votes of the Councillors present and voting.
- (5) The voting shall be by show of hands, provided that the Municipality may, subject to such regulations as may be made by it, resolve that any question, or class of questions, shall be decided by secret ballot.
- (6) At any meeting of the Municipality, where a poll is taken on a resolution before it, the votes of all the Councillors present who desire to vote shall be taken under the direction of the presiding officer of such meeting, who shall declare such resolution to have been carried or lost, as the case may be, in accordance with the result of such poll.
- (7) At any meeting of the Municipality, unless a poll is demanded by at least one-tenth of the Councillors present, a declaration by the presiding officer of such meeting that a resolution has been carried or lost in such meeting, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the proceedings of such meeting shall, for the purposes of this Act, be conclusive evidence of the fact that such resolution has been carried or lost, as the case may be.

Presiding officer of a meeting of Municipality.

60. (1) The Chief Councillor shall preside at every meeting of the Municipality :

Provided that when a meeting is held to consider a motion for the removal of the Chief Councillor, the Chief Councillor shall not preside at such meeting.

- (2) The Chief Councillor, or the person presiding over a meeting of the Municipality, shall also have, and may exercise, a casting vote in all cases of equality of votes.

Maintenance of order at a meeting of Municipality and withdrawal and suspension of Councillors.

61. (1) The presiding officer of a meeting of the Municipality shall preserve order thereat and shall have all the powers necessary for the purpose of preserving such order.

- (2) The presiding officer of a meeting may direct any Councillor, whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the meeting, and every Councillor so directed shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the meeting.

- (3) If any Councillor is ordered to withdraw a second time, the presiding officer may warn such Councillor of the action that may be taken under this sub-section and may thereafter, if necessary, suspend such Councillor from attending the meetings of the Municipality for any period not exceeding sixty days, and the Councillor so suspended shall absent himself accordingly :

Provided that the Chief Councillor may at any time decide that such suspension be terminated :

Provided further that a Councillor shall not, so long as he is debarred from attending any meeting of the Municipality, attend any meeting of any committee of the Municipality.

- (4) In the case of grave disorder arising in a meeting, the presiding officer may, if he thinks necessary so to do, adjourn the meeting to a date specified by him.

Councillor having pecuniary interest in any contract etc. with Municipality.

62. (1) If a Councillor has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract with or without employment under, or other matter concerning, the Municipality and is present at a meeting of the Municipality or of a committee thereof at which such contract or employment or other matter is subject of consideration, he shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of such meeting, disclose the fact regarding such contract or employment or other matter, and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on, any question with respect to such contract or employment or other matter :

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to a Councillor having interest as a tax-payer or inhabitant of the municipal area or consumer of water or having an interest in any matter relating to any civic service to the public.

- (2) For the purposes of this section, a Councillor shall be deemed to have an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract or employment or other matter, if he or his nominee is a member of any company or other body with which the contract is made or is proposed to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the employment or other matter under consideration, or if he is a partner in a firm with which, or is in employment under a person with whom, the contract is made or is proposed to be made, or if such firm or person has a direct pecuniary interest in the employment or other matter under consideration :

Provided that :

- (i) the provisions of this sub-section shall not apply to a Councillor who is a member of, or is in employment under, any public institution or organization under any law for the time being in force, and
 - (ii) a Councillor shall not, by reason of his membership of a company or other body, be treated as having any pecuniary interest in such company or other body if he has no beneficial interest in any share or stock of such company or other body.
- (3) In the case of a Councillor who is married and lives with his spouse, the interest of one shall be deemed, for the purposes of this section, to be the interest of the other.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section and section 63, “company” shall mean any body corporate, and shall include a firm or other association of individuals.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest.

63. (1) A Councillor may give to the Municipal Secretary a notice to the effect that he or his spouse is a member of a company or is a partner in a firm or is in the employment under a person, and if any contract is made or is proposed to be made with such company or firm or person, such notice shall, unless and until it is withdrawn, be deemed to be a sufficient disclosure of his interest in such contract or proposed contract which may be the subject of consideration at a meeting of the Municipality after the date of the notice.
- (2) The Municipal Secretary shall record in a book, to be kept for the purpose, particulars of any disclosure made under sub-section (1) of section 62 and of any notice given under sub-section (1) of this section, and the book shall be open at all reasonable hours for the inspection of any Councillor.

Provided further that in reckoning the number of additional members of the Ward Committee exceeding four, any part of less than two thousand population may be ignored.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, “civil society” shall mean any non-government organization or association or person, established, constituted or registered under any law for the time being in force and working for social welfare, and shall include any community-based organization, professional institution and civic, health, educational, social or cultural body, and such other association or body as the Municipality may decide.

- (3) The Ward Committee shall perform such functions, and in such manner, as may be specified by regulations.

Subject Committee.

32. (1) A Municipal Corporation or a Class ‘A’ Municipal Council may, from time to time, constitute Subject Committees consisting of Councillors to deal with the following matters, namely :-

(a) water-supply, drainage and sewerage, and solid waste management;

(b) urban environment management and land use control;
and

(c) slum services.

- (2) The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and the members of the Empowered Standing Committee of a Municipal Corporation, or the Municipal Chairperson, the Municipal Vice-Chairperson, and the members of the Empowered Standing Committee of a Class ‘A’ Municipal Council, as the case may be, shall not be members of any Subject Committee.

- (3) Each Subject Committee shall consist of -
- (a) seven members in the case of a Subject Committee of a Municipal Corporation, and
 - (b) five members in the case of a Subject Committee of a Class 'A' Municipal Council.
- (4) The manner of the constitution and the transaction of business of a Subject Committee shall be such as may be specified by regulations.
- (5) The term of a Subject Committee shall be not less than two years.
- (6) The Chairperson of a Subject Committee shall be elected by its members from amongst themselves in the manner specified by regulations :
- Provided that a member shall not be eligible for election as Chairperson for more than two terms.
- (7) Each Subject Committee shall exercise such powers, and perform such functions, as may be specified by regulations.
- (8) The recommendations of a Subject Committee shall be submitted to the Empowered Standing Committee for its consideration.

Ad hoc Committee.

33. (1) The Empowered Standing Committee may, from time to time, appoint an *Ad hoc* Committee* to perform such functions, or conduct such enquiries, or undertake such studies including reports thereon, as may be specified by a resolution in this behalf.

* Each State Government may take a view whether it proposes to provide for appointment of *Ad hoc* Committees.

- (2) Any person, who is not a Councillor but possesses special qualifications useful for the purpose of an *Ad hoc* Committee, may be associated therewith as its member.
- (3) The manner of transaction of business in an *Ad hoc* Committee shall be such as may be laid down by the Empowered Standing Committee.

Joint Committee.

34. (1) The State Government may, if it considers it necessary so to do, constitute a Joint Committee for more than one Municipality, or for one or more Municipalities with other local authority or local authorities, for any purpose in which they are jointly interested or for delegating to it any power or function which calls for joint action.
- (2) The Joint Committee shall consist of the following members :-
 - (i) two elected members of each constituent Municipality or local authority,
 - (ii) one nominee of each of the concerned departments of the State Government or of the concerned statutory authorities under the State Government,
 - (iii) such expert or experts as the State Government may nominate, and
 - (iv) the Director of Local Bodies or his representative who shall act as the convener of the Joint Committee.
- (3) The procedure of transaction of business by a Joint Committee shall be such as may be prescribed.

First meeting of Municipality.

35. (1) The first meeting of a Municipality after the general election of Councillors to the Municipality shall be convened within thirty days from the date of publication of the names of elected Councillors in the *Official Gazette* under the provisions of any law relating to municipal elections in the State.
- (2) Seven days' notice shall be given for the meeting.
- (3) In the case of a Municipal Corporation, the meeting shall be convened by the Secretary to the State Government in charge of municipal affairs or any other officer not below the rank of a Deputy Secretary to the State Government, duly authorized by him.
- (4) In the case of a Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, the meeting shall be convened by the District Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate authorized by the District Magistrate in this behalf.

Chapter V

Organizational Structure of Municipality

A. Statutory Officers of Municipality*

Officers of Municipality.

36. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 41 and the need for ensuring maximum possible economy in municipal administration, the Municipality shall have the following posts of officers, namely : -

(a) in the case of a Municipal Corporation, -

* Each State Government may having regard to the internal revenue generating capacities of the Municipalities at various levels determine the number of statutory officers for the different levels of Municipalities.

- (i) the Municipal Commissioner,
- (ii) the Controller of Municipal Finances and Accounts,
- (iii) the Municipal Internal Auditor,
- (iv) the Chief Municipal Engineer,
- (v) the Municipal Architect and Town Planner,
- (vi) the Chief Municipal Health Officer,
- (vii) the Municipal Law Officer,
- (viii) the Municipal Secretary, and
- (ix) such number of Additional Municipal Commissioners or Joint Municipal Commissioners or Deputy Municipal Commissioners or Deputy Chief Municipal Engineers as the Empowered Standing Committee may, from time to time, determine, and

(b) in the case of a Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat, -

- (i) the Municipal Executive Officer,
- (ii) the Municipal Finance Officer,
- (iii) the Municipal Engineer,
- (iv) the Municipal Health Officer,
- (v) the Municipal Secretary, and

(vi) such other officers as may be designated by the State Government in this behalf :

Provided that the State Government may reduce the number of posts of the officers as aforesaid :

Provided further that the State Government may redesignate any of the posts of the officers as aforesaid.

(2) Appointments to the posts mentioned in sub-section (1) may be made either on a regular basis or on a contract basis for such term as the Empowered Standing Committee may consider necessary.

(3) At the requests of the Empowered Standing Committees of more than one Municipality, the State Government may, by order, provide for sharing of posts referred to in sub-section (1) by such Municipalities, and on such terms and conditions, as may be specified in the order.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), appointments to the posts referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) shall be made -

(a) by the State Government in consultation with the Empowered Standing Committee by notification from amongst the persons who are or have been in the service of that Government, or

(b) by the Empowered Standing Committee with the prior approval of the State Government from amongst the officers who are or have been in the service of the Municipal Corporation, or

(c) by the Empowered Standing Committee with the prior approval of the State Government and in consultation with the State Public Service Commission :

Provided that the appointments to the posts as aforesaid shall be on such terms and conditions, and for such period not exceeding five years in the first instance, as the State Government may determine :

Provided further that the State Government may, in consultation with the Empowered Standing Committee, extend the period of appointment to the posts as aforesaid from time to time, so, however, that the total period of extension shall not exceed five years.

- (5) Until cadres of common municipal services for the State are constituted under sub-section (1) of section 43, the Empowered Standing Committee may determine which of the posts of officers referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of this section are necessary for a Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, and, with the prior approval of the State Government, create posts of, and appoint, such officers and fix the salaries and allowances to be paid to such officers.
- (6) The method of, and the qualifications required for, recruitment, and the terms and conditions of service including conduct, discipline and control, of officers appointed by the Empowered Standing Committee shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (7) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section, the State Government may, at any time, in the case of any person appointed to any post referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1), terminate his appointment :

Provided that if, in the case of any such officer, the Empowered Standing Committee so decides, the State Government shall terminate the appointment of such officer.

- (8) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) or sub-section (3), prior approval of the State Government shall be necessary in the case of appointment of a person not recommended by the State Public Service Commission.
- (9) No person above the age of sixty years shall be appointed to any post in a Municipality.

B. Municipal Establishment and Schedule of Posts

Establishment of Municipality and schedule of posts.

- 37. (1) The posts of officers and other employees of the Municipality, other than those referred to in sub-section (1) of section 36, shall constitute the municipal establishment.
- (2) The Municipality shall, by regulation, classify the posts of officers and other employees constituting the establishment of the Municipality into four categories, namely, category 'A' post, category 'B' post, category 'C' post, and category 'D' post, on the basis of the scales of pay of such posts.
- (3) The Municipality shall prepare, and maintain, a schedule of posts of officers and other employee constituting the establishment of the Municipality, to be called Establishment Schedule, and such Establishment Schedule shall include the designation, and the number of posts under each designation, and shall be in three parts of which Part I shall include category 'A' posts, Part II shall include category 'B' posts, and Part III shall include category 'C' posts and category 'D' posts.
- (4) Every year the Chief Municipal Officer shall place before the Empowered Standing Committee for its consideration the Establishment Schedule along with the proposals for such changes therein as he may consider necessary :

Provided that no upward revision of the size of the establishment of the Municipality shall be made without the prior sanction of the State Government.

- (5) The Empowered Standing Committee shall, after consideration of the Establishment Schedule along with the proposals, if any, for changes therein, place the same along with its recommendations, if any, before the Municipality for approval prior to the presentation of the budget estimates to the Municipality by the Chief Councillor.
- (6) The Chief Municipal Officer shall revise the Establishment Schedule as approved by the Municipality.
- (7) The Empowered Standing Committee may sanction any category 'C' post or category 'D' post for a period not exceeding six months :

Provided that no such post shall be sanctioned unless there is a provision in this behalf in the budget estimates of the Municipality.

- (8) Subject to such norms regulating the size of a municipal establishment as may be fixed by the State Government from time to time, no post of an officer or other employee of the Municipality shall be created by the Municipality without the prior sanction of the State Government, if the number of posts to be so created in a year for a Municipality is more than one *per cent* of the total number of sanctioned posts of officers and other employees in existence in the year immediately preceding :

Provided that the number of posts as may be admissible for creation in a year without the prior sanction of the State Government after the commencement of this Act, if not created in

that year, may be carried forward to the next year, subject to a maximum of ten.

- (9) The recruitment to the posts of officers and other employees of the Municipality not required to be made through the Municipal Service Commission shall be made through the local employment exchange or through such other method as the State Government may determine from time to time.
- (10) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section or elsewhere in this Act. The Empowered Standing Committee may decide to engage on contract basis, officers and other employees of the Municipality against such posts of officers and other employees referred to in sub-section (1) of section 37.

Appointing Authorities.

- 38. Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the appointing authority in respect of the posts of officers and other employees constituting the establishment of the Municipality shall be, -
 - (a) in the case of category 'A' posts, the Chief Municipal Officer,
 - (b) in the case of category 'B' posts, -
 - (i) an Additional Municipal Commissioner or a Joint Municipal Commissioner, in the case of a Municipal Corporation, or
 - (ii) the Municipal Executive Officer, in the case of a Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, and
 - (c) in the case of category 'C' posts and category 'D' posts, such officer or officers of the Municipality as the Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, designate in this behalf.

Meeting to be ordinarily open to public.

64. (1) Every meeting of the Municipality shall be open to the public, unless a majority of the Councillors present at the meeting decides by a resolution, which shall be put by the presiding officer either on his own motion or at the request of any such Councillor, that any enquiry or deliberation pending before the Municipality shall be held in private.
- (2) The Municipality may make regulations providing for the admission of strangers to its meeting and for the removal by force, if necessary, of any stranger for interrupting or disturbing the proceedings of the meeting.

Right of Chief Municipal Officer and other officers to attend meeting of Municipality and committees etc.

65. The Chief Municipal Officer, or any other officer of the Municipality authorized by him in writing in this behalf, may attend any meeting of the Municipality or of any of its committees.

Right of Councillor to ask questions.

66. (1) A Councillor may, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), ask the Empowered Standing Committee questions on any matter relating to the administration of the Municipality or municipal governance, and all such questions shall be addressed to the Empowered Standing Committee and shall be answered either by the Chief Councillor or by any other member of the Empowered Standing Committee.
- (2) The right to ask a question shall be governed by the following conditions, namely :-
 - (a) not less than seven working days' notice, in writing, specifying the question shall be given to the Municipal Secretary;

(b) no question shall -

- (i) bring in any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible,
- (ii) contain arguments, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements,
- (iii) ask for an expression of opinion or the solution of a hypothetical proposition,
- (iv) ask as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity,
- (v) relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Municipality,
- (vi) make or imply a charge of a personal character,
- (vii) raise questions of policy too large to be dealt with within the limits of an answer to a question,
- (viii) repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused,
- (ix) ask for information on trivial matters,
- (x) ask for information on matters of past history,
- (xi) ask for information set forth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference,
- (xii) raise matters under the control of bodies or persons not primarily responsible to the Municipality, or

(xiii) ask for any information on any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law.

- (3) The presiding officer shall disallow any question, which is, in his opinion, in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (2).
- (4) If any doubt arises whether any question is or is not in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (2), the matter shall be decided by the presiding officer, whose decision shall be final.
- (5) The Chief Councillor or any member of the Empowered Standing Committee shall not be bound to answer a question seeking information which has been communicated to him or to the Empowered Standing Committee in confidence or if, in his opinion, it cannot be answered without prejudice to the public interest.
- (6) Unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer of the meeting, every question shall be answered at a meeting of the Municipality.

Discussion on urgent public matters.

67. (1) Any Councillor may give notice of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance to the Municipal Secretary, stating clearly the matter to be raised.
- (2) Such notice, supported by the signatures of at least two other Councillors, shall reach the Municipal Secretary at least forty-eight hours before the date on which such discussion is sought, and the Municipal Secretary shall immediately place it before the Chief Councillor and circulate the notice among the Councillors in such manner as he may think fit.

- (3) The Chief Councillor may admit for discussion such notice as may appear to him to be of sufficient public importance and allow such time for discussion as he may consider appropriate.
- (4) There shall be no formal resolution or voting on such discussion.

Asking for statement from Empowered Standing Committee.

68. (1) Any Councillor may ask for a statement from the Empowered Standing Committee on an urgent matter relating to the administration of the Municipality by giving notice to the Municipal Secretary at least one hour before the commencement of the meeting of the Municipality on any day.
- (2) The Chief Councillor or a member of the Empowered Standing Committee may either make a brief statement on the same day or fix a date for making such statement.
- (3) Not more than two such matters shall be raised at the same meeting and, in the event of more than two matters being raised, priority shall be given to the matters which are, in the opinion of the Chief Councillor, more urgent and important.
- (4) There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made.

B. Minutes and Proceedings

Keeping of minutes and proceedings.

69. Minutes of each meeting of the Municipality and of a committee of the Municipality recording therein the names of the Councillors present at such meeting and the proceedings of each such meeting shall be drawn up and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose and shall be laid before the next meeting of the Municipality or such committee, as the case may be, and signed at such meeting by the presiding officer thereof.

Circulation and inspection of minutes.

70. Minutes of the proceedings of each meeting of the Municipality shall be circulated to all the Councillors and shall, at all reasonable times, be available at the office of the Municipality for inspection by any Councillor, free of cost, and by any other person on payment of such fee as the Municipality may determine.

Forwarding of minutes to State Government.

71. (1) The Municipal Secretary shall forward to the State Government a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of each meeting of the Municipality or a committee of the Municipality as early as possible.
- (2) The State Government may, in any case, call for a copy or copies of all or any of the papers laid before the Municipality or any committee of the Municipality and, thereupon, the Municipal Secretary shall forward to the State Government a copy or copies of such paper or papers.

Rules relating to conduct of business of Municipality.

72. The State Government may, by rules, provide for such matters, not provided in this Act, relating to the conduct of business of the Municipality or of its committees, as it may deem necessary.

C. Validation

Validation of acts and proceedings.

73. (1) No act or proceeding of the Municipality or of any committee of the Municipality shall be called in question merely on the ground of -
 - (a) the existence of any vacancy in, or any defect, initial or subsequent, in the constitution of, the Municipality or any committee of the Municipality, or

- (b) any Councillor having voted or taken part in any proceeding in contravention of the provisions of section 62, or
 - (c) any defect or irregularity not affecting the merit of any case to which such defect or irregularity relates.
- (2) Every meeting of the Municipality or any committee of the Municipality, the minutes of the proceedings of which have been duly signed under section 69, shall be deemed to have been duly convened and to be free from any defect or irregularity.

Chapter VIII

Direction and Control

Power of State Government to call for records etc.

74. The State Government may, at any time, require any municipal authority -
- (a) to produce any record, correspondence, or other documents,
 - (b) to furnish any return, plan, estimate, statement, accounts, or statistics, and
 - (c) to furnish or obtain any report,

and thereupon such municipal authority shall comply with such requirement.

Power of State Government to depute officers to make inspection or examination and report.

75. The State Government may depute any of its officers to inspect or examine any department, office, service, work or property of the Municipality and to report thereon, and such officer may, for the purpose of such inspection or examination, exercise all the powers of the State Government under section 74 :

Provided that such officer shall be not below the rank of -

- (a) a Deputy Secretary to the State Government in the case of a Municipal Corporation,
- (b) an Assistant Secretary to the State Government in the case of a Class 'A' Municipal Council or Class 'B' Municipal Council, and
- (c) a Sub-divisional Officer in the case of a Class 'C' Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat,

as the case may be.

Power of State Government to require municipal authorities to take action.

76. If, after considering the records required under section 74, or the report under section 75, or any information received otherwise by the State Government, the State Government is of opinion that -

- (a) any action taken by a municipal authority is unlawful or irregular or any duty imposed on such authority by or under this Act has not been performed or has been performed in an imperfect, insufficient or unsuitable manner, or
- (b) adequate financial provision has not been made for the performance of any duty under this Act,

the State Government may, by order, require such municipal authority to regularize such unlawful or irregular action or perform such duty or restrain such authority from taking such unlawful or irregular action or direct such authority to make, to the satisfaction of the State Government, within such period as may be specified in the order, arrangement, or financial provision, as the case may be, for the proper performance of such duty :

Provided that the State Government shall, unless in its opinion the immediate execution of such order is necessary, before making an order under this section, give such municipal authority, in writing, an opportunity of showing cause, within such period as may be specified by the State Government, why such order should not be made.

Power of State Government to provide for enforcement of order under section 76.

77. (1) If no action has been taken in accordance with the order under section 76 within the period specified therein or if no cause has been shown under the proviso to that section or if the cause shown is not to the satisfaction of the State Government, the State Government may make arrangements for the taking of such action and may direct that all expenses connected therewith shall be defrayed from the Municipal Fund.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), it shall be lawful for the State Government to appoint, for such period as the State Government may think fit, any person considered suitable by it, who shall exercise and perform, subject to such directions as the State Government may issue from time to time, all or any of the powers and functions of the municipal authorities necessary to implement the order under section 76.

Power of State Government to dissolve Municipality.

78. (1) If, in the opinion of the State Government, the Municipality has shown its incompetence, or has persistently made default, in the performance of the duties, or in the exercise of the functions, imposed on it by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, or has exceeded or abused its powers, or is unable to function under the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), by an order published in the *Official Gazette*, and stating the reasons therefor, declare the Municipality to be incompetent or in default or to have exceeded or abused its powers, as the case may be, and dissolve it for such period, not exceeding six months, and with effect from such date, as may be specified in the order.

(2) (a) Before making any order under sub-section (1), a notice shall be given by the State Government to the Municipality calling upon it to submit representation, if any, against the proposed order within such period as may be specified in the notice.

(b) On receipt of such representation, if any, the State Government shall constitute a committee consisting of five persons, nominated by the State Government, of whom -

- (i) one shall be a member of the State Higher Judicial Service who shall be the Chairperson of the committee,
- (ii) one shall be the Chief Councillor of any other Municipality of the same class,
- (iii) one shall be a Chartered Accountant or a person having experience in financial matters,
- (iv) one shall be an Engineer, and
- (v) one shall be an officer of the State Government, not below the rank of a Sub-divisional Officer,

and shall forward the representation to the committee for its consideration and report within such time as the State Government may specify.

(c) The State Government shall, on receipt of the report from the committee, consider the representation :

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no order of dissolution of the Municipality shall be made without giving the Municipality an opportunity of being heard.

Consequences of dissolution.

79. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, with effect from the date of the order of dissolution under sub-section (1) of section 78, -

(a) all the Councillors including the members of the Empowered Standing Committee and of any committee of the Municipality constituted under this Act, and the Chief Councillor and the Deputy Chief Councillor shall vacate their respective offices, and

(b) all the powers and duties which, under the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or any other law for the time being in force, may be exercised or performed by the members of the Empowered Standing Committee or of any committee of the Municipality or the Chief Councillor, shall be exercised or performed, subject to such directions as the State Government may give from time to time, by such person or persons as the State Government may appoint in this behalf :

Provided that when the State Government appoints more than one person to exercise any powers or perform any duties, it may, by order, and in such manner as it thinks fit, allocate such powers and duties among the persons so appointed :

Provided further that the State Government shall fix the remuneration of such person or persons, and may direct that such remuneration shall, in each case, be paid out of the Municipal Fund.

(2) For the avoidance of doubts, it is hereby declared that an order of dissolution under sub-section (1) of section 78 shall not effect or imply in any way the dissolution of the Municipality as a body corporate.

PART III
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES

Chapter IX

Municipal Finance and Municipal Fund

Implementation of recommendations of State Finance Commission.

80. After taking into consideration the recommendations of the State Finance Commission constituted under article 243Y, read with article 243-I, of the Constitution of India, the State Government shall determine –
- (a) the devolution of net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees to the Municipalities,
 - (b) the assignment of taxes, duties, tolls and fees to the Municipalities,
 - (c) the sanction of grants-in-aid to the Municipalities from the Consolidated Fund of the State, and
 - (d) the other measures required to improve the financial position of the Municipalities.

Financial assistance from State Government.

81. (1) The State Government, may, from time to time, give grants or financial assistance to the Municipality with or without direction as to the manner in which such grants or financial assistance shall be applied.
- (2) The State Government may, for giving such grants or assistance, lay down a scheme which may include the conditions of release of such grants or assistance and may provide for the division of Municipalities into different classes for that purpose.

- (3) The State Government may give grants to the Municipality for implementation, in full or in part, of any scheme included in the annual development plan of the Municipality.

Municipal Fund.

82. (1) There shall be a fund to be called the Municipal Fund which shall be held by the Municipality in trust for the purposes of this Act, and all moneys realized or realizable under this Act and all moneys otherwise received by the Municipality shall be credited thereto.

- (2) Subject to such directions as the State Government may issue in this behalf, and keeping in view the classification of municipal areas under section 7, the receipts and expenditures of the Municipality shall be kept under such heads of accounts, including those for water-supply, drainage and sewerage, solid waste management, road development and maintenance, slum services, commercial projects and other account heads as may be specified and the general account head, in such manner, and in such Form, as may be prescribed, so as to facilitate the imposition of user charges and preparation of any subsidy report under this Act.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, “commercial projects” shall include municipal markets, market development projects, property development projects, and such other projects of a commercial nature as may be specified by the Municipality from time to time.

- (3) Every head of account specified under sub-section (1) shall be split up into a revenue account and a capital account and all items of receipts and expenditures shall be kept appropriately under such revenue account or capital account, as the case may be.

Chapter X

Application of Municipal Fund

Application of Municipal Fund.

83. The moneys credited to the Municipal Fund from time to time shall be applied for payment of all sums, charges and costs necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder and for payment of all sums payable out of the Municipal Fund under any other law for the time being in force.

Payments not to be made out of Municipal Fund unless covered by budget grant.

84. No payment of any sum out of the Municipal Fund shall be made unless such expenditure is covered by a current budget grant and a sufficient balance of such budget grant is available, notwithstanding any reduction or transfer thereof under the provisions of this Act :

Provided that this section shall not apply to any payment in the following cases :-

- (a) refund of taxes and other moneys which are authorized by this Act,
- (b) repayment of moneys belonging to contractors or other persons and held in deposit and all moneys collected by the Municipality or credited to the Municipal Fund by mistake,
- (c) temporary payment for works urgently required by the State Government in the public interest,
- (d) expenses incurred by the Municipality on special measures on the outbreak of dangerous diseases, natural or technological hazards or in any other emergent case,

- (e) sums payable as compensation under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder,
- (f) sums payable –
 - (i) under orders of the State Government on failure of the Municipality to take any action required by the State Government under any provision of this Act, or
 - (ii) under any other law for the time being in force, or
 - (iii) under the decree or order of a civil or criminal court against the Municipality, or
 - (iv) under a compromise of any claim, suit or other legal proceeding, or
 - (v) on account of the cost incurred in taking immediate action by any of the municipal authorities to avert a sudden threat or danger to the property of the Municipality or to human life, and
- (g) such other cases as may be determined by regulations.

Procedure when money not covered by budget grant is paid.

85. Whenever any sum is paid in any of the cases referred to in the proviso to section 84, the Chief Municipal Officer shall forthwith communicate the circumstances of such payment to the Empowered Standing Committee, and, thereupon, the Empowered Standing Committee may take, or recommend to the Municipality to take, such action under the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be feasible and expedient for covering the amount of such payment.

Temporary payment from Municipal Fund for works urgently required in public interest.

86. (1) On a requisition, in writing, by the State Government, the Empowered Standing Committee may, at any time, require the Chief Municipal Officer to undertake the execution of any work certified by the State Government to be urgently required in the public interest and, for this purpose, to make payment for such work from the Municipal Fund in so far as such payment may be made without unduly interfering with the regular work of the Municipality.
- (2) The cost of all work so executed, and the proportionate establishment charges for executing such work, shall be paid by the State Government and credited to the Municipal Fund.
- (3) On receipt of a requisition under sub-section (1), the Empowered Standing Committee shall forthwith forward a copy thereof to the Municipality together with a report of the steps taken in pursuance of the said requisition.

Power to incur expenditure beyond the limits of Municipality.

87. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this chapter, the Municipality may, with the approval of the State Government, authorize expenditure to be incurred beyond the limits of the municipal area for creation of physical assets relating to the core functions of the Municipality outside the limits of such municipal area and for maintenance thereof for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Exclusive use of Fund for particular purpose.

88. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this chapter, the State Government may, by order, require the Municipality to earmark a particular portion of the Municipal Fund or a particular grant or a part thereof, or any item of receipt under any head of

account, or any percentage thereof, or any share of tax receivable by the Municipality other than taxes, duties and fines assigned to the Municipality under this Act or any part thereof, to be utilized exclusively for such purpose related to municipal functions as may be specified by the State Government, and it shall be the duty of the Municipality to act accordingly.

- (2) The State Government may, for carrying out the purposes of subsection (1), make rules for different classes of Municipalities.

Operation of accounts.

89. Subject to the other provisions of this Act, payment from the Municipal Fund shall be made in such manner as may be determined by regulations, and the heads of accounts referred to in section 82 shall be operated by such officers of the Municipality as may be authorized by the Municipality by regulations.

Investment of surplus moneys.

90. (1) Surplus moneys standing at the credit of any of the heads of accounts of the Municipal Fund which are not required, either immediately or at any early date, to be applied for the purposes of this Act by the Municipality, may, in accordance with such regulations as may be made by the Municipality in this behalf, be transferred by the Municipality, either in whole or in part, to any other head of account of the Municipal Fund :

Provided that no such money shall be transferred permanently from any of the heads of accounts to any other head of account without the previous approval of the Municipality :

Provided further that such surplus moneys standing at the credit of the Commercial Projects Account of the Municipal Fund

shall not be transferred to the General Account of the Municipal Fund.

- (2) Surplus moneys which are not transferred under sub-section (1) may be invested in public securities or small savings schemes, approved by the State Government, or deposited at interest with such scheduled bank as may be determined by the Empowered Standing Committee.
- (3) Profit or loss, if any, arising from the investment as aforesaid shall be credited or debited, as the case may be, to the account to which such profit or loss relates.

Chapter XI

Budget Estimates

Preparation of budget estimate of Municipality.

91. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall prepare in each year a budget estimate along with an establishment schedule of the Municipality for the ensuing year, and such budget estimate shall be an estimate of the income and expenditure of the Municipality.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of section 10 and sub-section (2) of section 82, the budget estimate shall separately state the income and the expenditure of the Municipality to be received and incurred in terms of the various heads of accounts.
- (3) The budget estimate shall state the rates at which various taxes, surcharges, cesses and fees shall be levied by the Municipality in the year next following.
- (4) The budget estimate shall state the amount of money to be raised as loan during the year next following.

- (5) The Chief Councillor shall present the budget estimate to the Municipality on the 15th day of February in each year or as soon thereafter as possible.
- (6) The budget estimate shall be prepared, presented and adopted in such Form and in such manner, and shall provide for such matters, as may be prescribed.
- (7) The annual statements prepared under sub-section (2) of section 114 and sub-section (1) of section 126 together with the reports prepared under sub-section (1) of section 92 and under sub-section (2) of section 334 shall be enclosed with the budget estimate.

Report on services provided at subsidized rate.

92. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, while preparing the budget estimate, append thereto a report indicating whether the following services are being provided at a subsidized rate and, if so, the extent of the subsidy, the reasons therefor, the source from which the subsidy is being met, and the sections or categories of the local population who are the beneficiaries of such subsidy, namely :-
 - (a) water-supply and disposal of sewage, and
 - (b) scavenging, transporting and disposal of solid wastes.

Explanation. – A service shall be construed as being provided at a subsidized rate if its total cost, comprising the expenditure on operation and maintenance and adequate provision for depreciation of assets and for debt servicing, exceeds the income relatable to the rendering of that service.

- (2) The Empowered Standing Committee shall examine the report referred to in sub-section (1) and place the same before the Municipality with its recommendations, if any.

Sanction of budget estimate of Municipality.

93. (1) The Municipality shall consider the budget estimate and the recommendations, if any, of the Empowered Standing Committee thereon, and shall, by the fifteenth day of March in each year, adopt the budget estimate for the ensuing year with such changes as it may consider necessary, and submit the budget estimate so adopted to -

(a) the State Government, in the case of a Municipal Corporation,

(b) the Director of Local Bodies, in the case of a Class 'A' Municipal Council, and

(c) the Regional Deputy Director of Local Bodies, in the case of a Class 'B' Municipal Council, a Class 'C' Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat.

(2) The budget estimate received by the State Government or the Director of Local Bodies or the Regional Deputy Director of Local Bodies, as the case may be, under sub-section (1) shall be returned to the Municipality before the thirty-first day of March of that year with or without modifications of the provisions relating to subventions by the State Government.

Power to alter budget grant.

94. A Municipality may, from time to time, during a year -

(a) increase the amount of any budget grant under any head,

(b) make an additional budget grant for the purpose of meeting any special or unforeseen requirement arising during the said year,

(c) transfer the amount of any budget grant or portion thereof under one head to the amount of budget grant under any other head, or

(d) reduce the amount of the budget grant under any head :

Provided that nothing shall be done under clause (a) or clause (b) or clause (c) or clause (d) without the recommendation of the Empowered Standing Committee.

Chapter XII

Accounts and Audit

Maintenance of accounts

95. The Chief Municipal Officer shall prepare and maintain accounts of receipts and expenditures of the Municipality in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

Preparation of Municipal Accounting Manual.

96. The State Government shall prepare and maintain a Manual to be called the Municipal Accounting Manual containing details of all financial matters and procedures relating thereto in respect of the Municipality.

Financial statement.

97. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, within four months of the close of a year, cause to be prepared a financial statement containing an income and expenditure account and a receipts and payments account for the preceding year in respect of the accounts of the Municipality.

- (2) The Form of the financial statement, and the manner in which the financial statement shall be prepared, shall be such as may be prescribed.

Balance sheet.

98. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, within four months of the close of a year, cause to be prepared a balance sheet of the assets and the liabilities of the Municipality for the preceding year.
- (2) The Form of the balance sheet, and the manner in which the balance sheet shall be prepared, shall be such as may be prescribed.

Submission of financial statement and balance sheet to Auditor.

99. The financial statement prepared under section 97 and the balance sheet of the assets and the liabilities prepared under section 98 shall be placed by the Chief Municipal Officer before the Empowered Standing Committee which, after examination of the same, shall adopt and remit them to the Auditor as may be appointed in this behalf by the State Government.

Power of Auditor.

100. (1) The municipal accounts as contained in the financial statement, including the accounts of special funds, if any, and the balance sheet shall be examined and audited by an Auditor appointed by the State Government from the panel of professional chartered accountants prepared in that behalf by the State Government.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall submit such further accounts to the Auditor as may be required by him.
- (3) The Auditor so appointed may -

- (a) require, by a notice, in writing, the production before him, or before any officer subordinate to him, of any document which he considers necessary for the proper conduct of the audit,
 - (b) require, by a notice, in writing, any person accountable for, or having the custody or control of, any document, cash or article, to appear in person before him or before any officer subordinate to him,
 - (c) require any person so appearing before him, or before any officer subordinate to him, to make or sign a declaration with respect to such document, cash or article or to answer any question or prepare and submit any statement, and
 - (d) cause physical verification of any stock of articles in course of examination of accounts.
- (4) The Auditor, or the officer subordinate to him, may report any item of accounts contrary to the provisions of this Act to the Empowered Standing Committee.
- (5) The Empowered Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Auditor as early as possible and shall, if necessary, take prompt action thereon, and shall also, if necessary, surcharge the amount of any illegal payment on the person making or authorizing it, and charge against any person responsible therefor the amount of any deficiency or loss incurred by the negligence or misconduct of such person or any amount which ought to have been, but is not, brought into account by such person, and shall, in every such case, certify the amount due from such person :

Provided that any person aggrieved by an order of payment of certified sums may appeal to the State Government whose decision on such appeal shall be final.

- (6) Any person who wilfully neglects, or refuses to comply with, the requisition made by an Auditor, or the officer subordinate to him, shall, on conviction by a court, be punishable with fine which may extend to* rupees in respect of each item included in the requisition.

Audit report.

101. (1) As soon as practicable after the completion of audit of the accounts of the Municipality, but not later than the thirtieth day of September each year, the Auditor shall prepare a report of the accounts audited and examined and shall send such report to the Chief Municipal Officer.
- (2) The Auditor shall include in such report a statement showing -
 - (a) every payment which appears to the Auditor to be contrary to law,
 - (b) the account of any deficiency or loss, which appears to have been caused by gross negligence or misconduct of any person,
 - (c) the account of any sum received which ought to have been, but has not been, brought into account by any person, and
 - (d) any other material impropriety or irregularity in the accounts.

* Each State Government may specify an amount in this regard.

Placing of audited accounts before Municipality.

102. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall place the audited financial statement, the balance sheet and the report of the Auditor and his comments thereon before the Empowered Standing Committee which, after the examination thereof, shall place them before the Municipality with its comments, if any.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall remedy any defect that has been pointed out by the Auditor in his report.

Submission of audited accounts.

103. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, after adoption of the financial statement and the balance sheet and the report of the Auditor by the Municipality, forward the same to the State Government together with a report of the action taken thereon by the Municipality and shall also send copies thereof to the Auditor.
- (2) If there is any difference of opinion between the Auditor and the Municipality or if the Municipality does not remedy the defects or the irregularities mentioned in the report of the Auditor within a reasonable period, the Auditor shall refer the matter to the State Government whose decision thereon shall be final and binding.

Power of State Government to enforce order upon audit report.

104. If any order made by the State Government under this chapter is not complied with, it shall be lawful for the State Government to take such steps as it thinks fit to secure the compliance of the order and to direct that all expenses therefor shall be defrayed from the Municipal Fund.

Special audit.

105. In addition to the audit of annual accounts, the State Government or the Municipality may, if it thinks fit, appoint an Auditor to conduct special audit pertaining to a specified item or series of items requiring thorough examination, and the procedure relating to audit shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such special audit.

Internal audit.

106. The State Government or the Municipality may provide for internal audit of the day to day accounts of the Municipality in the manner prescribed.

Municipal Accounts Committee.

107. (1) The Municipality shall, at its first meeting in each year or as soon as may be at any meeting subsequent thereto, constitute a Municipal Accounts Committee.
- (2) The Municipal Accounts Committee shall consist of -
 - (a) such number of members, not being less than* and not more than*, as the Municipality may determine, to be elected by the Councillors, not being the members of the Empowered Standing Committee, from amongst themselves, and
 - (b) such number of persons, not being Councillors, or officers or other employees of the Municipality and not exceeding two in number, having knowledge and experience in financial matters, as may be nominated by the Municipality.
- (3) The members of the Municipal Accounts Committee shall elect from amongst themselves one member to be its Chairperson.
- (4) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the members of the Municipal Accounts Committee shall hold office until a new Municipal Accounts Committee is constituted.
- (5) The manner of submission of resignation by the Chairperson or any other member, and the manner of filling up of a casual vacancy in the office of a member, of the Municipal Accounts Committee shall be such as may be prescribed.

* Each State Government may specify the numbers of members having regard to the number of Councillors.

- (6) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder, it shall be the duty of the Municipal Accounts Committee -
- (a) to examine the accounts of the Municipality showing the appropriation of sums granted by the Municipality for its expenditure and the annual financial accounts of the Municipality,
 - (b) to examine and scrutinize the report on the accounts of the Municipality by the Auditor appointed under section 99 and to satisfy itself that the moneys shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were available for, and applicable to, the services or purposes to which they were applied or charged and that the expenditure was incurred in accordance with the authority governing such expenditure,
 - (c) to submit report to the Municipality every year and from time to time on such examination and scrutiny,
 - (d) to consider the report of the Auditor appointed under section 105 in cases where the State Government or the Municipality requires him to conduct a special audit of any receipt or expenditure of the Municipality or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks of the Municipality or to check the inventory of the properties of the Municipality including its land holdings and buildings, and
 - (e) to discharge such other functions as may be prescribed.
- (7) The Municipal Accounts Committee may call for any book or document if, in its opinion, such book or document is necessary for its work and may send for such officers of the Municipality as it may consider necessary for explaining any matter in connection with its work.

- (8) The manner of transaction of business of the Municipal Accounts Committee shall be such as may be determined by regulations :

Provided that the persons nominated under clause (b) of subsection (2) shall not have the right to vote at the meeting of the Municipal Accounts Committee.

Chapter XIII

Municipal Property

Power to acquire and hold property.

108. The Municipality shall, for the purposes of this Act, have power to acquire, by gift, purchase or otherwise, and hold, movable and immovable properties or any interest therein, whether within or outside the limits of the municipal area.

Vesting of property.

109. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the movable and the immovable properties of the following categories within the limits of a municipal area, not belonging to any Government department or statutory body or corporation, shall vest in the Municipality, unless the State Government directs otherwise by notification, namely :-

- (a) all vested public lands not belonging to any Government department or statutory body or corporation,
- (b) all public tanks, streams, reservoirs, and wells,
- (c) all public markets and slaughterhouses,
- (d) all public sewers and drains, channels, tunnels, culverts and watercourses in, alongside, or under, any street,
- (e) all public streets and pavements, and stones and other materials thereon, and also trees on such public streets or pavements not belonging to any private individual,

- (f) all public parks and gardens, including squares and public open spaces,
- (g) all public *ghats* on rivers or streams or tanks,
- (h) all public lamps, lamp-posts and apparatus connected therewith, or appurtenant thereto,
- (i) all public places for disposal of the dead, excluding those governed by any specific law in this behalf,
- (j) all solid wastes collected on a public street or public place, including dead animals and birds, and
- (k) all stray animals not belonging to any private person.

Acquisition of property by Municipality by agreement, exchange, lease, grant, etc.

110. (1) The Municipality may, on such terms and conditions as may be approved by it, acquire by agreement -
 - (a) any immovable property, and
 - (b) any easement affecting immovable property.
- (2) The Municipality may also acquire any property by exchange on such terms and conditions as may be approved by it.
- (3) The Municipality may also hire or take on lease immovable property on such terms and conditions as may be approved by it from time to time.
- (4) The Municipality may receive any grant or dedication by donor, whether in the form of any income or any movable or immovable property, by which the Municipality may be benefited in the discharge of any of its functions.

- (5) It shall be lawful for the Municipality to be the beneficiary of any trust created under the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

(14 of 1920.)
(2 of 1882.)

Compulsory acquisition of land.

111. (1) When any land, whether within or outside the limits of the municipal area, or any easement affecting any immovable property vested in the Municipality, is required for any public purpose under this Act, the State Government may, at the request of the Municipality, proceed to acquire such land or easement under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

(1 of 1894.)

- (2) The Municipality shall be bound to pay to the State Government the cost including all charges in connection with the acquisition of the land under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.
- (3) The Municipality may resort to other methods of land assembly including the use of transferable development rights.

Special provisions for acquisition of lands adjoining streets.

112. Whenever the Municipality makes a request to the State Government for acquisition of land for the purpose of widening or improving an existing street, it shall be lawful for the Municipality to apply to the State Government for the acquisition of such additional land immediately adjoining the land to be occupied by such new street or existing street as is required for the sites of buildings to be erected on either side of the street, and such additional land shall be deemed to be required for the purposes of this Act.

Disposal of property.

113. Any property belonging to the Municipality may be disposed of in the manner hereinafter provided, namely :-

- (a) the Empowered Standing Committee may sell, or grant lease of, or otherwise dispose of, by public auction, any movable property, and may grant lease of, or let out on hire, any immovable property, belonging to the Municipality,
- (b) the Municipality may, with the prior approval of the State Government, for valuable consideration, sell or otherwise transfer, any immovable property belonging to the Municipality which is not required for carrying out the purposes of this Act, and
- (c) the Municipality shall not transfer any immovable property vested in it by virtue of this Act, but shall cause the same to be maintained, controlled and regulated in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder :

Provided that the State Government may authorize, in the public interest, the disposal of such immovable property by the Municipality, if the Municipality so requires, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

Explanation. – “valuable consideration” shall, in relation to any immovable property, mean anything of considerable value in terms of money or property given in lieu of transfer, by way of sale or otherwise, of such immovable property.

Inventory of properties of Municipality.

114. (1) The Empowered Standing Committee shall maintain a register and a map of all the immovable properties of which the Municipality is the owner or which vest in it, or which the Municipality holds in trust for the Government, and a register of all movable properties belonging to the Municipality.

- (2) The Empowered Standing Committee shall, in the case of the inventory of an immovable property, prepare an annual statement indicating the changes, if any, in the said inventory and shall place the same before the Municipality along with the budget estimate.

Chapter XIV

Borrowings

Comprehensive debt limitation policy.

115. The State Government shall frame a comprehensive debt limitation policy applicable in the case of loans, including short-term loans, to be raised by the Municipalities, laying down, *inter alia*, the general principles governing the raising of loans by the Municipalities, the limit of the loans which any Municipality may raise having regard to its financial capacity, the rate of interest to be paid for such loans, and the terms and conditions, including the period of repayment thereof.

Power of Municipality to raise loan.

116. (1) The Municipality may, from time to time, raise, by a resolution in this behalf passed at a meeting of the Municipality, a loan within the limits set by the comprehensive debt limitation policy framed under section 115, by the issue of debentures or otherwise, on the security of the property tax or of all or any of the other taxes, surcharges, cesses and fees and dues under this Act or of both the property tax and all or any of the other taxes, surcharges, cesses and fees and dues under this Act, or on the guarantee by the State Government, of any sum of money which may be required for the purpose of -
 - (a) construction of works under this Act, or
 - (b) acquisition of lands and buildings for the purposes of this Act, or
 - (c) paying off any debt due to the State Government, or

- (d) repayment of a loan raised under this Act, or
- (e) acquisition of a public utility concern which renders such services as the Municipality is authorized to render under this Act, or
- (f) purchase of vehicles, locomotive engines, boilers and machinery necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act, or
- (g) any other purpose for which the Municipality is, by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, authorized to borrow :

Provided that any loan proposed to be raised which goes beyond the limits set by the comprehensive debt limitation policy as aforesaid shall require the previous sanction of the State Government in regard to its purpose, the quantum, the rate of interest and the period for repayment, and the other terms and conditions, if any :

Provided further that in addition to the loans as aforesaid, the Municipality may also take loan from the State Government or any statutory body or public sector corporation.

- (2) When any loan has been raised under sub-section (1), -
 - (a) no portion thereof shall, without the previous sanction of the State Government, be applied to any purpose other than that for which it has been raised, and
 - (b) no portion of any loan raised for any of the purposes referred to in that sub-section shall be applied to the payment of salaries or allowances to any officer or other employee of the Municipality, other than those who are exclusively employed for the purpose for which the loan has been raised.

Explanation. – The expression “dues under this Act” in sub-section (1) shall, for the purposes of clause (e) of that sub-section, be deemed to include the income derivable from the public utility concern referred to in that clause.

Power of Municipality to open credit account with bank.

117. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 116, the Municipality may, where the raising of a loan is sanctioned by the State Government under that section, instead of raising such loan or any part thereof, take credit, on such terms as may be approved by the State Government, from any scheduled bank, to be kept in a cash account bearing the name of the Municipality to the extent of such loan or any part thereof and, with the sanction of the State Government, may grant mortgage of all or any of the properties vested in the Municipality by way of securing the repayment of the amount of such credit or of the sums advanced from time to time on such cash account with interest.

Power of Municipality to raise short-term loan.

118. Notwithstanding anything contained in this chapter, the Municipality may, within the limits set by the comprehensive debt limitation policy framed under section 115, from time to time, take a short-term loan repayable within such period, not exceeding twelve months, from any other scheduled bank, for such purpose, not being a purpose referred to in sub-section (1) of section 116, on such terms, and on furnishing such security for the repayment of such loan, as may be approved by the State Government.

Establishment of Sinking Fund.

119. The Municipality shall establish a Sinking Fund in respect of each loan raised under section 116 for the repayment of moneys borrowed, or debentures issued, and shall, every year, pay into such Sinking Fund such sum as shall be sufficient for the repayment, within the period fixed for the loan, of the moneys borrowed or the debentures issued.

Application of Sinking Fund.

120. A Sinking Fund or any part thereof shall be applied to the discharge of the loan or a part of the loan for which such Fund was created and, until such loan or part thereof is wholly discharged, such Fund shall not be applied to any other purpose.

Power to discontinue payment towards Sinking Fund.

121. If, at any time, the sum standing at the credit of a Sinking Fund established under section 119 for the repayment of any loan is of such amount that if allowed to accumulate at the rate of interest sanctioned under the first proviso to sub-section (1) of section 116, it will be sufficient to pay off the loan within the period approved by the State Government under the said proviso, further payments towards such fund may be discontinued.

Investment of amount at the credit of Sinking Fund.

122. (1) All moneys paid into a Sinking Fund shall, as soon as possible, be invested by the Empowered Standing Committee in -
- (a) Government securities, or
 - (b) securities guaranteed by the Central Government or any State Government, or
 - (c) debentures issued by the Municipality, or
 - (d) such other public securities as may be approved by the State Government,

and shall be held by the Municipality for the purpose of repaying, from time to time, the loans raised by it by the issue of debentures or otherwise.

- (2) All dividends and other sums received in respect of any investment under sub-section (1) shall, as soon as possible after their receipt, be paid into the Sinking Fund and shall be invested in the manner laid down in that sub-section.
- (3) Moneys standing at the credit of two or more Sinking Funds may, at the discretion of the Empowered Standing Committee, be invested together as a common fund, and it shall not be necessary for the Empowered Standing Committee to allocate the securities held in such investments to the several Sinking Funds.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1), any investment made under this section may, from time to time, be varied or transposed.

Power of Municipality to reserve a portion of debentures, issued for raising loan, for investment.

123. (1) For the purpose of investment of any portion of the Municipal Fund, including Sinking Fund, in the debentures issued by the Municipality for raising a loan, the Municipality may, within the limits set by the comprehensive debt limitation policy framed under section 115, reserve and set apart any portion of such debentures for issue at par thereto in the name of the Municipality, provided that the intention so to reserve and set apart such debentures shall have been notified as a condition of raising the loan.
- (2) The issue of any debentures by the Municipality under sub-section (1) shall not operate to extinguish or cancel such debentures, but every such debenture shall be valid in all respects as if it were issued to, and in the name of, any other person.
- (3) The purchase by, or the transfer, assignment or endorsement to, the Municipality of any debenture issued by it shall not operate to extinguish or cancel such debenture and every such debenture shall be valid and negotiable in the same manner and to the same extent as if it were held by, or transferred, assigned or endorsed to, any other person.

Manner of repayment of loans.

124. Every loan raised by the Municipality under section 116 shall be repaid within the time approved under that section and such repayment shall be made either from a Sinking Fund established under section 119 in respect of such loan or partly from such Sinking Fund and, to the extent to which such Sinking Fund falls short of the sum required for the repayment of such loan, partly from the loan raised for the purpose under section 116, as may be approved by the State Government.

Form and effect of debentures.

125. All debentures issued under this chapter shall be in such Form, and shall be transferable in such manner, as the Municipality may, by regulations, determine, and the right to sue in respect of the moneys secured by any of such debentures shall vest in the holders thereof for the time being without any preference by reason of some such debentures being prior in date to others.

Annual statement.

126. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, at the end of every year, prepare, and submit to the Municipality, an annual statement showing -

- (a) the amount which has been paid into the Sinking Fund or Sinking Funds during the year under section 119,
- (b) the date of the last investment made during the year,
- (c) the aggregate amount of the securities in the hand of the Municipality at the end of the year, and
- (d) the aggregate amount which has been applied for the purpose of repayment of the loan under section 122.

- (2) A copy of every such annual statement shall be submitted to the State Government by the Chief Municipal Officer.

Annual examination of Sinking Funds.

127. (1) All Sinking Funds established under this Act shall be subject to annual examination by the Auditor appointed under section 99 who shall ascertain whether the cash and the value of securities belonging to such Sinking Funds are equal to the amount which should be at the credit of such Sinking Funds, had the investment under section 122 been regularly made and had the interest accruing from such investments been regularly obtained.
- (2) The amount which should be at the credit of a Sinking Fund shall be calculated on the basis of the sums paid into such Sinking Fund under section 119.
- (3) The value of securities belonging to a Sinking Fund shall be the current value of such securities, unless such securities become due for redemption at par with, or above, their face value before maturity in which case their current value shall be taken as their redemption value, except in the case of the debentures issued by the Municipality which shall always be valued at par with their face value, provided the Municipality shall make good immediately any loss owing to the sale of such debentures for repayment of the loan raised under sub-section (1) of section 116.
- (4) The Municipality shall forthwith pay into a Sinking Fund such amount as the Auditor appointed under section 99 may certify to be deficit in respect of such Sinking Fund, unless the State Government specially sanctions a gradual readjustment of such deficit.
- (5) If the cash and the value of the securities at the credit of a Sinking Fund are in excess of the amount which should be at the credit of such Sinking Fund, the Auditor appointed under section

99 shall certify the amount of such excess sum, and the Municipality shall, thereupon, transfer the excess sum to the Municipal Fund in the General Account.

- (6) If any dispute arises as to the accuracy of any deficit or excess referred to in the certificate under sub-section (4) or sub-section (5), the Municipality may, after payment of such deficit or after transfer of such excess, as the case may be, refer the matter to the State Government whose decision thereon shall be final.

Power of Municipality to borrow money from State Government and attachment of Municipal Fund for recovery of such money.

128. (1) The Municipality may borrow money from the State Government for carrying out the purposes of this Act on such terms and conditions as the State Government may determine.
- (2) If any money borrowed by the Municipality from the State Government before the commencement of this Act or under sub-section (1) is not repaid, or any interest due in respect thereof is not paid, according to the terms and conditions of such borrowing, the State Government may attach the Municipal Fund or any portion thereof.
- (3) After such attachment, an officer as may be appointed in this behalf by the State Government shall deal with the Municipal Fund, or any portion thereof, so attached, in such manner as he thinks fit and may do all acts in respect thereof which any municipal authority or an officer or other employee of the Municipality might have done under this Act, if such attachment had not taken place, and may apply such Municipal Fund or the portion thereof, as the case may be, for payment of the arrear of the principal amount and the interest due in respect of such borrowing and of all expenses incurred on account of the attachment and subsequent proceedings :

Provided that no such attachment shall defeat or prejudice any debt for the recovery of which the Municipal Fund was previously charged under any law for the time being in force, and all such prior debt shall be paid out of the Municipal Fund before any part thereof is applied for repayment of the money borrowed from the State Government.

Issue of Municipal Bonds for development of urban infrastructure.

129. Subject to such guidelines and procedure as the Central Government may lay down from time to time and with the previous approval of the State Government, the Municipality may issue tax-free Municipal Bonds for financing of projects for development of urban infrastructure.

Credit rating of Municipal Bonds.

130. (1) A Municipality shall, if and when required for the purpose of raising funds through a Municipal Bond, arrange to have a credit rating of the Municipal Bonds by a Credit Rating Agency, duly approved by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, in this regard.
- (2) The Municipality shall provide to the Credit Rating Agency such information as it may require.

Pledging of municipal assets as security for Municipal Bonds.

131. The Municipality may pledge its movable and immovable assets including lands, buildings and revenues from tax in special escrow accounts as security for the Municipal Bonds issued for development of urban infrastructure.

Debt Service Reserve Fund.

132. The Municipality may set up a Debt Service Reserve Fund by providing special grants from its surplus revenue or through capitalization of proceeds from Municipal Bonds to service bondholders in case of default in payment of principal and interest for a period not exceeding two years.

Limit to encumbrances through future debt.

133. If and when required, the Municipality may, for the purpose of issuing Municipal Bonds, limit its future debt encumbrances by adoption of suitable debt service coverage ratio as a minimum ratio in relation to its future cash flow projections.

Use of proceeds from Municipal Bonds.

134. The fund to be raised from the Municipal Bonds shall be used for capital investment for development of urban infrastructure in the spheres of water-supply, sewerage, drainage, solid waste management, markets, roads, bridges, and urban transport, and for reforming and improving the efficiency of existing systems of municipal administration and for repayment of loans for the aforesaid purposes raised through earlier issues of municipal bonds or otherwise.

PART IV
MUNICIPAL REVENUE
Chapter XV
Sources of Internal Revenues

Internal revenues of Municipality.

135. The internal revenues of the Municipality shall consist of its receipts from the following sources :-

- (a) taxes levied by the Municipality,
- (b) user charges levied for provision of civic services, and
- (c) fees and fines levied for performance of regulatory and other statutory functions.

Power to levy taxes.

136. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality shall have, for the purposes of this Act, the power to levy the following taxes :-

- (a) property tax on lands and buildings,
- (b) surcharge on transfer of lands and buildings,
- (c) tax on deficit in parking spaces in any non-residential building,
- (d) water tax,
- (e) fire tax,
- (f) tax on advertisements, other than advertisements published in newspapers,

- (g) surcharge on entertainment tax,
- (h) surcharge on electricity consumption within the municipal area,
- (i) tax on congregations,
- (j) tax on pilgrims and tourists,
- (k) octroi, and
- (l) toll -
 - (i) on roads, bridges and ferries, and
 - (ii) on heavy trucks which shall be heavy goods vehicles, and buses, which shall be heavy passenger motor vehicles, within the meaning of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, plying on a public street.

(59 of 1988.)

- (2) Subject to the prior approval of the State Government, the Municipality may, for raising revenue for discharging its duties, and performing its functions, under this Act, levy any other tax which the State Legislature has the power to levy under the Constitution of India.
- (3) The levy, assessment and collection of taxes mentioned in sub-section (1) shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder.

Power to levy user charges.

137. The Municipality shall levy user charges for -

- (i) provision of water-supply, drainage and sewerage,
- (ii) solid waste management,
- (iii) parking of different types of vehicles in different areas and for different periods,
- (iv) stacking of materials or rubbish on public streets for construction, alteration, repair or demolition work of any type, and
- (v) other specific services rendered in pursuance of the provisions of this Act,

at such rates as may be determined from time to time by regulations :

Provided that a Municipality may, having regard to the conditions obtaining in the municipal area, decide not to levy, or postpone the levying of, any of the user charges as aforesaid :

Provided further that the State Government may direct the Municipality to levy any of the user charges as aforesaid, not levied, or postponed, by the Municipality.

Power to levy fees and fines.

138. The Municipality shall have the power to levy fees and fines in exercise of the regulatory powers vested in it by or under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder for -

- (a) sanction of building plans and issue of completion certificates,
- (b) issue of municipal licenses for various non-residential uses of lands and buildings,

(c) licensing of -

- (i) various categories of professionals such as plumbers and surveyors,
- (ii) various activities such as sinking of tube-wells, sale of meat, fish or poultry, or hawking of articles,
- (iii) sites used for advertisements or premises used for private markets, slaughterhouses, hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, factories, warehouses, godowns, goods transport depots, eating-houses, lodging-houses, hotels, theatres, cinema-houses and places of public amusement and for other non-residential uses,
- (iv) animals,
- (v) carts or carriages, and
- (vi) such other activities as require a licence or permission under the provisions of this Act, and

(d) issue of birth and death certificates.

Levy of surcharge on tax or fee.

139. The Municipality may levy a surcharge on a tax, or user charge, or fee on a premises used for non-residential purposes at such rate, being not less than twenty five *per cent* and not more than seventy five *per cent*, of such tax, user charge or, fee, as the case may be, as may be determined by regulations.

Power to levy development charge.

140. The Municipality may levy such development charge as may be determined by regulations, from time to time, on any residential building with a height of more than fourteen metres, or any non-residential building, having regard to its location along a particular category of street, its use characteristics, and sanctioned built up area.

Realisation of tax, fees, cess, etc. under any other law.

141. The Municipality may, if so authorized by any other law for the time being in force, realise any tax, development charge, cess, or fee, imposed under that law, or any dues payable under that law, in accordance with the provisions thereof.

Chapter XVI

Tax on Lands and Buildings and Related Taxes

A. Property tax on lands and buildings, surcharges and rebates

Property tax on lands and buildings.

142. (1) For the purposes of this Act, a property tax determined under this chapter on the annual value of any land or building in the municipal area, including any land or building belonging to the State Government, or the Municipality, or any undertaking or public sector corporation under the control of the State Government or the Municipality, but excluding any land or building specifically exempted under this Act, shall be levied by the Municipality.
- (2) The rate of such property tax shall be, -

- (a) where the annual value does not exceed five thousand* rupees, eleven *per cent* of the annual value,

* The figures in clause (a), clause (b) and clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 142 have relevance and meaning only with reference to area linked system of valuation as proposed in section 149 of this Specimen Municipal Law. Each State Government would have to arrive at these figures based on the minimum and maximum rates of property tax as desired by it.

- (b) where the annual value exceeds five thousand rupees* but does not exceed one lakh rupees*, such percentage of the annual value as is worked out by dividing the annual value by five thousand* and adding ten to the quotient, the sum thus worked out being rounded off to the nearest first place of decimal :

Provided that the figure five occurring in any place of decimal shall be rounded off to the next higher place of decimal, and

- (c) where the annual value exceeds one lakh rupees*, thirty *per cent* of the annual value.
- (3) The amount of property tax determined under this chapter shall be linked to the consumer price index of urban non-manual workers for a year in which a general valuation of all lands and buildings within the municipal area has been made, and it shall be lawful to realise the amount of such tax so determined on a yearly basis according to the changes in the aforesaid index till the next general valuation of such lands and buildings.
- (4) In calculating the amount of property tax and the amount payable per quarter after allowing rebate for timely payment, the fraction of a rupee shall be rounded off to the nearest rupee, fifty paise being treated as one rupee.

* The figures in clause (a), clause (b) and clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 142 have relevance and meaning only with reference to area linked system of valuation as proposed in section 149 of this Specimen Municipal Law. Each State Government would have to arrive at these figures based on the minimum and maximum rates of property tax as desired by it.

Property tax on Central Government properties.

143. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, any land or building which is the property of the Central Government shall, save in so far as Parliament by law otherwise provides, be exempt from the property tax :

Provided that nothing in this section shall, until Parliament by law otherwise provides, prevent the Municipality from levying any tax on any property of the Central Government to which such property was immediately before the commencement of the Constitution of India liable or treated as liable, so long as the property tax continues to be levied by the Municipality.

Explanation. - A property of the Central Government shall not include any property vested in, or belonging to, any statutory body or public sector corporation under the control of the Central Government.

Rate of property tax on any land, hut or building in a slum.

144. The rate of property tax shall not exceed, in respect of any land, hut or building in a slum, two-thirds of the rate of tax on land, hut or building not located in a slum as provided in this chapter.

Surcharge.

145. (1) The Municipality may, where any land or building or hut or portion thereof is used for any non-residential purpose, levy a surcharge on the property tax on such land or building or hut or portion thereof at such rate, not exceeding seventy-five *per cent* of the rate of property tax, as the Municipality may, from time to time, determine :

Provided that where any portion of any land or building or hut is used for any non-residential purpose, the amount of the property tax payable in respect of such portion of land or building

or hut shall, while fixing the property tax for the entire land or building or hut, be separately calculated :

Provided further* that the Municipality may, subject to such rules as may be made in this behalf for the grant of exemption from surcharge in respect of any class or classes of lands or buildings or huts used for educational, public health, medical, cultural or sports purposes, exempt any such land or building or hut from payment of the surcharge :

Provided also* that such exemption shall in no case exceed fifty per cent of the surcharge.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that for the purposes of sub-section (1), “educational, public health, medical, cultural or sports purposes” shall mean -

- (a) the purposes of education intended to be imparted by a Government school or Government-aided school or municipal school or any other educational institution affiliated to any university or the All-India Council for Technical Education, and
- (b) the purposes of public health, medical treatment, cultural functions or sports, ensured or organized by a Government institution or Government-aided institution or the Municipality or an institution aided by the Municipality or any other public institution, not being a Government institution.

* These provisos are of an illustrative nature. Each State Government may take a view in these matters having regard to the politico-socio-economic environment of the State.

Additional surcharge.

146. The Municipality may levy an additional surcharge at a rate, not exceeding twenty-five per cent of the rate of property tax, on such land or building or hut or portion thereof as is rented out :

Provided that in the case of any building which is partly occupied and partly rented out, the additional surcharge shall be levied only on the annual value of the rented portion.

Exemption of lands and buildings from property tax.

147. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this chapter, -

- (i) any land or building or portion thereof exclusively used for the purpose of public worship, or
- (ii) any land or building exclusively used for the purpose of public burial or as cremation ground, or any other place used for the disposal of the dead duly registered under this Act, or
- (iii) any open space including a parade ground which is the property of the Central Government or the State Government,

may be exempted by the Municipality from the property tax.

Explanation. – For the purposes of clause (i), any land or building used for public worship shall not be deemed to be exclusively used for such worship, if, on such land or in such building, any trade or business is carried on, or any rent or income is derived in respect of such land or building.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall cause to be maintained a register showing separately the lands and buildings exempted from the property tax under sub-section (1) in such Form as may be determined by regulations, and such register shall be open to the public for inspection.

Exemption of diplomatic or consular mission of a foreign State from payment of any rate, tax or fee.

148. The State Government may, by order, exempt from the payment of any rate, tax or fee payable under the provisions of this Act, any diplomatic or consular mission of a foreign State and the diplomatic or consular officers of such mission.

***B. Classification* of lands and buildings and
determination of annual values***

Classification of lands and buildings and fixation of annual values.

149. (1) The Municipality shall, on the recommendation of the Municipal Valuation Committee constituted under section 159, and having regard to -

- (a) the location of lands and buildings in the municipal area,
and

- (b) the structural characteristics of buildings,

declare its intention to classify lands and buildings in each ward of the Municipality into such groups as the Municipality may specify by a public notice, and shall also specify in such public notice the annual value it proposes to fix per unit area of vacant land and per unit area of covered space of buildings within each such group.

* Alternative models along with corresponding legislative schemes are indicated in the Policy Options Paper. If any State Government prefers another model, the corresponding legislative scheme may be inserted in the draft legislation in place of the provisions made here.

- (2) If any owner or occupier of any land or building in any ward in respect of which a public notice has been issued under sub-section (1), has any objection to the manner of classification of any group or groups or the value per unit area of vacant land or the value per unit area of covered space of building in any group, he may submit to an officer of the Municipality, duly authorized by the Municipality in this behalf, his objection in such Form, and containing such particulars, as may be prescribed, within sixty days from the date of publication of such public notice, and such objection shall be considered by the Municipal Valuation Committee.
- (3) On the expiry of sixty days from the date of publication of the public notice under sub-section (1), and after considering the objections, if any, in accordance with the provisions of section 150, the Municipality shall, by a public notice, specify groupwise the value per unit area of vacant land and the value per unit area of covered space of building.

Procedure for hearing objection to classification of lands and buildings.

150. (1) Any objection under sub-section (2) of section 149 shall be entered in a register to be maintained for the purpose in such Form and manner, and containing such particulars, as may be prescribed.
- (2) Every such objection shall be determined by the Municipal Valuation Committee after giving the person submitting the objection an opportunity of being heard.
- (3) The procedure for hearing and disposal of objections shall be such as may be specified by regulations.

- (4) When an objection has been determined under sub-section (2), any order in this behalf shall be recorded in the register maintained under sub-section (1) with date, and a copy of the order shall be supplied to the person submitting the objection within ten days from the date of the order.
- (5) Any person aggrieved by an order under sub-section (4) may prefer an appeal before the Municipal Assessment Tribunal constituted under section 162, and the decision of the Municipal Assessment Tribunal on such appeal shall be final.

Validity of unit area values and periodic revision thereof.

151. The unit area value of vacant land and the unit area value of covered space of building, determined under section 149, in respect of a group in any ward shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be revised at the expiration of each such period of five years :

Provided that till the revision of such unit area values is completed, the existing unit area values shall continue to be in force.

Locational characteristics.

152. (1) The location of any land or building in the municipal area, referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 149, shall be determined with reference to -
 - (a) the ward in which the land or the building is situated, and
 - (b) the category of public street as classified in section 376 on which such land or building is situated.
- (2) In the case of any private street or pedestrian pathway, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, having regard to the nature and width of the private street or pedestrian pathway on which any land or building is situated, and with the previous sanction of the Empowered Standing Committee, determine the category of such private street or pedestrian pathway under sub-section (1) of section 376.

Structural characteristics.

153. (1) For the purposes of this Act, any building in any ward of the Municipality shall, according to the type of structure of such building, be classified as -

(a) *pucca* building, or

(b) *semi-pucca* building, or

(c) *kutcha* building.

(2) The Municipality shall, having regard to the materials of construction used and the construction practices employed, specify, by regulations, the types of buildings which may be classified as *pucca* building, or *semi-pucca* building, or *kutcha* building.

Annual value of land and building.

154. (1) The annual value of any vacant land and building in any ward of the Municipality shall be the sum of the amount arrived at by multiplying the value per unit area of such vacant land by the total area of such vacant land and the amount arrived at by multiplying the value per unit area of the covered space of such building by the total area of such covered space, if any, and shall be determined accordingly by an order by the Chief Municipal Officer, and a copy of the order shall be supplied within ten days thereof to the owner or the occupier of the land or the building, as the case may be, in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(2) The value of any machinery contained in, or situated upon, any land or building shall not be taken into consideration while determining the annual value.

Explanation I. – In the case of a building with appurtenant land, the area of the land under the plinth area of the building shall be excluded from the total area of land, the balance being treated as vacant land which shall be assessed as such.

Explanation II. – The covered space of any building shall mean the total floor area of the building in all the storeys.

Explanation III. – For the purposes of this section, “machinery” shall include lifts, air-conditioning equipment, and equipment for providing earthquake proofing.

Deduction from annual value for repair etc. of building.

155. (1) In the case of a building, there shall be deducted from the annual value determined under section 154 a sum equal to ten *per cent* of such annual value, and such deduction shall be on account of cost of repair or insurance or on any other account.
- (2) The annual value of any land or building, as determined under this section, shall be a multiple of ten rupees, any fraction below five being ignored and any fraction of five or above being rounded off to the next ten rupees.

Determination of annual value of building where land is exempted from property tax.

156. Where any land is exempted from property tax under any law for the time being in force, the annual value of any building erected on such land, which is in existence for more than one year and is not entitled to any exemption from such tax under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, shall be determined separately from the tax on land in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Self-assessment.

157. Any owner of any land or building or any other person liable to pay the property tax or any occupier in the absence of such owner or person shall compute the tax due on the basis of the annual value of such land or building as determined under section 154 and section 155, and the rate of tax as determined under section 142.

Unit of assessment.

158. (1) Every building together with the site and the land appurtenant thereto shall be assessed as a single unit :

Provided that where portions of any building together with the site and the land appurtenant thereto are separately owned so as to be entirely independent and capable of separate enjoyment notwithstanding the fact that access to such separate portions is made through a common passage or a common stair case, such separately owned portions shall be assessed separately.

- (2) All lands or buildings, to the extent they are contiguous or are within the same cartilage or are on the same foundation and are owned by the same owner or co-owners as an undivided property, shall be treated as one unit for the purpose of assessment under this Act :

Provided that if such land or building is sub-divided into separate shares which are not entirely independent and capable of separate enjoyment, the Chief Municipal Officer may, on application from the owners or co-owners, apportion the valuation and assessment of such land or building among the co-owners according to the value of their respective shares, treating the entire land or building as a single unit.

- (3) Each residential unit with its percentage of the undivided interest in the common areas and facilities constructed or purchased and owned by or under the control of any housing co-operative society registered under any law regulating co-operative housing for the time being in force, shall be assessed separately.
- (4) Each apartment and its percentage of the undivided interest in the common areas and facilities in a building within the meaning of any law regulating apartment ownership for the time being in force, shall be assessed separately.
- (5) Notwithstanding any assessment made before the commencement of this Act, the Chief Municipal Officer may, on his own or otherwise, amalgamate or separate, as the case may be, lands or buildings or portions thereof so as to ensure conformity with the provisions of this section.
- (6) If the ownership of any land or building or a portion thereof is sub-divided into separate shares, or if more than one land or building or portion thereof comes under one ownership by amalgamation, the Chief Municipal Officer may, on an application from the owner or the co-owners, as the case may be, separate, or amalgamate, such lands or buildings or portions thereof so as to ensure conformity with the provisions of this section.
- (7) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, upon an application made in this behalf by an owner, lessee, sub-lessee or occupier of any land or building and upon payment of such fee as may be determined by the Municipality by regulations, furnish to such owner, lessee, sub-lessee or occupier, as the case may be, information regarding the apportionment of the property tax on such land or building among the several occupiers of such land or building for the current assessment period or for any preceding assessment period :

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall prevent the Municipality from recovering any arrear dues on account of property tax from any such person.

C. Municipal Valuation Committee* and Municipal Assessment Tribunal*

Constitution of Municipal Valuation Committee.

159. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality may, by notification, constitute a Municipal Valuation Committee.

(2) The Municipal Valuation Committee shall consist of -

(a) a Chairperson, and

(b) other members being not less than three and not more than six.

(3) The Chairperson and not less than one-half of the other members shall be appointed by the State Government, and the remaining members shall be appointed by the Municipality on the recommendation of the Empowered Standing Committee.

(4) The Chairperson shall be a person who is or has been a member of the State Higher Judicial Service for a period of not less than three years.

(5) Of the other members, -

(a) at least one shall be a person who is or has been a qualified chartered accountant or a qualified valuer, and shall be appointed by the State Government, and

* Each State Government may decide on the roles of the Municipal Valuation Committee and the Municipal Assessment Tribunal having regard to the design of the property tax system adopted by it.

- (b) at least one shall be a person who is or has been a qualified engineer, not below the rank of a Municipal Engineer, and shall be appointed by the Municipality.
- (6) If the Chairperson considers it necessary, he may constitute Municipal Valuation Sub-Committees, each consisting of not less than two members, which may independently discharge the functions of the Municipal Valuation Committee.

Terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and other members.

- 160. (1) The Chairperson and the other members of the Municipal Valuation Committee shall hold office for a period of five years or till they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.
- (2) The other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and the other members of the Municipal Valuation Committee, including salaries and allowances, shall be such as may be determined by the Municipality with the approval of the State Government.
- (3) The salaries and allowances of the Chairperson and the other members of the Municipal Valuation Committee shall be paid from the Municipal Fund.

Functions of Municipal Valuation Committee.

- 161. The functions of the Municipal Valuation Committee shall be -
 - (a) to make recommendations to the Municipality on matters relating to classification of lands and buildings into different groups and fixation of values per unit area of such lands and buildings under section 149,
 - (b) to determine objections under sub-section (2) of section 149,

- (c) to advise the Empowered Standing Committee on all matters relating to determination of annual values of lands and buildings, and
- (d) to perform such other functions as the Municipality may, by regulations, determine.

Constitution of Municipal Assessment Tribunal.

162. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, the State Government may constitute a Municipal Assessment Tribunal* consisting of a Chairperson and such other members, not exceeding five, as the State Government may determine.
- (2) The Chairperson and the other members shall be appointed by the State Government for a period of five years or till they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.
- (3) The other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and the other members of the Municipal Assessment Tribunal, including salaries and allowances, shall be such as may be determined by the State Government.
- (4) The salaries and allowances of the Chairperson and other members of the Municipal Assessment Tribunal shall be paid from the Municipal Fund.
- (5) The Chairperson and not less than half of the other members shall be persons who are or have been members of the State Higher Judicial Service for a period of not less than five years, and the remaining members, if any, shall have such qualifications and experience as the State Government may determine.

* Each State Government may decide on the roles of the Municipal Valuation Committee and the Municipal Assessment Tribunal having regard to the design of the property tax system adopted by it.

D. Assessment

Submission of returns.

163. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, with a view to determining the annual value of lands and buildings in any ward and the persons primarily liable for the payment of the property tax, by notice, require the owners and the occupiers of such lands or buildings or any portion thereof, including such owner or person computing the tax due under the provisions of section 157, to furnish returns in such Form as may be prescribed and within such time, not being less than thirty days from the date of publication of such notice, as may be specified therein, containing the following particulars, namely :-

- (a) the name of the owner and the occupier,
- (b) the number of the ward, the number of the premises, and the name and number, if any, of the public street, or the description of the private street or the pedestrian pathway, on which such land or building is situated.
- (c) whether the building is *pucca*, or *semi-pucca*, or *kutchha*,
- (d) whether the land or the building is connected with the municipal water-supply main or the municipal drain,
- (e) the uses to which such land or building is put or intended to be put in terms of occupancy or use group as defined in this Act,
- (f) the area of the land and the covered area of the building with break-up of the area under various uses,
- (g) in the case of non-residential uses, whether wholly owner-occupied or wholly rented out, or partly owner-occupied and partly rented out and the areas thereof, and

(h) such other particulars as may be prescribed.

- (2) Every owner or occupier shall be bound to comply with such notice and to furnish a return with a declaration that the statement made therein is correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer, or any person subordinate to him and duly authorized by him, in writing, in this behalf, may, with or without giving any previous notice to the owner or the occupier of any land or building, enter upon, and make any inspection or survey or take measurement of, such land or building with a view to verifying the statement made in the return for such land or building or for collecting the particulars referred to in sub-section (1) in respect of such land or building :

Provided that no such entry shall be made except between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Periodic assessment.

164. The Chief Municipal Officer shall, having regard to the recommendations under section 149 of the Municipal Valuation Committee relating to classification of lands and buildings into different groups and fixation of values per unit area of such lands and buildings, cause a general valuation of all lands and buildings in the municipal area in accordance with the provisions of this chapter as soon as possible after the constitution of a new municipal area and at periodic intervals in the case of all other municipal areas so as to ensure that there is a revision of such valuation of all lands and buildings at the expiration of successive period of five years :

Provided that it shall be lawful to divide the municipal area into groups of wards so that periodic assessment at the interval of five years may take place in each such group instead of in the entire municipal area at a time :

Provided further that the annual value of any land or building situated in the municipal area, which has been determined earlier and is in force on the date of commencement of this Act, shall remain in force, and shall be deemed to be the annual value for the purpose of assessment of property tax on such land or building under this chapter, until a fresh annual value is determined under the provisions of this Act :

Provided also that where, on the date of commencement of this Act, the determination of the annual value of any such land or building is under process under any law for the time being in force, such determination shall be completed under that law and shall be deemed to be the annual value in force under this Act, until a fresh annual value is determined under the provisions of this Act.

Period of validity of assessment.

165. (1) The annual value of any land or building determined under this chapter -

(a) shall have effect from the date of commencement of the quarter of a year ending on 30th June or 30th September or 31st December or 31st March, as the case may be, following that in which a public notice under sub-section (2) of section 167 has been given, and

(b) shall, subject to the other provisions of this chapter, remain in force in respect of each ward of the Municipality for a period of five years.

- (2) Where the annual value of any land or building in any ward has not, for reasons which are on record in writing, been revised on the expiration of five years, the previous annual value of such land or building shall continue to remain in force until it is revised.

Revision of assessment.

166. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may cause any revision to be made in the annual value of any land or building or any portion thereof in the following cases, namely :-

- (i) where any tenancy or any rent changes, or
- (ii) where the nature of use changes, or
- (iii) where a new building is erected or an existing building is redeveloped or substantially altered or improved during the period the annual value remains in force, or
- (iv) where, on an application made in writing by the owner or the person liable to pay the property tax, it is established that during the period the annual value remains in force, its value has been reduced by reason of any substantial demolition or has suffered depreciation from any accident or any calamity proved to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer to have been beyond the control of such owner or such person, or
- (v) where any land or building or portion thereof is acquired by purchase or otherwise by the Central Government or the State Government or the Municipality, or
- (vi) where any land or building, or portion thereof, is sold or otherwise transferred to the Central Government or the State Government or the Municipality, or

- (vii) where, upon the acquisition or transfer of any land or building in part, a residual portion remains, or
 - (viii) where it becomes necessary so to do for any other reason to be recorded in writing.
- (2) Any revision in the annual value of any land or building or portion thereof under this section shall come into force from the date of commencement of the quarter of a year ending on 30th June or 30th September or 31st December or 31st March, as the case may be, following that in which such revision comes into force and shall remain in force for the unexpired portion of the period during which but for such revision, such annual valuation would have remained in force.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), where the annual value of any land or building -
- (i) has not, for any reason, been determined under this Act, the annual value of such land or building may be determined by the Chief Municipal Officer at any time during the currency of the period of assessment in respect of such land or building under section 164 or section 165, or
 - (ii) has been cancelled on the ground of irregularity, the annual value of such land or building may be determined by the Chief Municipal Officer at any time after such cancellation, and such annual value shall remain in force until a fresh valuation or revision is made and shall take effect from the beginning of the quarter from which the previous valuation which has been cancelled would have taken effect :

Provided that the valuation made under clause (i) or clause (ii) shall remain in force for the unexpired portion of the period specified in this chapter.

- (4) Any revision of annual value of any land or building or any portion thereof under this section shall be made with reference to the group into which such land or building or part thereof is classified under section 149, and the annual value fixed per unit area of such land or building for that group shall be applicable.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section, no revision of the annual value of any land or building under this section shall be made without giving the owner or the occupier of such land or building a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
- (6) Where any revision of annual value of any land or building is made under this section, the order of such revision shall be communicated to the owner or the occupier of such land or building within ten days from the date of the order.
- (7) An appeal shall lie against an order under sub-section (6) to the Municipal Assessment Tribunal, if preferred by the owner or the occupier of such land or building within forty-five days from the date of receipt of the order.

Public notice and inspection of assessment list.

167. (1) Where the determination of the annual value of any land or building in any ward of the Municipality or part thereof has been completed, the Chief Municipal Officer shall cause the annual value to be entered in an assessment list in such Form, and containing such particulars with respect to each such land or building, as may be prescribed.

- (2) Where the assessment list has been prepared, the Chief Municipal Officer shall give public notice thereof and of the place where the assessment list or a copy thereof may be inspected, and every person claiming to be the owner or the occupier of any land or building included in the assessment list and any authorized agent of such person shall be at liberty to inspect the assessment list and to take extracts therefrom free of charge.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer shall give notice fixing the place, time and date, being not less than thirty days of the preparation of the assessment list as aforesaid, when the annual value of any land or building entered in the assessment list shall be considered, and, in all cases in which any land or building is, for the first time, assessed, he shall also give a notice thereof in writing to the owner or the occupier of such land or building, as the case may be, and shall also specify in the notice the place, time and date, being not less than thirty days of such notice, when such annual value shall be considered.
- (4) Where a revision of the annual value of any land or building has been made under section 166, the Chief Municipal Officer shall cause such annual value to be entered in the assessment list and shall give a notice thereof, in writing, to the owner or the occupier of such land or building, and shall also fix in the notice the place, time and date, being not less than thirty days of such notice, when such annual value shall be considered.

Objection.

168. Any objection to the annual value of any land or building as entered in the assessment list may be made by the owner or the occupier of such land or building in writing to the Chief Municipal Officer before the date fixed in the notice under section 167, stating the reason for such objection.

Appointment of officer to hear objection.

169. (1) The State Government shall appoint such number of officers, and on such terms and conditions, as it may determine to hear and determine objections to the annual value of any land or building entered in the assessment list.
- (2) The officers appointed under sub-section (1) shall be paid from the Municipal Fund such salary and allowances as the State Government may determine.
- (3) Any of the officers as aforesaid may make such queries and observations in relation to any entry in the assessment list and call for such records, returns and explanations, as he thinks fit.
- (4) Every such query and observation shall be promptly taken into consideration by the officer of the Municipality to whom it may be addressed and shall be returned by him to such officer as shall be appointed under sub-section (1) with necessary records, returns and explanations.

Hearing of objections.

170. (1) Any objection made under section 168 shall be entered in a register maintained for the purpose in such Form, and in such manner, and containing such particulars, as may be prescribed.
- (2) On the date, time and place fixed under sub-section (3), or sub-section (4), of section 167, and, after giving the person making the objection a reasonable opportunity of being heard, either in person or through an authorized agent, the officer appointed under section 169 shall determine the objection.
- (3) Where an objection has been determined under sub-section (2), the order in this behalf shall be recorded in the register maintained

under sub-section (1) with date, and a copy of the order shall be supplied within ten days thereof to the owner or the occupier of the land or the building, as the case may be, in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

- (4) The procedure for hearing and disposal of objections shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (5) The annual value after determination of objection under this section shall take effect from the quarter in which such annual value would have taken effect, and shall continue to remain in force during the period such annual value would have remained in force, had no objection been made.

Appeal.

171. (1) Any owner or occupier of any land or building aggrieved by an order of the Chief Municipal Officer under section 154 or by the determination of annual value under section 170 may prefer an appeal in such Form as may be prescribed before the Municipal Assessment Tribunal :

Provided that such appeal shall be preferred to the Municipal Assessment Tribunal within forty-five days from the date of supply of the order under section 154 or section 170, as the case may be, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the said order.

- (2) No appeal under this section shall be entertained unless the property tax in respect of any land or building due on the date of presentation of the appeal has been deposited, and the appeal shall abate, unless such property tax is continued to be deposited till the appeal is finally disposed of.
- (3) The annual value of any land or building determined after the disposal of the appeal shall take effect from the quarter from

which such annual value would have taken effect and shall continue to remain in force during the period such annual value would have remained in force, had no appeal been filed.

- (4) The provisions of Part II and Part III of the Limitation Act, 1963, relating to appeals shall apply to every appeal preferred under this section.

(36 of 1963.)

- (5) The procedure for hearing and disposal of appeals shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (6) The decision of the Municipal Assessment Tribunal shall be final and no suit or other proceeding shall lie in any Civil Court in respect of any matter which has been, or may be, referred to, or has been decided by, the Tribunal.

Final valuation.

172. Every valuation in the assessment list under section 154 or section 166 shall, subject to the provisions of section 170 or section 171, as the case may be, be final.

Municipal Assessment Book.

173. (1) The Municipality shall maintain a Municipal Assessment Book in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.
- (2) The annual value of any land or building under section 154 or section 171 or section 172, as the case may be, shall be entered in the Municipal Assessment Book.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may, at any time, make such corrections in the Municipal Assessment Book as may be necessary to incorporate changes required to be made in

accordance with the provisions of this Act or for removal of patent errors or defects on the face of the records.

- (4) The Municipal Assessment Book, duly authenticated in the manner prescribed, shall be kept in the office of the Municipality and shall be open for inspection, free of charge, during office hours and extracts therefrom shall be made available on payment of such fee as may be determined by the Empowered Standing Committee.
- (5) The Municipal Assessment Book shall be printed and published for every ward of the Municipality, and shall be made available for sale to the public, in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed :

Provided that the publication of the Municipal Assessment Book shall not be kept pending on the ground that an objection or appeal has been made in respect of any case under section 168 or section 171, as the case may be.

- (6) Wherever it is possible for the Municipality to do so, the Municipal Assessment Book shall also be put on a website for public information.

Amendment of Municipal Assessment Book.

174. The Chief Municipal Officer may, at any time, amend the Municipal Assessment Book -

- (a) by inserting therein the name of any person whose name ought to have been inserted therein, or
- (b) by striking out the name of any person not liable for payment of property tax, or

- (c) by inserting therein any land or building together with the annual value thereof previously omitted, or
- (d) by making, or cancelling, any entry exempting any land or building from liability to property tax, or
- (e) by altering the assessment of any land or building which has been erroneously valued or assessed through fraud, mistake or accident, in which case such alteration shall take effect from the date from which such erroneous valuation took effect, or
- (f) by inserting or altering an entry in respect of any building erected, re-erected, altered or added to, after the preparation of the Municipal Assessment Book, in which case such insertion or alteration shall take effect from the date of such erection, re-erection, alteration or addition, as the case may be :

Provided that no such amendment shall be made without giving the person affected a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

E. Incidence of Property Tax

Property tax and surcharge thereon to be first charge on lands and buildings and movables.

175. The property tax on any land or building and the surcharge thereon, due from any person, shall, subject to the prior payment of land revenue, if any, due to the State Government on account of such land or building, be a first charge upon such land or building belonging to such person and upon the movable property, if any, on or within such land or building and belonging to the person liable to such property tax and surcharge thereon.

Incidence of property tax.

176. (1) The property tax on any land or building shall be primarily leviable upon the owner thereof.

- (2) The liability of the several owners of any land or building constituting a single unit of assessment, which is, or purports to be, severally owned in parts or flats or rooms, for payment of property tax or any instalment thereof, payable during the period of such ownership, shall be joint and several :

Provided that the Chief Municipal Officer may apportion the amount of property tax on such land or building among several co-owners :

Provided further that in any case where the Chief Municipal Officer is, for reasons to be recorded in writing, satisfied that the owner is not traceable, the occupier of such land or building for the time being shall be liable for payment of the property tax and the surcharge thereon and shall also be entitled to the rebate, if admissible.

- (3) The property tax on any land or building, which is the property of the Municipality and the possession of which has been delivered under any agreement or licensing arrangement, shall be leviable upon the transferee or the licensee, as the case may be.

Incidence of surcharge.

177. Where a surcharge has been imposed under section 145, such surcharge shall be payable by the owner or the occupier, as the case may be, who uses such land or building for any purpose other than residential purpose.

Apportionment of surcharge.

178. The person primarily liable to pay the property tax in respect of any land or building may recover the entire amount of the surcharge on the property tax on such land or building from the occupier who uses it for any purpose other than residential purpose :

Provided that if there is more than one occupier, the amount of surcharge may be apportioned and recovered from each of such occupiers in such proportion as the annual value of the portion occupied by each such occupier bears to the total annual value of such land or building.

Recovery of property tax on lands and buildings from occupiers.

179. (1) On the failure to recover any sum due on account of property tax on any land or building from the person primarily liable therefor under section 176, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any law regulating premises tenancy for the time being in force, recover from every occupier of such land or building, by attachment of the rent payable by such occupier, a portion of the total sum due which bears, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to such sum as the rent annually payable by such occupier bears to the total amount of rent annually payable in respect of the whole of such land or building.
- (2) An occupier, from whom any sum is recovered under sub-section (1), shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the person primarily liable for the payment of such sum, and may, in addition to having recourse to other remedies that may be open to him, deduct the amount so recovered from the amount of any rent becoming due from time to time from him to such person.

Payment of property tax on land and building.

180. (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the property tax on any land or building under this chapter shall be paid by the person liable for the payment thereof in quarterly instalments and, for the purposes of this section, each quarter shall be deemed to commence on the first day of April, first day of July, first day of October, and first day of January, of a year.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall cause to be presented to the person liable for payment of property tax a comprehensive bill in respect of such tax to be paid in quarterly instalments, showing separately the amount of the property tax due against each quarter and the date on which the property tax for each such quarter is due.
- (3) Such bills shall be sent by post under certificate of posting or by courier agency to the person liable for payment of the property tax, not later than the 31st day of May of the year to which such property tax relates.

Explanation. – “Courier agency” shall mean any agency engaged in door to door delivery of time-sensitive documents, utilizing the services of a person, either directly or indirectly, to carry such documents.

Self-assessment and submission of return.

181. (1) Any owner of any land or building or any other person liable to pay the property tax or any occupier in the absence of such owner or person, who computes such property tax under section 157, shall, on such computation, pay the property tax on lands and buildings, together with interest, if any, payable under the provisions of this Act on -
 - (a) any new building or existing building which has not been assessed, or
 - (b) any existing building which has been redeveloped or substantially altered or improved after the last assessment, but has not been subjected to revision of assessment consequent upon such redevelopment or alteration or improvement, as the case may be, or

- (c) any new building referred to in clause (a) or any existing building referred to in clause (a) and clause (b), the bills in respect of which have not been issued.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this sub-section, -

- (1) “last assessment” shall mean the assessment where the annual value has been determined by the officer appointed under section 169 and communicated to the assessee, and
- (2) “Institution of Surveyors” shall mean the Institution of Surveyors recognized as such by the Central Government.
- (2) Such owner or person, as the case may be, shall furnish to the Chief Municipal Officer a return of self-assessment in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed. Every such return shall be accompanied by proof of payment of property tax and interest, if any.
- (3) The payment of property tax and interest, if any, shall be made, and the return shall be furnished, within sixty days of the coming into force of this Act.
- (4) In the case of any new building for which an occupancy certificate has been granted or which has been taken possession of after the

coming into force of this Act, such payment shall be made, and such return shall be furnished, within thirty days of the expiry of the quarter in which such occupancy certificate is granted or such possession is taken, whichever is earlier.

Explanation. – For the removal of doubt, it is hereby declared that occupancy certificate may be provisional or final and may be for the whole or any part of the building and possession may be of the whole or any part of the building.

- (5) Such payment shall continue to be made for each subsequent quarter and the last date of such payment shall be thirty days after the expiry of each such quarter.
- (6) After the determination of annual value of land or building under section 154, or revision thereof under section 166, has been made, any amount paid on self-assessment under this section shall be deemed to have been paid on account of such determination under section 154 or such revision under section 166, as the case may be.
- (7) If any owner or other person, liable to pay the property tax under this Act, fails to pay the same together with interest, if any, in accordance with the provisions of this section, he shall, without prejudice to any other action to which he may be subject, be deemed to be a defaulter in respect of the property tax or interest or both, remaining unpaid, and all the provisions of this Act applicable to such defaulter shall apply to him accordingly.

- (8) If, after the assessment of annual value of any land or building is finally made under this Act, the payment on self-assessment under this section is found to be less than that of the amount payable by the assessee, the assessee shall pay the difference within two months from the date of final assessment, failing which recovery shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Act, but, after the final assessment, if it is found that the assessee has paid excess amount, such excess amount shall be adjusted against the tax payable by the assessee.

Levy of surcharge on transfer of lands and buildings.

182. (1) The Municipality may levy a surcharge on the transfer of lands and buildings situated within the municipal area as a percentage of stamp duty levied on such transfer under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

(2 of 1899.)

- (2) The rate of surcharge, and the manner of -
- (a) collection of surcharge,
 - (b) payment of surcharge to the Municipality, and
 - (c) deduction of the expenses, if any, incurred by the State Government in course of collection of surcharge,
- shall be such as may be prescribed.

Tax on deficits of parking spaces in non-residential buildings.

183. (1) The Municipality may, by regulations, levy a tax on the deficits in the provision for parking spaces required for different types of vehicles in any non-residential building.
- (2) The amount of tax shall be determined by multiplying the quantum of such deficit in the area of parking spaces by the unit area value of land in the case of open parking spaces or by the unit area value of covered space of a building in the case of covered parking spaces, as the case may be, as specified in section 149.

Water tax.

184. The Municipality may levy a water tax on any land or non-residential building as a percentage of property tax as may be specified by regulations.

Fire tax.

185. The Municipality may levy a fire tax on any building as a percentage of property tax as may be specified by regulations :

Provided that a surcharge may be levied on such fire tax at such rate as may be specified by regulations for any non-residential building.

Chapter XVII

Tax on Advertisements Other Than Advertisements in Newspapers and Licence Fees for Advertisement Spaces

Prohibition of advertisements without written permission of Chief Municipal Officer.

186. (1) No person shall erect, exhibit, fix or retain upon or over any land, building, wall, hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign any advertisement, or display any

advertisement to public view in any manner whatsoever (including any advertisement exhibited by means of cinematograph), visible from a public street or public place, in any place within the municipal area without the permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall not grant such permission, if -
 - (a) a licence for the use of the particular site for the purpose of advertisement has not been taken, or
 - (b) the advertisement contravenes any provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or
 - (c) the tax, if any, due in respect of the advertisement has not been paid.
- (3) No person shall broadcast any advertisement, except on radio or television, without the permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer.

Licence for use of site for purpose of advertisement.

187. (1) Except under, and in conformity with, such terms and conditions of a licence as the Municipality may, by regulations, provide, no person being the owner, lessee, sub-lessee, occupier or advertising agent shall use, or allow to be used, any site in any land, building or wall, or erect, or allow to be erected, on any site any hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign for the purpose of display of any advertisement.

- (2) For the purpose of advertisement, every person -
 - (a) using any site before the commencement of this Act, within ninety days from the date of such commencement, or

(b) intending to use any site, or

(c) whose licence for use of any site is about to expire,

shall apply for a licence or renewal of licence, as the case may be, to the Chief Municipal Officer in such Form as may be specified by the Municipality.

(3) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, after making such inspection as may be necessary and within thirty days of the receipt of the application, grant or renew a licence, as the case may be, on payment of such fee as may be determined by regulations, or refuse or cancel a licence, as the case may be.

(4) The Chief Municipal Officer may, if, in his opinion, the proposed site for any advertisement is unsuitable from the considerations of public safety, traffic hazards or aesthetic design, refuse to grant a licence, or to renew any existing licence, within thirty days of the receipt of the application.

(5) Every licence shall be for a period of one year except in the case of sites used for any temporary congregation of whatever nature including fairs, festivals, circus, *yatra*, exhibitions, sports events, or cultural or social programmes.

(6) The Chief Municipal Officer shall cause to be maintained a register wherein the licences issued under this section shall be separately recorded in respect of advertisement sites -

(a) on telephone, telegraph, tram, electric or other posts or poles erected on or along public or private streets or public places,

(b) in lands or buildings, and

(c) in cinema-halls, theatres or other places of public resort.

Tax on advertisement.

188. (1) Every person, who erects, exhibits, fixes or retains upon or over any land, building, wall, hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign any advertisement, or displays any advertisement to public view in any manner whatsoever (including any advertisement exhibited by means of cinematograph), visible from a public street or public place in any location in a municipal area including an airport or a port or a railway station, shall pay for every advertisement, which is so erected, exhibited, fixed or retained or so displayed to public view, a tax calculated at such rate as may be determined by regulations :

Provided that a surcharge, not exceeding fifty *per cent* of the rate of tax as aforesaid, may be imposed on any advertisement on display in any temporary congregation of whatever nature including fairs, festivals, circus, *yatra*, exhibitions, sports events, or cultural or social programmes.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no tax shall be levied under this section on any advertisement which -

(a) relates to a public meeting or to an election to Parliament or the State Legislature or the Municipality or any other local authority or to candidature in respect of such election, or

(b) is exhibited within the window of any building, if the advertisement relates to any trade, profession or business carried on in the building, or

- (c) relates to any trade, profession or business carried on within the land or the building upon or over which such advertisement is exhibited or to any sale or letting of such land or building or any effects therein or to any sale, entertainment or meeting to be held on, upon or in such land or building, or
 - (d) relates to the name of the land or the building upon or over which the advertisement is exhibited or the name of the owner or the occupier of such land or building, or
 - (e) relates to the business of any airport or port or railway administration, and is exhibited within such airport or port or railway station or upon any wall or other property of an airport, port or railway station, or
 - (f) relates to any activity of the Central Government or the State Government or any local authority.
- (3) The tax on any advertisement leviable under this section shall be payable in advance in such instalments, and in such manner, as may be determined by regulations :

Provided that the Municipality may, under such terms and conditions of a licence as may be determined by regulations under section 187, require the licensee to collect, and to pay to the Municipality, subject to a deduction of five *per cent* of the tax, to be kept by him as collection charges, the amount of tax in respect of such advertisements as are displayed on any site for which the licence has been granted.

Permission of Chief Municipal Officer to be void in certain cases.

189. Any permission under section 186 shall be void, -

- (a) if the advertisement contravenes the provisions of any regulations made under this Act, or
- (b) if any material change is made in the advertisement or any part thereof without the previous permission of the Chief Municipal Officer, or
- (c) if the advertisement or any part thereof falls otherwise than by accident, or
- (d) if, due to any work by the Central Government, the State Government, or the Municipality, or by any statutory authority, the advertisement is required to be displaced.

Licence for use of site for purpose of advertisement to be void in certain cases.

190. Any licence granted under section 187 shall be void, -

- (a) if the licensee contravenes any of the terms and conditions of licence, or
- (b) if any addition or alteration is made to, or in, the land, building, wall, hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign, upon or over which the advertisement is erected, exhibited, fixed or retained, or
- (c) if the land, building, wall, hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign over which the advertisement is erected, exhibited, fixed or retained is demolished or destroyed.

Presumption in case of contravention.

191. Where any advertisement has been erected, exhibited, fixed or retained upon or over any land, building, wall, hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign or displayed to public view from a public street or public place in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the regulations made thereunder, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the contravention has been made by the person or persons on whose behalf the advertisement purports to be or the agents of such person or persons.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer in case of contravention.

192. If any advertisement is erected, exhibited, fixed or retained in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the regulations made thereunder, the Chief Municipal Officer may require the owner or the occupier of the land, building, wall, hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign, upon or over which such advertisement is erected, exhibited, fixed or retained to take down or remove such advertisement or may enter any land, building or other property and cause the advertisement to be dismantled, taken down, removed, spoiled, defaced or screened.

Explanation I. – The word “structure” in this chapter shall include any movable board on wheels used as an advertisement or advertisement medium.

Explanation II. – The word “advertisement”, in relation to a tax on advertisement under this Act, shall mean any word, letter, model, sign, neon-sign, sky-sign, placard, notice, device or representation, whether illuminated or not, in the nature of, and employed wholly or in part for the purposes of, advertisement, announcement or direction.

Removal of poster, hoarding, etc.

193. Notwithstanding any other action that may be taken against the owner or the occupier of any land or building, upon or over which there is any hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign for erecting any advertisement in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the regulations made thereunder, or the person who owns such hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign, the Chief Municipal Officer may, for removal and storage of such hoarding, frame, post, kiosk, structure, vehicle, neon-sign or sky-sign, realize from such person such charges as may be fixed by the Empowered Standing Committee from time to time.

Chapter XVIII

Other Taxes and Tolls

Surcharge on tax on entertainment.

194. (1) Subject to the approval of the State Government, the Municipality may levy a surcharge on any tax levied by the State Government on any entertainment or amusement within the municipal area.
- (2) The rate of the surcharge and the manner of -
- (a) collection of the surcharge,
 - (b) payment of the surcharge to the Municipality, and
 - (c) deduction of the expenses, if any, incurred by the State Government in course of collection of the surcharge,
- shall be such as may be prescribed.

Surcharge on electricity consumption.

195. Subject to the approval of the State Government, the Municipality may levy a surcharge on consumption of electricity within the municipal area at such rates as may be prescribed.

Tax on tourists and congregations.

196. (1) The Municipality may levy a tax per head or per vehicle for providing municipal services to persons or vehicles visiting the municipal area for the purpose of tourism or in connection with any congregation of whatever nature, including pilgrimage, fair, festival, circus or *yatra*, within a municipal area for persons or vehicles assembling within the municipal area for the purpose :

Provided that such tax shall not be levied for persons or vehicles passing through the municipal area.

(2) The tax for the purposes of sub-section (1) shall be such as may be determined by the Municipality from time to time and shall not exceed rupees three per person and rupees twenty per vehicle besides the levy on passengers therein.

(3) The Municipality may make regulations specifying the occasions on which such levy may be imposed and the rate of levy, the mode of collection, and the other matters incidental thereto.

Octroi.

197. Except as hereinafter provided, a Municipality may levy on goods brought into the municipal area for consumption, use or sale therein an octroi at such rate as the State Government may, by notification, specify, and different rates may be specified for different types of goods in different municipal areas.

Power to examine goods liable to octroi.

198. Every person bringing or receiving within the limits of a municipal area any goods on which octroi is payable, shall, when required by an officer duly authorized by the State Government or the Municipality in this behalf, and so far as may be necessary for ascertaining the amount of tax chargeable, -

- (a) permit that officer to inspect, examine, weigh and otherwise deal with such goods, and
- (b) communicate to the officer any information and exhibit any bill, invoice or document of a like nature, which he may possess relating to such goods.

Power to search premises and places.

199. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, subject to the safeguards as may be provided by rules in this behalf, search and inspect any premises or any place wherein he may have reason to believe that goods in respect of which octroi is payable under this Act, but has not been paid, have been kept.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, in writing, require the attendance of any person whom he has reason to believe to be liable to payment of octroi.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer shall have the power to seal the premises or the place and seize any document found in the premises or the place or in the possession of such person.

Refusal to permit inspection etc..

200. No person, bringing or receiving within the limits of any municipal area any conveyance or package, shall refuse, on the demand of an officer authorized by the State Government or the Municipality in this behalf, to permit such officer to inspect, weigh or otherwise examine the contents of the conveyance or package for the purpose of ascertaining whether it contains any goods in respect of which octroi is payable or shall refuse to communicate to such officer any information or to exhibit to him any bill, invoice or document of a like nature, which he may possess relating to such goods or with the intention of defrauding the Municipality, communicate any information which is false or exhibits any such bill, invoice or document of a like nature, which is false or forged.

Evasion of octroi.

201. If any goods passing through a municipal area are liable to the payment of octroi in that municipal area, then, no person shall cause or abet the introduction of, or shall himself introduce, or attempt to introduce, within the said municipal area any such goods upon which payment of the octroi, due on such introduction, has neither been made nor tendered.

Payment of octroi and receipts therefor.

202. (1) On payment of the octroi, the person liable to pay the octroi shall be issued a receipt in such Form as may be prescribed, and the receipt shall be maintained by such person for a period of one year from the date of issue of the receipt and shall be produced on demand.
- (2) In the event of the failure to produce the receipt on demand within the said period of one year from the date of introduction of the goods, presumption shall be made that octroi has not been paid.

Extension of octroi limit by agreement.

203. For the purpose of levy of octroi and collection thereof, a Municipality may enter into an agreement with any other Municipality or a cantonment authority or a Gram Panchayat or a Panchayat Samiti, and such agreement may provide for the following matters, namely :-
 - (a) extension of octroi limits;
 - (b) inspection of any warehouse or storage place within the jurisdiction of the other Municipality or the cantonment authority or the Gram Panchayat or the Panchayat Samiti, where goods intended to be brought within the municipal area are kept;

- (c) weighing or otherwise examining the contents of the conveyance or package for ascertaining whether it contains any goods in respect of which octroi is payable;
- (d) examining the documents relating to such goods;
- (e) apportionment of the proceeds and the costs incurred; and
- (f) such other matters as may be prescribed.

Explanation. – In this section and in section 204, the expression “Gram Panchayat” or “Panchayat Samiti” shall mean a Gram Panchayat or a Panchayat Samiti as defined in the State law relating to Panchayats.

Determination of disputes.

204. If a dispute arises between a Municipality and another Municipality or between a Municipality and a cantonment authority or a Gram Panchayat or a Panchayat Samiti relating to the agreement referred to in section 203, it shall be referred to the State Government, whose decision thereon shall be final.

Transit pass.

205. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply to the municipal areas of such Municipalities, and from such date or dates, as the State Government may, by notification, direct.
- (2) Where any goods intended for consumption, use or sale within a municipal area and are liable to octroi under this Act, are required to be carried through one or more other municipal areas, the person liable to pay octroi shall, on payment of such transit fee as may be prescribed, be issued a transit pass by the Municipality of the municipal area through which the goods are intended to be carried first.

- (3) The transit pass referred to in sub-section (2) shall specify -
 - (a) the name and particulars of the person liable to pay octroi;
 - (b) the nature and quantity of the goods;
 - (c) the amount of the transit fee paid;
 - (d) the Municipality to which the transit fee is paid;
 - (e) the other municipal areas through which such goods may be carried; and
 - (f) the municipal area where the goods are intended to be consumed, used or sold.
- (4) The goods referred to in sub-section (2) shall be allowed to be carried through the municipal areas referred to in clause (e) of sub-section (3) on production of the transit pass and without paying any octroi.
- (5) The Municipality, which is entitled to receive the amount due on account of transit fee, shall realize the amount in such manner as may be prescribed, from the Municipality referred to in clause (d) of sub-section (3).
- (6) In case of any dispute between the Municipality referred to in clause (d) of sub-section (3) and the Municipality of the municipal area referred to in sub-section (5) relating to realization of the amount on account of transit fee, the matter shall be referred to the State Government for decision, and the decision of the State Government thereon shall be final.
- (7) Non-payment of the transit fee shall be an offence under this Act.

Toll on roads.

206. The Municipality may, with the sanction of the State Government, establish a toll-bar on any public street in the municipal area and levy a toll at such toll-bar on vehicles at such rate as may be determined by the State Government from time to time.

Toll on bridges.

207. (1) The Municipality may, with the sanction of the State Government, establish a toll-bar, and levy tolls, on any bridge at which tolls may be levied on vehicles, carriages and carts passing over such bridge :

Provided that no such toll-bar shall be established, or tolls levied, otherwise than for the purpose of recovering the expenses incurred in construction of such bridge together with interest on such expenses and in maintaining such bridge in good repair.

- (2) The State Government may, with the consent of a Municipality, make over to that Municipality any existing toll-bar on a bridge within the municipal area to be administered by the Municipality and, thereupon, the Municipality shall administer such toll-bar until the State Government directs otherwise. Every such toll-bar, while so administered, shall be deemed to be a municipal toll-bar, and the profits derivable therefrom or such parts thereof as shall be agreed upon between the State Government and the Municipality, shall be credited to the Municipal Fund.

Toll on heavy truck and bus.

208. (1) The Municipality may levy toll on heavy trucks and buses referred to in sub-clause (ii) of clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 136, plying on a public street.

- (2) The rate of toll for the purposes of sub-section (1) shall be such as may be determined by the Municipality by regulations from time to time.
- (3) The Municipality may make regulations providing for the mode of collection of toll and other matters incidental thereto.

Declaration of ferries as municipal ferries.

209. (1) Where a ferry plies between two points on a water-course and either one or both the points are situated within a municipal area, the State Government may, after considering the views of the concerned Municipality, declare such ferry to be a municipal ferry, and, thereupon, the profits derivable from the plying of such ferry shall be credited to the Municipal Fund.
- (2) Due compensation shall be given by the concerned Municipality to any person for the loss which he may have sustained as a result of a ferry being declared to be a municipal ferry.

Administration of municipal ferries.

210. Subject to the provisions of any Central or State law regulating the administration of public ferries, the Municipality shall specify by regulations -
 - (a) the terms and conditions for granting of lease of municipal ferries in favour of private parties,
 - (b) the rates of tolls to be established and published for such municipal ferries,
 - (c) the grounds for cancellation of ferry leases,
 - (d) the administration of a municipal ferry involving another Municipality or local authority,

- (e) provisions for safety and convenience of passengers and goods, and
- (f) provisions for exemptions from payment of toll for municipal ferries in the case of authorized representatives and properties of the Central Government or the State Government or the Municipality.

Municipality to collect tolls in navigable channel.

211. (1) If, the State Government, at any time, declares that the provisions of any law relating to canals or any other law for the time being in force are applicable to any navigable channel which passes through the limits of a municipal area, that Government may, with the consent of the concerned Municipality, appoint such Municipality to collect tolls in accordance with the provisions of such law until the State Government otherwise directs, and the profits derivable therefrom, or such part thereof as may be agreed upon between the State Government and the Municipality, shall be credited to the Municipal Fund.

(2) In every such case, the Municipality shall exercise all the powers vested in the Collector under the law as aforesaid.

Chapter XIX

Payment and Recovery of Taxes

A. Recovery of Taxes by Municipality

Manner of recovery of taxes under the Act.

212. Save as otherwise provided in this Act, any tax levied under this Act may be recovered in accordance with the following procedure and in such manner as may be determined by regulations :-

- (a) by presenting a bill, or

- (b) by serving a notice of demand, or
- (c) by distraint and sale of a defaulter's movable property, or
- (d) by attachment and sale of a defaulter's immovable property,
or
- (e) in the case of property tax on any land or building, by
attachment of rent due in respect of such land or building, or
- (f) by a certificate under any law for the time being in force
regulating the recovery of any dues as public demand.

Time and manner of payment of taxes.

- 213. (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, any tax levied under this Act shall be payable on such date, in such number of instalments, and in such manner, as may be determined by regulations.
- (2) If any amount due is paid on or before the date referred to in subsection (1), a rebate of five *per cent* of such amount shall be allowed.

Presentation of bill.

- 214. (1) When any tax has become due, the Chief Municipal Officer shall cause to be presented to the person liable for the payment thereof a bill for the amount due :

Provided that no such bill shall be necessary in the case of -

- (a) a tax on advertisements,
- (b) a tax on tourists and congregations, and
- (c) a toll :

Provided further that for the purpose of recovery of any tax by the preparation and presentation of a bill or notice of demand and the collection of tax in pursuance thereof, the Empowered Standing Committee may, with the approval of the Municipality, entrust the work to any agency under any law for the time being in force, or to any other agency, on such terms and conditions as may be specified by regulations.

Explanation I. - A bill shall be deemed to be presented under this section if it is sent by post under certificate of posting or by courier agency or by electronic mail to the person liable for payment of the amount included in the bill, and, in such case, the date of certificate of posting, or the date on which it is delivered by the courier agency or by electronic mail shall be deemed to be the date of presentation of the bill to such person.

Explanation II. - “courier agency” shall have the same meaning as in the Explanation to sub-section (3) of section 180.

Explanation III. - “electronic mail” shall include e-mail or facsimile transmission.

- (2) Every such bill shall specify the particulars of the tax and the period to which the bill relates.

Regulations regarding payment and recovery of tax.

215. To ensure payment and recovery of its tax dues, the Municipality shall, by regulations, provide for -

- (a) issue of notice of demand, charging of notice fee, levy of interest for delayed payment at a rate as may be specified, and the amount of penalty therefor,

- (b) issue of warrant for attachment, distress, and sale of movable property for recovery of tax dues,
- (c) attachment and sale of immovable property for recovery of tax dues, and
- (d) recovery of dues from a person about to leave the municipal area.

Requirement of payment of rent by occupier towards tax due on land or building.

216. (1) For the purpose of recovery of property tax on any land or building from any occupier under section 179, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any State law relating to premises tenancy or any other law for the time being in force, cause to be served on such occupier a notice requiring him to pay to the Municipality any rent due, or falling due, from him in respect of the land or the building to the extent necessary to satisfy the portion of the sum due for which he is liable under the said section.

(2) Such notice shall operate as an attachment of such rent unless the portion of the sum due shall have been paid and satisfied, and the occupier shall be entitled to credit in account with the person to whom such rent is due, any sum paid by him to the Municipality in pursuance of such notice :

Provided that if the person to whom such rent is due is not the person primarily liable for payment of the tax on land or building, he shall be entitled to recover from the person primarily liable for payment of such tax any amount for which credit is claimed.

(3) If any occupier fails to pay to the Municipality any rent due or falling due which he has been required to pay in pursuance of a

notice served upon him as aforesaid, the amount of such rent may be recovered from him by the Municipality as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Recovery of property tax on lands and buildings or any other tax or charge when owner of land or building is unknown or ownership is disputed.

217. (1) If any money is due under this Act from the owner of any land or building on account of tax on such land or building or any other tax, expense or charge recoverable under this Act, and if the owner of such land or building is unknown or the ownership thereof is disputed, the Chief Municipal Officer may publish twice, at an interval of not less than two months, a notification of such dues and of sale of such land or building for realization thereof, and may, after the expiry of not less than one month from the date of last publication of such notification, unless the amount recoverable is paid, sell such land or building by public auction to the highest bidder, who shall deposit, at the time of sale, twenty-five *per cent* of the purchase money, and the balance thereof within thirty days of the date of sale. Such notification shall be published in the *Official Gazette* and in local newspapers and by displaying on the land or the building concerned.
- (2) After deducting the amount due to the Municipality as aforesaid, the surplus sale proceeds, if any, shall be credited to the Municipal Fund and may be paid, on demand, to any person who establishes his right thereto to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer or a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (3) Any person may pay the amount due at any time before the completion of the sale, whereupon the sale shall be abandoned. Such person may recover such amount by a suit in a court of competent jurisdiction from any person beneficially interested in such land or building.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer to prosecute or serve notice of demand.

218. (1) When any sum is due from any person on account of -

(a) tax on advertisements other than the advertisements published in newspapers, or

(b) any other tax, fee or charge leviable under this Act,

the Chief Municipal Officer may either prosecute such person, if prosecution lies under the provisions of this Act, or cause to be served on such person a notice of demand in such Form as may be specified by regulations or in such other Form as the Chief Municipal Officer may deem fit.

(2) The provisions of section 215 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*, to every such recovery of sum due.

Cancellation of irrecoverable dues.

219. The Municipality may, by order, strike off the books of the Municipality any sum due on account of the property tax or any other tax or on any other account, which may appear to it to be irrecoverable.

***B. Recovery of Tax on Lands or Buildings by Person
Primarily Liable to Pay to the Municipality***

Apportionment of property tax on lands and buildings by person primarily liable to pay.

220. (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the person primarily liable to pay the property tax in respect of any land or building may recover, -

(a) if there be but one occupier of the land or the building, from such occupier half of the tax so paid, and, if there be more than one occupier, from each occupier half of such sum as bears to the entire amount of tax so paid

by the owner the same proportion as the value of the portion of the land or the building in the occupation of such occupier bears to the entire value of such land or building :

Provided that if there be more than one occupier, such half of the amount may be apportioned and recovered from each such occupier in such proportion as the annual value of the portion occupied by him bears to the total annual value of such land or building; and

- (b) the entire amount of the surcharge on the property tax on any land or building from the occupier of such land or building who uses it for commercial or non-residential purposes :

Provided that if there is more than one occupier, the amount of surcharge on the property tax may be apportioned and recovered from each such occupier in such proportion as the annual value of the portion occupied by him bears to the total annual value of such land or building.

- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), if, as a result of the determination of the annual value of any land or building and the imposition of the property tax thereon under this Act for the first time, there is an increase in the amount of tax payable in respect of such land or building from the amount of tax previously payable under this chapter, the person primarily liable to pay the property tax may recover the difference in the amount due to such increase from the occupier or occupiers.

Mode of recovery.

221. If any person primarily liable to pay any property tax on any land or building or surcharge thereon is entitled to recover part of such property tax or surcharge thereon from an occupier of such land or building, he shall have for recovery thereof the same rights and remedies as if such part of the property tax or the surcharge thereon were rent payable to him by such occupier.

Chapter XX

Commercial Projects

Commercial projects and receipts therefrom.

222. The Municipality may, either on its own or through public or private sector agencies, undertake the planning, construction, operation, maintenance or management of commercial infrastructure projects, including district centres, community and neighbourhood shopping centres, industrial estates, bus or truck terminals and tourist lodges with commercial complexes and any other type of commercial projects on commercial basis.

PART V

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Chapter XXI

Private Sector Participation Agreement and Assignment to Other Agencies

Undertaking of project by Municipality or by other agency.

223. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, but subject to the provisions of any State law relating to planning, development, operation, maintenance and management of municipal infrastructure and services, a Municipality may, in the discharge of its functions specified in section 54, section 55, and section 56, –

- (a) promote the undertaking of any project for supply of urban environmental infrastructure or services by participation of a company, firm, society, trust or any body corporate or any institution, or government agency or any agency under any other law for the time being in force, in financing, construction, maintenance and operation of such project of a Municipality irrespective of its cost,
- (b) consider and approve the undertaking of any project relating to urban environmental infrastructure or services by a company, or firm, or society, or body corporate in terms of a private sector participation agreement or jointly with any such agency, and
- (c) consider and approve the undertaking of any project relating to urban environmental infrastructure or services by any institution, or government agency or any agency under any other law for the time being in force, or jointly with any such agency.

Types of Private Sector Participation Agreements.

224. (1) Private sector participation agreements shall be such as may be prescribed.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this section, such agreements include the following :

- (a) Build-Own-Operate-Transfer Agreement,
- (b) Build-Own-Operate-Maintain Agreement,
- (c) Build and Transfer Agreement,
- (d) Build-Lease-Transfer Agreement,
- (e) Build-Transfer-Operate Agreement,
- (f) Lease and Management Agreement,
- (g) Management Agreement,
- (h) Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer Agreement,
- (i) Rehabilitate-Own-Operate-Maintain Agreement,
- (j) Service Contract Agreement, and
- (k) Supply-Operate-Transfer Agreement.

Functions assigned to Municipality or other agencies.

225. In the discharge of its obligations for providing urban environmental infrastructure and services in relation to water-supply, drainage and sewerage, solid waste management, communication systems and commercial infrastructure, the Municipality may, wherever considered appropriate in the public interest, -

- (a) discharge any of its obligations on its own, or
- (b) enter into any private sector participation agreement.

Chapter XXII

Water-supply

A. General

Definitions.

226. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(1) “communication pipe” means -

(a) where the premises supplied with water abut on the part of the street in which the main is laid, and the service pipe enters those premises otherwise than through the outer wall of a building, abutting on the street and has a stopcock placed in those premises and as near to the boundary of that street as is reasonably practicable, so much of the service pipe as lies between the main and such stopcock, and

(b) in any other case, so much of the service pipe as lies between the main and the boundary of the street in which the main is laid, and includes the ferrule at the junction of the service pipe with the main, and also includes, -

(i) where the communication pipe ends at a stopcock, such stopcock, and

(ii) any stopcock fitted on the communication pipe between the end thereof and the main;

(2) “main” means a pipe laid by the Municipality for the purpose of giving a general supply of water as distinct from a supply to individual consumers, and includes any apparatus used in the connection with such pipe;

- (3) “service-pipe” means so much of any pipe for supplying water from a main to any premises as is subject to water-pressure from that main, or would be so subject but for the closing of any tap;
- (4) “supply-pipe” means so much of any service pipe as is not a communication pipe;
- (5) “trunk-main” means a main constructed for the purpose of conveying water from a source of supply to a filter or reservoir or from one filter or reservoir to another filter or reservoir, or for the purpose of conveying water in bulk from one part of the limits of supply to another part of such limits, or for the purpose of giving, or taking, a supply of water in bulk;
- (6) “water-fittings” includes pipes (other than mains), taps, cocks, valves, ferrules, meters, cisterns, baths and other similar apparatus used in connection with the supply and use of water.

B. Functions in Relation to Water-supply

Duty of Municipality to supply water.

227. (1) It shall be the duty of the Municipality to take steps, from time to time, either on its own or through any other agency, -
- (a) to ascertain the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplied within the municipal area,
 - (b) to provide, or to arrange to provide, a supply of wholesome water in pipes to every part of the municipal area in which there are houses, for domestic purposes of the occupants thereof, and for taking the pipes affording that supply to such point or points as will enable the houses to be connected thereto at a reasonable cost, so,

however, that the Municipality shall not be required to do anything which is not practicable at a reasonable cost or to provide such supply to any part of the municipal area where such supply is already available at such point or points, and

(c) to provide, as far as possible, a supply of wholesome water otherwise than in pipes to every part of the municipal area in which there are houses, for domestic purposes of the occupants thereof, and to which it is not practicable to provide supply in pipes at a reasonable cost, and in which danger to health may arise from the insufficiency or unwholesomeness of the existing supply and a public supply is required and may be provided at a reasonable cost, and to secure that such supply is available within a reasonable distance of every house in that part.

(2) If any question arises under clause (b) of sub-section (1) as to whether anything is or is not practicable at a reasonable cost or as to the point or points to which pipes must be taken in order to enable houses to be connected to such point or points at a reasonable cost, or, if any question arises under clause (c) of that sub-section as to whether a public supply may be provided at a reasonable cost, such question shall be decided by the Municipality.

Supply of water to connected premises.

228. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, on an application by the owner, lessee or occupier of any building, either on his own or through any other agency, arrange for supply of water from the nearest main to such building for domestic purposes in such quantity as may be deemed to be reasonable and may, at any time, limit the quantity of water to be supplied whenever considered necessary :

Provided that the Chief Municipal Officer may, by order in writing, delegate the responsibility of receiving the application to any other agency.

- (2) For the water supplied under sub-section (1), payment shall be made at such rate as may be fixed by the Municipality from time to time :

Provided that such rate shall, as far as practicable, cover the costs on account of management, operation, maintenance, depreciation, debt servicing, and other charges related to waterworks and distribution costs, including distribution-losses, if any.

- (3) A supply of water for domestic purposes shall be deemed not to include a supply -

- (a) to any institutional building, assembly building, business building, mercantile building, industrial building, storage building, or hazardous building, referred to in clause (2) of section 395, or any part of such building, other than that used as a residential building, or educational building, within the meaning of sub-clause (a), or sub-clause (b), of clause (2) of that section,
- (b) for building purposes,
- (c) for watering roads and paths,
- (d) for purposes of irrigation,
- (e) for gardens, fountains, swimming pools, or for any ornamental or mechanical purpose, or

- (f) for animals or for washing vehicles where such animals or vehicles are kept for sale or hire.

Supply of water for non-domestic purposes.

- 229. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer or the other agency, as the case may be, may, on receiving an application, in writing, specifying the purpose for which the supply of water is required and the quantity which is likely to be consumed, supply water for any purpose other than domestic purpose, on such terms and conditions, including the condition of withdrawal of water, as may be determined by regulations.
- (2) For the water supplied under sub-section (1), payment shall be made at such rate as may be fixed by the Municipality from time to time :

Provided that such rate shall, as far as practicable, cover the costs on account of management, operation, maintenance, depreciation, debt servicing, and other charges related to waterworks and distribution costs, including distribution-losses, if any.

- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may withdraw such supply at any time, if he thinks it necessary so to do, in order to maintain a sufficient supply of water for domestic purpose.

Provision of communication pipes and fittings.

- 230. (1) When an application under section 228 or section 229 has been received, all necessary communication pipes and fittings shall be supplied by the Municipality or the other agency, as the case may be, and the work of laying and connecting such communication pipes and fittings shall be executed under the orders of the Chief Municipal Officer or the other agency, as the case may be

- (2) The cost of making such connections and of such communication pipes and fittings and of the work of laying and connecting such communication pipes and fittings shall be paid by the owner or the person making such application.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may require any owner, or the person applying for supply of water, to provide, to his satisfaction, all communication pipes and fittings, and to carry out at the owner's or the applicant's cost and under his supervision and inspection the work of laying and connecting such communication pipes and fittings.
- (4) Where it is practicable to supply water at a reasonable cost within the meaning of sub-section (2) of section 227, the work relating to making of connection and fixing of communication pipes and fittings shall be executed within a period of one month from the date of receipt of the application referred to in sub-section (1).
- (5) The cost recovered under this section for making connection and supplying communication pipes and fittings shall be spent only on works relating to water-supply.

Water-supply through hydrants, stand-posts and other conveniences.

231. (1) The Municipality may, in exceptional circumstances, either on its own or through other agency, provide, free of cost, supply of wholesome water to the public within the municipal area and may, for the said purpose, erect public hydrants or stand-posts or other conveniences.
- (2) The Municipality may order the closure of a public hydrant, stand-post or other conveniences for reasons to be recorded in writing.

- (3) The Municipality may either on its own or through other agency provide for safety, maintenance and use of such public hydrants, stand-posts or other conveniences, subject to such conditions as may be specified by regulations.

Provision for fire hydrants.

232. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, either on his own or through other agency, fix hydrants on water-mains, other than trunk mains, at such places as may be most convenient for affording supply of water for extinguishing any fire, and shall keep in good order such hydrants, and may, from time to time, renew every such hydrant.
- (2) Letters, marks or figures shall be displayed prominently on a wall, building or other structure near every such hydrant to denote the situation of such hydrant.
- (3) As soon as the work relating to any such hydrant is completed, the Chief Municipal Officer or the other agency, as the case may be, shall deposit a key thereof at the nearest place where a public fire engine is kept and in such other places as he may deem necessary.
- (4) The Chief Municipal Officer may, at the request and expense of the owner or the occupier of any building referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 228, which is situated in or near a street in which a pipe, not being a trunk main, is laid, and being of sufficient dimensions to carry a hydrant, fix on the pipe, and keep in good order, and, from time to time, renew, one or more fire hydrants as near to such building as may be convenient, to be used only for extinguishing fire.

- (5) The Chief Municipal Officer shall allow any person to take water for extinguishing fire from any pipe on which a hydrant is fixed without any payment.

Supply of water to areas outside municipal area.

233. (1) The Municipality may, subject to the satisfaction of the reasonable requirements of water within the municipal area, supply water to a local authority or any person outside the municipal area, either by itself or through any other agency.
- (2) The supply of water under sub-section (1) shall be at such rate, not being less than the cost of production and delivery, including the costs of debt servicing, depreciation of plant and machinery, distribution-loss, and other charges, if any, as the Municipality may, from time to time, determine.

***C. Planning, Construction, Operation, Maintenance
and Management of Waterworks***

Public tanks, sub-soil water, etc. to vest in Municipality.

234. Subject to the provisions of chapter XXI, all public tanks, reservoirs, cisterns, wells, tube-wells, aqueducts, conduits, tunnels, pipes, taps and other waterworks, whether made, laid or erected at the cost met from the Municipal Fund or otherwise, and all bridges, buildings, engines, works, materials and things connected therewith, or appertaining thereto, and any adjacent land, not being private property, appertaining to any such water-source, which are situated within the municipal area, shall vest in the Municipality.

Vesting of sub-soil rights.

235. All rights over the sub-soil water resources within the municipal area shall vest in the Municipality.

Works to be undertaken for supply of water.

236. Subject to the provisions of section 10, for the purpose of providing the municipal area with proper and sufficient supply of water for public and private uses, the Municipality, either on its own or through any other agency, -

- (a) shall cause to be constructed or maintained such tanks, reservoirs, engines, pipes, taps, and other waterworks as may be necessary, within or outside the municipal area,
- (b) may purchase, or take on lease, any waterworks, or right to store or to take and convey water, within or outside the municipal area, and
- (c) may enter into any agreement with any person or authority for the supply of water :

Provided that the Municipality may, with the approval of the State Government, make over to, or take over from, a statutory body any waterworks so as to do anything which may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.

Management of waterworks.

237. Subject to the provisions of chapter XXI, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, either on his own or through any other agency, manage all waterworks and allied facilities belonging to the Municipality and shall maintain the same in good repair and efficient condition and shall cause to be done, from time to time, all such things as shall be necessary or expedient for improving such waterworks and facilities.

Purity of water for domestic purpose.

238. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, either on his own or through any other agency, at all times, ensure that the water in any waterworks belonging to the Municipality, from which water is supplied for domestic purposes, is wholesome.
- (2) The Municipality or the other agency, as the case may be, shall, when so required by any competent authority under any law for the time being in force, arrange for the examination of water supplied for human consumption for the purpose of determining whether the water is wholesome.

Water not to be wasted.

239. (1) No person, being the occupier of any premises to which water is supplied by the Municipality or the other agency, as the case may be, under this chapter, shall, on account of negligence or other circumstances under the control of such occupier, allow the water to be wasted, or allow the pipes, works or fittings for the supply of water in his premises to be out of repair causing thereby waste of water.
- (2) No person shall unlawfully flood, or draw off, divert, or take water from, any waterworks belonging to, or under the control of, the Municipality, or from any watercourse or stream by which such waterworks is supplied.
- (3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall be liable to such fine, not exceeding ten thousand rupees, as may be determined by regulations.

D. Tube-wells and Wells

Prohibition regarding sinking of tube-wells or digging of wells etc.

240. (1) No person shall, except with the prior permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer, sink any tube-well or dig or construct any new well, tank, pond, cistern or fountain in any municipal area.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may grant such permission, and may issue a licence for the purposes of sub-section (1), on such conditions, and on payment of such annual fee, as the Municipality may, from time to time, specify.
- (3) If any such work of sinking of tube-well is begun or completed without such permission, the Chief Municipal Officer may, -
 - (a) by notice, in writing, require the owner or the other person, who has done such work to fill up or demolish such work, within such time as may be specified in the notice, and if the work of filling up or demolition is not done within the time so specified, cause the work to be done and realize the expenses therefor from the owner or the person to whom such notice was given, or
 - (b) grant permission to retain such work on such terms and conditions as the Empowered Standing Committee may consider fit to impose.

Power to require filling up of wells.

241. Whenever a supply of water has been provided in any municipal area, the Municipality may, by notice, in writing, require the owner, lessee or occupier, as the case may be, of a well, tube-well, tank or other water area, forming a part of any premises in such area, to fill up such well, tank or other water area.

Power to set apart wells, tanks, etc. for drinking, culinary, bathing and washing purposes.

242. The Empowered Standing Committee may, by order published at such places as it may think fit, set apart any tank, well, spring or watercourse, or any part thereof, vested in the Municipality or, by an agreement with the owner thereof, any private tank, well, spring or watercourse or part thereof, subject to any right which such owner may retain with the consent of the Empowered Standing Committee, for any of the following purposes, namely :-

- (a) supply of water exclusively for drinking or for culinary purposes or for both, or
- (b) bathing, or
- (c) washing animals or clothes, or
- (d) any other purpose connected with health, cleanliness or comfort of the inhabitants,

and may, by like order, prohibit bathing, or washing of animals or clothes or other things at any public place, not set apart for such purposes, or prohibit any other act by which water in any public place may be rendered foul or unfit for use, or provide for alternative facilities and conveniences to regulate the use of any tank, well, spring or watercourse to promote public safety, health and welfare.

E. Water-supply Mains and Pipes

Power to lay mains, service pipes, etc.

243. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency, lay, whether within or outside the municipal area, a main, or such service pipes with such stopcocks and other water fittings as he may deem necessary for supply of water to premises -

- (a) in any street, and
- (b) with the consent of every owner or occupier of any land not forming part of a street, in, over or on that land,

and may, either on his own or through any other agency, from time to time, inspect, repair, alter, or renew or may, at any time, remove any such main, or service pipes, so laid, whether under this section or under any other provision of this Act :

Provided that where a consent required for the purposes of this sub-section is withheld, the Chief Municipal Officer may, after giving the owner or the occupier of the land a notice, in writing, of his intention so to do, either on his own or through any other agency, lay the main or the service pipes, as the case may be, in, over or on that land without such consent.

- (2) Where a service main or a service pipe has been lawfully laid in, over or on the land not forming part of a street, the Chief Municipal Officer or any other agency appointed by him may, from time to time, enter upon that land and inspect, repair, alter, renew or remove the pipe or lay a new pipe in substitution thereof, but shall pay compensation for any damage done in the course of such action.

Prohibition for laying water-pipes and construction of latrines and cesspools.

244. Subject to such terms and conditions as may be provided by regulations from time to time, the Chief Municipal Officer shall have the power to prohibit -

- (a) laying of water-pipes in any place where water is likely to be polluted,
- (b) construction of latrine or cesspool within six metres of any well, tank, water-pipe, or cistern, or
- (c) the use of water from any polluted source of supply.

Power in relation to water-supply.

245. The Chief Municipal Officer may, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by regulations from time to time, require -

- (a) the provision of separate supply-pipes for each land or building or each storey of a building,

- (b) the owner of a land or building, or the person primarily liable for payment of tax in respect of a land or building, having no supply, or inadequate supply, of wholesome water for domestic purposes, to take supply of water from the mains of the Municipality and to set up electric pumps for the purpose, and
- (c) the occupier of any land or building to which water is supplied by the Municipality, to keep the supply-pipes in efficient repair.

Power to turn off supply of water to premises.

246. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Chief Municipal Officer may cut off the connection between any waterworks of the Municipality and any premises to which water is supplied from such water-works, or may turn off such supply, in any of the following cases, namely :-

- (a) if the person, whose premises are supplied with water, neglects to pay any sum payable under sub-section (2) of section 228 or sub-section (2) of section 229, when due,
- (b) if, after receipt of a notice, in writing, from the Chief Municipal Officer requiring him to refrain from so doing, the owner or the occupier of the premises continues to use the water or to permit the same to be used in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the regulations made thereunder,
- (c) if the occupier of the premises contravenes the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 228,
- (d) if the occupier refuses to admit any officer or other employee of the Municipality, duly authorized in that behalf, into the premises for the purpose of making any inspection under this Act or the regulations made thereunder,

- (e) if the owner or the occupier of the premises wilfully or negligently damages his meter or any pipe or tap conveying water from any waterworks of the Municipality,
- (f) if any pipes, taps, works or fittings, connected with the supply of water to the premises, be found, on examination by the Chief Municipal Officer, to be out of repair to such an extent as to cause so serious a waste of water that, in his opinion, immediate prevention is necessary,
- (g) if the use of the premises for human habitation has been prohibited under this Act,
- (h) if there is any water-pipe situated within the premises to which no tap or other efficient means of turning off the water-supply is attached, and
- (i) if, by reason of a leak in the service pipe or fitting, damage is caused to any public street and immediate prevention is necessary :

Provided that -

- (i) water-supply shall not be cut off or turned off in any case referred to in clause (g) or clause (i), unless a notice, in writing, of not less than seventy-two hours has been given to the occupier of the premises, and
- (ii) in the case referred to in clause (f) or clause (i), the Chief Municipal Officer may carry out necessary repair to pipes, taps, works, or fittings and recover the expenses thereof from the owner or the occupier of the premises.

- (2) The expenses of cutting-off water-supply shall be paid by the owner or the occupier of the premises, as the case may be, and shall be recoverable from such owner or occupier as an arrear of tax under this Act.

F. Water Meters and Recovery of Charges

Power to provide water meters and recover charges.

247. The Municipality may, -

- (a) by regulations, specify the terms and conditions for -
- (i) provision of water meters, either by itself or through an agent or by the owner or the occupier of any land or building, and
 - (ii) recovery of charges for supply of such water as recorded by water meters, and
- (b) take necessary steps for detection and elimination of any fraud in respect of such water meters.

Entrustment of operation and maintenance of waterworks and billing and collection of charges.

248. The Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, entrust the work of operation and maintenance of waterworks in the municipal area and the work of billing and collection of water charges to any agency under any law for the time being in force, or any private agency.

G. Offence in Relation to Water-supply

Liability for offence in relation to water-supply.

249. If any offence relating to water-supply is committed under this Act in any premises connected with the municipal waterworks, the owner, the person primarily liable for payment of property tax, and the occupier of the said premises shall be jointly and severally liable for such offence.

Chapter XXIII

Drainage and Sewerage

A. Functions in Relation to Drainage and Sewerage

Municipality to provide drainage, sewerage and outfall.

250. The Municipality shall, either on its own or through any other agency, construct and maintain drains and sewers, and provide a safe and sufficient outfall, in or outside the municipal area, for effectual drainage and proper discharge of storm-water and sewage of the municipal area in such manner as may not cause any nuisance, whether by flooding any part of the municipal area, or of the areas surrounding the outfall, or in any other way :

Provided that no place, which has not been used before the commencement of this Act for any of the purposes specified in this section, shall be so used except -

- (i) in conformity with the provisions of any State law relating to land use planning or any other law relating thereto for the time being in force, or
- (ii) with the approval of the State Government, in the absence of any such law :

Provided further that with effect from such date as may be appointed by the State Government in this behalf, no sewage shall be discharged into any watercourse until it has been so treated as not to affect prejudicially the purity and the quality of the water of such water course.

Provision of means for disposal of sewage.

251. For the purposes of receiving, treating, storing, disinfecting, distributing, or otherwise disposing of sewage, the Municipality may, either on its own or through any other agency, construct, operate, maintain, develop and manage any works within or outside the municipal area.

***B. Proprietary Rights of Municipality
in Respect of Drains and Sewage Disposal Works***

Vesting of public drains and sewage disposal works.

252. Subject to the provisions of chapter XXI, -

- (a) all public drains, all drains in, alongside or under any public street, and all sewage disposal works, constructed or acquired out of the Municipal Fund or otherwise, and all works, materials and things appertaining thereto, which are situated within or outside the municipal area, shall vest in the Municipality,
- (b) for the purposes of laying, constructing, enlarging, deepening or otherwise repairing or maintaining any such drain or sewage disposal system, so much of the sub-soil appertaining thereto, as may be necessary for such purposes, shall be deemed also to vest in the Municipality, and
- (c) all drains and ventilation shafts, pipes and all appliances and fittings connected with the drainage works constructed, erected or set up out of the Municipal Fund in or upon premises, not belonging to the Municipality, whether -
 - (i) before or after the commencement of this Act, and
 - (ii) for the use of the owner or the occupier of such premises or not,

shall, unless the Municipality has otherwise determined, or does at any time otherwise determine, vest, and shall be deemed always to have vested, in the Municipality.

Explanation. – All public and other drains, which vest in the Municipality, are hereinafter referred to in this Act as municipal drains.

Power to make over to, or to take over from, statutory authority drainage and sewerage works.

253. The Municipality may, with the prior approval of the State Government and subject to such conditions as the Municipality may determine, make over to, or take over from, an authority under any law for the time being in force any drain or sewer or sewage disposal works for administration and management thereof.

C. Municipal Drains

Power of making drains.

254. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, may carry any municipal drain through, across, or under, any street, or any place laid out as, or intended for, a street or under any cellar or vault, which may be under any street, and, after giving a reasonable notice in writing to the owner or the occupier thereof, into, through or under any land whatsoever within the municipal area, or, for the purpose of out-fall or distribution of sewage, outside the municipal area.

(2) The Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, may construct any new drain in place of an existing drain or repair or alter any municipal drain so constructed.

Sewage and rain water drains to be separate.

255. For the purpose of effectual drainage of any premises in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, it shall be competent for the Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, to require that there shall be one drain for sewage, offensive matter and polluted water and an entirely separate drain for rain water or unpolluted sub-soil water or both rain water and unpolluted sub-soil water, each emptying into separate municipal drains or other suitable places.

Alteration, discontinuance, cleansing, etc., of drains.

256. Subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by regulations from time to time, the Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, may -

- (a) enlarge, alter the course of, lessen, or arch over, or otherwise improve, any municipal drain within the municipal area,
- (b) discontinue, close up, or destroy any such drain,
- (c) properly flush, clean, and empty such drain, and
- (d) restrict throwing, emptying, or turning into any municipal drain, or into any drain communicating into the municipal drain, any matter likely to damage the drain or interfere with the free flow of its contents or affect prejudicially the treatment and disposal of its contents, or any chemicals, refuse or waste steam, or any liquid which is dangerous or is the cause of a nuisance or is prejudicial to health, or any petroleum Class 'A', petroleum Class 'B' or petroleum Class 'C'.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, the expression “petroleum Class ‘A’, petroleum Class ‘B’ or petroleum Class ‘C’” shall have the same meaning as in the Petroleum Act, 1934.

(30 of 1934.)

D. Drains of Private Streets and Drainage of Premises

Powers in relation to drainage.

257. Subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by regulations from time to time, the Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, may -

- (a) permit the owner or the occupier of any premises having a drain, or the owner of a private drain, to have his drain made to communicate with the municipal drain for discharge of foul water,
- (b) limit the use of the municipal drain by the owner or the occupier of any premises having a private drain or the owner of a private drain,
- (c) require the owner of any land or building, which is without sufficient means of effectual drainage, to construct a drain and to provide all such appliances and fittings as may be necessary for drainage of such undrained land or building,
- (d) require the group of owners of a block of premises, which may be drained more economically or advantageously in combination than separately, to undertake at their own expense any work necessary for drainage of such block of premises to be drained by a combined operation,
- (e) require the owner of any land or building to carry out such construction, repair or other work as may be necessary for effectual drainage of such land or building, or
- (f) authorize any person, who desires to drain his land or building into a municipal drain through a drain of which he is not an owner, to use the drain or declare such person to be the joint owner thereof.

Premises not to be erected without drains.

258. (1) It shall not be lawful to erect or re-erect any premises in the municipal area or to occupy any such premises unless -

- (a) a drain is constructed of such size, materials and description, at such level, and with such fall, as may

appear to the Chief Municipal Officer to be necessary for the effectual drainage of such premises,

(b) there have been provided and set up on such premises such appliances and fittings as may appear to the Chief Municipal Officer to be necessary for the purposes of gathering or receiving the filth and other polluted and obnoxious matters, and conveying the same, from such premises and of effectually flushing the drain of such premises and every fixture connected therewith.

(2) The drain so constructed shall empty into a municipal drain situated at a distance of not exceeding thirty metres from the premises, but if no municipal drain is situated within such distance, then, such drain shall empty into a cesspool situated within the distance to be specified by the Chief Municipal Officer for the purpose.

E. Trade Effluent

Special provisions relating to trade effluent.

259. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the regulations made thereunder and of any other law for the time being in force, the occupier of any trade premises may, with the approval of the Municipality or, so far as may be permitted by this Act or the regulations made thereunder or any other law for the time being in force, without such approval, discharge into the municipal drain any trade effluent proceeding from such premises.

Special provisions regarding drainage of trade effluent.

260. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the regulations made thereunder or any usage, custom or agreement, where, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, any trade premises are without sufficient means of effectual drainage and treatment of trade effluent or the drains thereof, though otherwise not objectionable, are

not adapted to the general drainage system of the municipal area, or the effluent is not of specified purity, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, in writing, require the owner or the occupier of such premises -

- (a) to discharge the trade effluent in such manner, at such times, through such drains, and subject to such conditions, as may be specified in the notice, and to cease to discharge the trade effluent otherwise than in accordance with the notice,
- (b) to purify the trade effluent before its discharge into a municipal drain and to set up for purifying the trade effluent such appliances, apparatus, fittings and plants, as may be specified in the notice,
- (c) to construct a drain of such material, size and description, and laid at such level, and according to such alignment, and with such fall and outlet, as may be specified in the notice,
- (d) to alter, amend, repair or renovate any purification plant, existing drain, apparatus, plant-fitting or article used in connection with any municipal or house-drain.

Chapter XXIV

Other Provisions Relating to Water-supply, Drainage and Sewerage

Connection with waterworks mains and drains not to be made without permission.

261. Without the permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer, no person shall, for any purpose whatsoever, at any time, make, or cause to be made, any connection or communication with any waterworks or mains or drains constructed or maintained by, or vested in, the Municipality.

Buildings, railways and private streets not to be erected or constructed over watermains or on municipal drains without permission.

262. (1) Without the permission of the Chief Municipal Officer, no building, wall, fence or other structure shall be erected, and no railway or private street shall be constructed, on any municipal drain or on any watermains constructed or maintained by, or vested in, the Municipality.
- (2) If any building, wall, fence or other structure is erected, or any railway or private street is constructed, on any drain or waterworks without the permission as aforesaid, the Chief Municipal Officer may remove, or otherwise deal with, such erection or construction in such manner as he may think fit.
- (3) The expenses incurred by the Chief Municipal Officer for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (2), shall be paid by the owner of the private street or of the building, fence, wall or other structure or, as the case may be, by the railway administration or the person responsible and shall be recoverable as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Railway administration to be informed in certain cases.

263. If the Chief Municipal Officer desires to place or carry any pipe or drain or to do any other work connected with water-supply or drainage across any railway line, he shall inform the railway administration, who may execute the same at the cost of the Municipality.

Chief Municipal Officer not to sanction building plan unless plan relating to water-supply etc. is in conformity with rules and regulations.

264. Subject to the provisions of section 10, any building plan submitted to the Chief Municipal Officer for sanction shall conform to such rules or regulations relating to water-supply, drainage, privy, urinal accommodation, within the premises, and sewerage as may be made in

this behalf, and no building plan shall be sanctioned by the Chief Municipal Officer unless it so conforms.

Maps of underground watermains, supply pipes, drains, etc.

265. Subject to the provisions of section 10 and section 381, the Chief Municipal Officer shall cause to be maintained complete survey maps, drawings and descriptions of water-supply mains, supply-pipes, municipal drains, sewers, and connections thereto from all premises in the municipal area.

Rights of user of property for aqueducts, lines, etc.

266. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, place and maintain aqueducts, conduits and lines of mains or pipes or drains over, under, along, or across any immovable property, whether within or outside the limits of the municipal area, without acquiring such immovable property, and may, at any time, for the purpose of examining, repairing, altering or removing such aqueducts, conduits or lines of mains or pipes or drains, after giving a reasonable notice of his intention so to do, enter on any such immovable property over, under, along or across which the aqueducts, conduits, or lines of mains or pipes or drains have been placed :

Provided that the Municipality or the other agency, as the case may be, shall not acquire any right, other than a right of a user, in such property over, under, along or across which any aqueduct, conduit or line of mains or pipe or drain is placed.

- (2) The powers conferred under sub-section (1) shall not be exercised in respect of any property which is vested in the State Government or any local authority, or is under the control or management of the Central Government or the railway administration, save with

the permission of the State Government or the local authority or the Central Government or the railway administration, as the case may be, and in accordance with such regulations as may be made in this behalf :

Provided that the Chief Municipal Officer may, without such permission, repair, renew or amend any existing works, the character or position of which is not to be altered, if such repair, renewal or amendment is urgently necessary in order to maintain, without interruption, the supply of water, drainage, or disposal of sewage, or is such that any delay would be dangerous to health, human life or property.

- (3) In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Chief Municipal Officer by this section, he, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, shall cause as little damage and inconvenience as may be possible, and shall make full compensation for any damage or inconvenience caused by him.

Power of owner of premises to place pipes and drains through land belonging to other persons.

267. (1) If it appears to the Chief Municipal Officer that the only or the most convenient means of water-supply to, and drainage of, any premises is by placing or carrying any pipe or drain over, under, along or across the immovable property of another person, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by order, in writing, authorize the owner of such premises to place or carry such pipe or drain over, under, along or across such immovable property :

Provided that before making any such order, the Chief Municipal Officer shall give to the owner of the immovable property a reasonable opportunity of showing cause, within such time as may be specified by him by order, in writing, as to why the order should not be made :

Provided further that the owner of the premises shall not acquire any right, other than the right of a user, in such immovable property over, under, along or across which any such pipe or drain is placed or carried.

- (2) Upon the order under sub-section (1), the owner of the premises may, after giving a reasonable notice of his intention so to do, enter upon such immovable property with assistants and workmen at any time between sunrise and sunset for the purpose of placing a pipe or drain over, under, along or across such immovable property or for the purpose of repairing such pipe or drain.
- (3) In placing or carrying a pipe or drain under this section, as little damage as possible shall be done to such immovable property, and the owner of the premises shall -
 - (a) cause the pipe or drain to be placed or carried with the least possible delay,
 - (b) fill in, reinstate, and make good, at his own cost and with the least possible delay, any land opened, broken up or removed for the purpose of placing or carrying such pipe or drain, and
 - (c) pay compensation to the owner of such immovable property and to any other person, who sustains damage by reason of the placing or carrying of such pipe or drain.
- (4) If the owner of such immovable property over, under, along or across which a pipe or drain has been placed or carried under this section, while such immovable property was not built upon, desires to erect any building on such immovable property, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, by notice, in writing, require the owner of the premises to close, remove or divert the pipe or drain

in such manner as shall be approved by him and to fill in, reinstate and make good such immovable property as if the pipe or drain had not been placed or carried over, under, along or across such immovable property :

Provided that no action under this sub-section shall be taken unless, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, it is necessary or expedient for the construction of the proposed building, or the safe enjoyment thereof, that the pipe or drain should be closed, removed or diverted.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer to affix shafts etc. for ventilation of drain or cesspool and testing of drain.

268. Subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by regulations from time to time, the Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency, authorized by him in this behalf, -

- (a) erect upon any land or building, or affix to the outside of any building, or to any tree, any shaft or pipe as may appear to him to be necessary for the purpose of ventilating any drain or cesspool, whether vested in the Municipality or not, and
- (b) examine the condition of a private drain or cesspool within the municipal area in respect of which there is reasonable ground for believing that such private drain or cesspool is in such condition as is prejudicial to health, or is a nuisance, by applying any test other than a test by water under pressure, and if he deems it necessary, by opening the ground.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer to execute work after giving notice to person liable.

269. (1) When, under the provisions of this Act, any person is required, or is liable, to execute any work in relation to water-supply, drainage and sewerage within the municipal area, the Chief Municipal Officer may, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the

regulations made thereunder, cause such work to be executed after giving such person an opportunity of executing such work within such time as may be specified by him for this purpose.

- (2) The expenses incurred or likely to be incurred by the Chief Municipal Officer in the execution of any such work shall be payable by such person, and the expenses incurred by the Chief Municipal Officer in connection with the maintenance of such work or enjoyment of amenities and conveniences rendered possible by such work shall be payable by the person or persons enjoying such amenities and conveniences.
- (3) The expenses referred to in sub-section (2) shall be recoverable from the person or persons liable therefor as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Work to be done by licensed plumber.

270. (1) The Empowered Standing Committee may grant licence to any person possessing such technical qualifications as may be determined by regulations to act as a licensed plumber.
- (2) No person, other than a licensed plumber, shall execute any work described in chapter XXII, chapter XXIII, and in this chapter, and no person shall permit any such work to be executed except by a licensed plumber :

Provided that if, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, the work is of a trivial nature, he may grant permission in writing for the execution of such work by a person other than a licensed plumber.

- (3) The Municipality shall, by regulations, provide for -
 - (a) the terms and conditions of engagement of such licensed plumbers,

- (b) their duties and responsibilities, and guidelines for their functions,
- (c) the charges to be paid to them for different types of works,
- (d) the hearing and disposal of complaints made by the owners or occupiers of any premises with regard to their work, and
- (e) in case of contravention of any such regulations by any such plumber, the suspension or cancellation of such licence, whether he is prosecuted under this Act or not.

Power of access to waterworks and drainage and sewerage installations.

271. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, or any person appointed by the State Government in this behalf, may, for the purpose of inspecting or repairing or executing any work in, upon, or in connection with, any waterworks at all reasonable times,-

- (a) enter upon, and pass through, any land within or outside the municipal area, adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, such waterworks, in whomsoever such land may vest, and
- (b) convey into and through any such land all necessary materials, tools and implements.

(2) In the exercise of any power conferred by this section, as little damage as possible may be done, and compensation for any damage which may be done in the exercise of any such power shall be paid by the Chief Municipal Officer, or any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, or, if the person so appointed by the State Government has caused the damage, by the State Government.

Prohibition of certain acts.

272. (1) No person shall -

- (a) wilfully obstruct any person acting under the authority of the Chief Municipal Officer in setting out the lines of any works or pull up or remove any pillar, post or shaft fixed in the ground for the purpose of setting out lines of such works, or deface or destroy any works made for such purpose, or
- (b) wilfully or negligently break, damage, turn on, open, close, shut off, or otherwise interfere with, any lock, cock, valve, pipe, meter or other work or apparatus belonging to the Municipality, or
- (c) unlawfully obstruct the flow of, or flush, draw off, or divert, or take water from, any waterworks belonging to the Municipality or any water-course by which any such waterworks is supplied, or
- (d) unlawfully obstruct the flow of, or flush, draw off, or divert, or take, sewage work belonging to the Municipality or break or damage any electrical transmission line maintained by the Municipality, or
- (e) throw any material including plastic bags and containers or waste of dairies, piggeries and poultry farms into any municipal drain or sewer, or
- (f) obstruct any officer or other employee of the Municipality in the discharge of his duties under chapter XXII, chapter XXIII and under this chapter or refuse, or wilfully neglect, to furnish him with the means necessary for the making of any entry, inspection, examination or

inquiry thereunder in relation to any water or sewage work, or

(g) bathe in, at, or upon, any waterworks, or wash or throw or cause to enter therein any animal, or throw any rubbish, dirt or filth into any waterworks or wash or clean therein any cloth, wool or leather or the skin of any animal, or cause the water of any sink or drain or any steam-engine or boiler or any polluted water to turn, or to be brought, into any waterworks, or do any other act, whereby the water in any waterworks is fouled or is likely to be fouled.

(2) Nothing in clause (b) of sub-section (1) shall apply to a consumer closing the stopcock fixed on the service pipe supplying water to his premises so long as he has obtained the consent of any other consumer whose supply will be affected thereby.

Sewerage charge and sewerage cess.

273. (1) The Municipality shall levy sewerage charge on the owners of premises for connection of such premises to sewerage mains, such amount being not less than one-half of the amount chargeable for water-supply under sub-section (2) of section 228 or sub-section (2) of section 229, as the case may be, as may be determined by regulations from time to time.

(2) Where the owner of any premises in a locality where sewer is laid by the Municipality has not taken connection from the sewerage mains, he shall be liable to pay a sewerage cess of such amount, not being more than one-half of the amount chargeable as sewerage charge under sub-section (1), as may be determined by regulations from time to time.

- (3) Where the owner fails to pay the sewerage charge or sewerage cess, such sewerage charge or sewerage cess, as the case may be, shall be realized from the occupier, and the occupier shall be entitled to recover the amount from the owner.
- (4) The connection of premises to sewerage mains shall be provided within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of an application in this behalf from the owner of the premises.
- (5) The charges received by the Municipality from the owner or the occupier for connecting the premises to sewerage mains shall be spent only for the works relating to the sewerage system.

Entrustment of operation and maintenance of sewerage works and billing and collection of sewerage charges.

274. The Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, entrust the work of operation and maintenance of sewerage works in the municipal area and the work of billing and collection of sewerage charge or sewerage cess to any agency under any law for the time being in force or any private agency.

Power of State Government to exercise control over imperfect, inefficient or unsuitable waterworks, drainage works or sewerage works.

275. (1) If, at any time, it appears to the State Government that any waterworks, or drainage works, or sewerage works executed by, or vested in, the Municipality, are maintained, or worked, or run in an imperfect, inefficient or unsuitable manner, the State Government may, by an order, in writing, direct the Municipality to show cause within the period specified in the order why the waterworks, the drainage works or the sewerage works, as the case may be, with all plants, fittings and appurtenances thereof should not be handed over to the control and management of any person or any agency belonging to the State Government or any authority under any law for the time being in force, as may be specified in the order.

- (2) If no cause is shown to the satisfaction of the State Government within the period specified in the order referred to in sub-section (1), or the cause shown appears to be untenable, the State Government may, by order, in writing, direct that the waterworks, the drainage works or the sewerage works, as the case may be, with all plants, fittings and appurtenances thereof shall be handed over, for such period as it may fix, to the control and management of such persons, or agency, or authority, and on such terms and conditions, as the State Government may determine.
- (3) During the period fixed under sub-section (2), the complete control and management of such waterworks, drainage works or sewerage works, as the case may be, shall vest in the person, or the agency, or the authority so appointed who shall engage such establishment for the purpose of maintaining and working of such waterworks, drainage works or sewerage works, as the case may be, as the State Government may from time to time determine; and such establishment may include the employees of the Municipality who were employed, or have been employed, in the maintenance or working of such waterworks, drainage works or sewerage works.
- (4) The cost of such establishment, including costs of all materials, implements and stores, shall be paid from the Municipal Fund within such period as may be fixed by the State Government.

Municipal Water-supply, Drainage and Sewerage Code.

276. (1) The Municipality shall prepare and maintain a Code to be called the Municipal Water-supply, Drainage and Sewerage Code which shall include such regulations as may be made from time to time relating to the construction, maintenance, repair and alteration of waterworks, water-supply mains, supply-pipes, drains, sewers, privies and urinals, cesspools, and appurtenances thereof and other matters under chapter XXII or chapter XXIII or this chapter.

- (2) Such regulations shall provide for inspection of premises by the Chief Municipal Officer, or any other officer, or any other agency, authorized by him in this behalf, as the case may be, to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder.

Chapter XXV

Solid Wastes

A. Functions in Relation to Solid Wastes Management

Duty of Municipality in respect of solid wastes management and handling.

277. Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality shall, within the municipal area, be responsible for implementation of the rules made by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to regulate the management and handling of municipal solid wastes and for development of any infrastructure for collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of such solid wastes.

(29 of 1986.)

Entrustment of management and handling of solid wastes and billing and collection of charge.

278. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, for the purposes of management and handling of municipal solid wastes and for development of infrastructure, if any, for collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of such solid wastes, a charge shall be levied, and payment thereof shall be made, at such rate as the Municipality may fix from time to time :

Provided that the charge as aforesaid shall, as far as practicable, be such as shall cover the costs on account of management and handling of municipal solid wastes and development of infrastructure, if any, for collection, storage, transportation, processing

and disposal thereof and also the costs of debt-servicing, depreciation of plant and machinery, and other charges, if any :

Provided further that the Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, entrust development of infrastructure for collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of solid wastes and the work of management and handling of municipal solid wastes and of billing and collection of the charges as aforesaid to any agency under any law for the time being in force or to any other agency.

Functions of Municipality.

279. Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality shall, either on its own or through any other agency authorized by it in this behalf, -

- (a) organize collection of municipal solid wastes through any of the methods, like community bin collection (central bin), house-to-house collection, and collection on regular pre-informed times and schedules,
- (b) devise collection of wastes from slums and squatter areas or other localities including hotels, restaurants, office complexes and commercial areas,
- (c) remove at regular intervals all solid wastes so collected under clause (a) and clause (b) for disposal on daily basis, and
- (d) arrange for making use of biodegradable wastes from slaughterhouses, meat and fish markets, and fruits and vegetable markets in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Solid wastes to be property of Municipality.

280. All solid wastes deposited in public receptacles, depots and places provided or appointed under section 281 and all solid wastes collected by the municipal employees or contractors or any other agency authorized in this behalf shall be the property of the Municipality.

Appointment of places for disposal and final disposal of solid wastes.

281. The Municipality may, either on its own or through any other agency, cause the solid wastes to be disposed of at such place or places within or outside the municipal area, and in such manner, as it considers suitable :

Provided that no place which has not been used before the commencement of this Act for the purpose specified in this section, shall be so used, except -

- (i) in conformity with the provisions of any State law relating to development planning and land use control or any other law relating thereto for the time being in force, or
- (ii) in the absence of any such law, with the approval of the State Government :

Provided further that the solid wastes shall not be finally disposed of in any manner which the State Government may think fit to disallow.

B. Collection and Removal of Solid Wastes

Duty of owners and occupiers of premises to store solid wastes at source of generation.

282. It shall be the duty of the owners and the occupiers of all lands and buildings in the municipal area -

- (a) to have the premises swept and cleaned on a regular basis,
- (b) to provide for separate receptacles or disposal bags for the storage of -

- (i) organic and bio-degradable wastes,
- (ii) recyclable or non-biogradable wastes, and
- (iii) domestic hazardous wastes,

so as to ensure that these different types of wastes do not get mixed,

- (c) to keep such receptacles in good condition and order, and
- (d) to cause all such wastes, including rubbish, offensive matter, filth, trade refuse, carcasses of dead animals, excrementitious matters, bio-medical wastes and other polluted and obnoxious matters to be collected from their respective premises and to be deposited in community bins or receptacles at such times and in such places as the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, specify.

Duty of Cooperative Housing Society, Apartment Owners' Association, etc.

283. It shall be the duty of the managements of co-operative housing societies, apartment owners' associations, residential and non-residential building complexes, educational buildings, institutional buildings, assembly buildings, business buildings, mercantile buildings, industrial buildings, storage buildings, and hazardous buildings to provide at their premises community bins or disposal bags of appropriate size as may be specified by the Municipality for temporary storage of wastes (other than recyclable wastes), hazardous wastes, and bio-medical wastes for their subsequent collection and removal by the Municipality :

Provided that a separate community bin shall be provided for the storage of recyclable wastes where door to door collection is not made.

Prohibitions.

284. No person and no owner or occupier of any land or building shall -
- (a) litter or deposit at any public place any solid waste,
 - (b) deposit building rubbish in or along any public street, public place or open land,
 - (c) allow any filthy matter to flow on public places, or
 - (d) deposit or otherwise dispose of the carcass or any part of any dead animal at a place not provided or appointed for such purpose.

Punishment for littering on streets and depositing or throwing any solid waste.

285. (1) Whoever litters any street or public place or deposits or throws or causes or permits to be deposited or thrown any solid waste or building rubbish at any place in contravention of the provisions of this Act, or permits the flow of any filthy matter from his premises, shall be punished on the spot with a fine, being not less than one hundred rupees, as may be determined by regulations from time to time.
- (2) Such spot fines may be collected by officers, not below the rank of a sanitary inspector, duly authorized by the Municipality in this behalf.

Bio-medical wastes.

286. It shall be the duty of the Municipality, either on its own or through any other agency authorized by it in this behalf, to implement the provisions of the rules made by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to

regulate the management and handling of bio-medical wastes to the extent such rules apply to the Municipality.

(29 of 1986.)

Hazardous wastes.

287. It shall be the duty of the Municipality, either on its own or through any other agency authorized by it in this behalf, to implement the provisions of the rules made by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to regulate the management and handling of hazardous wastes to the extent such rules apply to the Municipality.

Chapter XXVI

State Municipal Regulatory Commission

Definitions.

288. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (a) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the State Commission;
- (b) "High Court" means the High Court of the State;
- (c) "member" means a member of the State Commission, and includes the Chairperson, and a member of a regional branch of the State Commission;
- (d) "State Commission" means the State Municipal Regulatory Commission constituted under sub-section (1) of section 289.

Constitution and incorporation of State Commission.

289. (1) The State Government shall, within three months from the date of commencement of this Act, by notification, constitute a State Commission to be known as the Municipal Regulatory Commission to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to, it under this Act.
- (2) The State Commission shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract and shall, by the name as aforesaid, sue or be sued.
- (3) The head office of the State Commission shall be at such place as the State Government may, by notification, specify.
- (4) The State Commission shall consist of such members including the Chairperson, being not more than five, as the State Government may determine :

Provided that the State Government may establish one or more regional branches of the State Commission for such area or areas as the State Government may determine, and each such regional branch shall have not less than two and not more than three members.

- (5) The Chairperson and the other members shall be persons of ability, integrity and standing who have adequate knowledge of, and have shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to, urban affairs, municipal finance, economics, engineering, law or management :

Provided that the members of a regional branch of the State Commission for an area shall be persons having adequate knowledge of that area.

(6) The Chairperson and the other members shall be appointed by the State Government on the recommendation of the Selection Committee constituted under section 290.

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5) or sub-section (6), the State Government may appoint any person as the Chairperson from amongst the persons who are or have been the judges of the High Court :

Provided that no such appointment shall be made except in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court :

Provided further that the State Government may appoint one of the members of a regional branch of the State Commission from amongst the persons who are or have been the District and Sessions Judges :

Provided also that no such appointment shall be made except after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court.

(8) The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive of the State Commission.

(9) The Chairperson or any other member shall not hold any other office.

Constitution of Selection Committee by State Government.

290. (1) The State Government shall, for the purposes of selection of members, constitute a Selection Committee consisting of -

(a) a person, who has been the judge of the High Court, to be the Chairperson, and

(b) (i) the Chief Secretary to the State Government, and

- (ii) an expert having not less than ten years' experience in infrastructure finance, to be nominated by the State Government :

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to the appointment of a person, who is or has been the judge of the High Court, as the Chairperson.

- (2) No appointment of a member shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy in the Selection Committee.
- (3) The State Government shall, within one month from the date of occurrence of any vacancy by reason of death, resignation or removal, and six months before the superannuation, or the expiry of the term of office, of a member, make a reference to the Selection Committee for filling up of such vacancy.
- (4) The Selection Committee shall finalize the selection of a member within one month from the date of reference to it by the State Government.
- (5) Upon reference by the State Government, the Selection Committee shall recommend a panel of two names for every vacancy in the office of a member.
- (6) Before recommending any person for appointment as a member, the Selection Committee shall satisfy itself that such person does not have any financial or other interest which is likely to affect prejudicially his function as a member.

Term of office, salary and allowances and other conditions of service of Chairperson and other members.

291. (1) The Chairperson and the other members shall hold office as such for a term of five years from the date of entering upon office, but shall not be eligible for re-appointment :

Provided that no Chairperson or any other member shall hold office as such after he has attained, -

(a) in the case of the Chairperson, the age of sixty-five years, and

(b) in the case of any other member, the age of sixty-two years.

(2) The salary and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and the other members shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The salary and allowances and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson or any other member shall not be varied to his disadvantage.

(4) The Chairperson and every other member shall, before entering upon office, make, and subscribe to, an oath of office and of secrecy in such Form and manner, and before such authority, as may be prescribed.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the Chairperson or any other member may –

(a) relinquish his office by giving, in writing, to the Governor a notice of not less than three months; or

(b) be removed from his office in accordance with the provisions of section 292.

(6) The Chairperson or any other member ceasing to hold office as such shall be ineligible for further employment under the Central Government or any State Government for a period of two years

from the date from which he ceases to hold such office, and shall not -

- (a) accept any commercial employment for a period of two years from the date from which he ceases to hold such office, and
- (b) represent in any manner any person before the State Commission or any similar Commission constituted by any other State Government.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this sub-section, -

- (i) “employment under the Central Government or any State Government” shall include employment under a local authority or any other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Central Government or a State Government or under any corporation or society owned or controlled by the Central Government or a State Government;
- (ii) “commercial employment” shall mean employment in any capacity under, or as agent of, a person engaged in any trading, or commercial, industrial, or financial business, in any public utility undertaking, and shall include employment as a director of a company or partner of a firm, and shall also include setting up of practice, either independently or as a partner of a firm or as an adviser or a consultant.

Removal of Chairperson and other members.

292. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3), the Chairperson or any other member shall only be removed from his office by order of the Governor on the ground of proved misbehaviour after the High Court, on a reference being made to it by the Governor, has, on inquiry held in accordance with such procedure as may be

prescribed in that behalf by the High Court, reported that the member ought, on such ground, to be removed.

(2) The Governor may suspend the Chairperson or any other member in respect of whom a reference has been made to the High Court under sub-section (1) until the Governor has passed orders on receipt of the report of the High Court on such reference.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Governor may, by order, remove from office the Chairperson or any other member, if he –

(a) has been adjudged an insolvent, or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the State Government, involves moral turpitude, or

(c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member, or

(d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functioning as a member, or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3), the Chairperson or any other member shall not be removed from his office on the ground specified in clause (d) or clause (e) of that sub-section unless the High Court, on a reference being made to it in this behalf by the Governor, has, on an enquiry held by it in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed in this behalf by the High Court, reported that the member ought, on such ground, to be removed.

Officers of State Commission and other staff.

293. (1) The State Commission may appoint a Secretary to exercise such powers, and perform such duties, under the control of the Chairperson, as may be specified by regulations made by the State Commission.
- (2) The State Commission may, with the approval of the State Government, determine the number, nature and categories of other officers and employees required to assist the State Commission in the discharge of its functions.
- (3) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Secretary and the other officers and employees of the State Commission shall be such as may be determined by the State Commission by regulations with the approval of the State Government.
- (4) The State Commission may appoint consultants to assist the State Commission in the discharge of its functions on such terms and conditions as the State Commission may, by order, determine.

Functions of State Commission.

294. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, the State Commission shall discharge the following functions, namely :-
- (a) to determine separately for each Municipality the rate at which payment shall be made for water-supply under sub-section (2) of section 228 and sub-section (2) of section 229,
- (b) to determine separately for each Municipality the sewerage charges on the owners of premises for

connection of such premises to sewerage mains under sub-section (1) of section 273,

(c) to determine separately for each Municipality the rate or the principles for determination of the amount of charges for solid waste management under sub-section (1) of section 137,

(d) to determine separately for each Municipality the rate or the principles for determination of charges for any other services,

(e) to set standards for the provision of municipal services in the State including standards relating to quality, continuity and reliability of such services,

(f) to suggest avenues for participation of private sector in the provision of municipal services,

(g) to ensure a fair deal to the citizens, and

(h) to promote competition, efficiency and economy in the activities of the Municipalities in the provision of municipal services.

(2) Without prejudice to sub-section (1), the State Government may, by notification, confer any of the following functions on the State Commission, namely :-

(a) to aid and advise the State Government on any matter concerning the provision of municipal services in the State and the formulation of state policies in this regard,

(b) to collect and record information concerning the provision of municipal services in the State,

- (c) to collect and publish data and forecasts on the demand for, and the use of, municipal services in the State,
- (d) to adjudicate upon the disputes and differences between any municipal authority and any suppliers of municipal services in the public or private sector on behalf of such municipal authority, or to refer such matters for arbitration,
- (e) to co-ordinate with the environmental regulatory agencies and to evolve policies and procedure for appropriate environmental regulation of municipal services, and
- (f) to aid and advise the State Government on any other related matters referred to the State Commission by the State Government.

The State Municipal Advisory Committee.

295. (1) The State Commission may, by notification, constitute, with effect from such date as it may specify in such notification, a Committee to be known as the State Municipal Advisory Committee.
- (2) The State Municipal Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than twenty-one members to represent the interest of commerce, industry, transport, agriculture, labour, consumers of civic services, Municipalities, non-governmental organizations and academic and research bodies in the municipal affairs sector.
- (3) The Chairperson and the other members shall be the *ex officio* Chairperson and the *ex officio* members, respectively, of the State Municipal Advisory Committee.

Objects and functions of State Municipal Advisory Committee

296. The objects and functions of the State Municipal Advisory Committee shall be to advise the State Commission on -

- (a) major questions of policy;
- (b) matters relating to quality, continuity and extent of municipal services provided by the municipal authorities;
- (c) protection of consumers of municipal services; and
- (d) improvement of overall standards of performance, efficiency and economy in the provision of municipal services by municipal authorities.

Representation before State Commission

297. The State Commission shall authorize any person as it deems fit to represent the interest of the consumers of municipal services in the proceedings before it.

Appeal to High Court in certain cases.

298. (1) Any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the State Commission may file an appeal to the High Court.

(2) Except as aforesaid, no appeal or revision shall lie to any Court from any decision or order of the State Commission.

(3) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within sixty days from the date of communication of the decision or order of the State Commission to the person aggrieved by the said decision or order :

Provided that the High Court may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of sixty days, if it is satisfied that the

aggrieved person had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the said period of sixty days.

Determination of rates of user charges by State Commission.

299. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the rates of user charges referred to in section 294 shall be determined by the State Commission in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder.

(2) The State Commission shall determine by regulations separately for each Municipality the terms and conditions of, and the rates for, user charges as aforesaid and, in doing so, shall be guided by the following considerations, namely :-

(a) that the rates progressively reflect the cost of supply of municipal services at an adequate and improving level of efficiency;

(b) the factors which would encourage efficiency, economical use of resources, good performance, optimum investments and other matters which the State Commission may consider appropriate;

(c) that the interest of the consumers of the municipal services are safeguarded and, at the same time, the consumers pay for availing of the municipal services in a reasonable manner based on the average cost of such services; and

(d) the production, distribution, and supply of municipal civic services are conducted on commercial basis.

(3) The State Commission, while determining the user charges under this Act, shall not have any undue preference for any Municipality

but may differentiate between different Municipalities, having regard to the population, density of population, revenue generation, economic importance and the actual conditions obtaining in different municipal areas and the managerial, technical, financial and organizational capacities of different Municipalities.

(4) If the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers of municipal services in the rates of user charges determined by the State Commission under this section, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the Municipality or any other agency affected by the grant of such subsidy in such manner as the State Commission may direct as a condition for implementation of the subsidy provided by the State Government.

(5) Where the State Commission departs from any of the considerations specified in sub-section (2), it shall record the reasons for such departure.

Budget of State Commission.

300. The State Commission shall prepare, in such Form, and at such time in each financial year, as may be prescribed, its budget for the next financial year, showing the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State Commission, and forward the budget to the State Government.

Accounts and audit of State Commission.

301. (1) The State Commission shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such Form as may be determined by the State Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the State Commission shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may

be determined by him, and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the State Commission to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the State Commission under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India generally has in connection with the audit of Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the State Commission.

(4) The accounts of the State Commission, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the State Government by the State Commission and the State Government shall cause the audit report to be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before the State Legislature.

Annual report of State Commission.

302. (1) The State Commission shall prepare every year in such Form, and within such time, as may be prescribed, an annual report giving a summary of its activities during the previous year and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the State Government.

(2) A copy of the annual report received under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before the State Legislature.

Transparency in State Commission.

303. The State Commission shall ensure transparency while exercising the powers and discharging the functions under this Act.

Directions by State Government

304. (1) In the discharge of its functions, the State Commission shall be guided by such directions in matters of policy involving public interest as the State Government may give to it in writing.
- (2) If any question arises as to whether any such direction relates to a matter of policy involving public interest, the decision of the State Government thereon shall be final.

Proceedings before State Commission.

305. All proceedings before the State Commission shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of section 193 and section 228 of the Indian Penal Code and the State Commission shall be deemed to be a Civil Court for the purposes of section 345 and section 346 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

[45 of 1860
2 of 1974]

Protection of action taken in good faith.

306. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government or the State Commission or any officer of the State Government or any member, officer or other employee of the State Commission for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this chapter or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.

Punishment for non-compliance of orders or directions under the Act.

307. Whoever fails to comply with any order or direction given under this chapter within such time as may be specified in the said order or

direction or contravenes, or attempts to contravene, or abets the contravention of, any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations made thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine, which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both, in respect of each such offence, and, in the case of a continuing offence, with an additional fine which may extend to one thousand rupees for every day during which the offence continues after conviction for the first such offence.

Punishment for non-compliance of directions given by State Commission.

308. (1) In case any complaint is filed before the State Commission by any person or if the State Commission is satisfied that any person has contravened any directions issued by the State Commission under this chapter, or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the State Commission may, after giving such person an opportunity of being heard in the matter, by order in writing, direct that without prejudice to any other penalty to which he may be liable under this chapter, such person shall pay, by way of penalty, a fine which shall not exceed twenty-five thousand rupees for each such contravention and, in the case of a continuing contravention, with an additional fine which may extend to one thousand rupees for every day during which the contravention continues after first such contravention.
- (2) Any amount payable under this section, if not paid, may be recovered as an arrear of land revenue.

Power of seizure.

309. The State Commission or any officer, not below the rank of a Gazetted Officer, specially authorized in this behalf by the State Commission may enter any building or place where the State

Commission has reason to believe that any document relating to the subject-matter of the inquiry may be found, and may seize any such document or take extracts or copies therefrom, subject to the provisions of section 100 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, in so far as it may be applicable.

[2 of 1974]

Cognizance of offences.

310. No Court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this chapter except upon a complaint, in writing, made by the State Commission or by any officer duly authorized by the State Commission in this behalf.

Inconsistency in laws.

311. Nothing in this chapter or any rule or regulation made thereunder or any instrument having effect by virtue of this chapter or the rule or the regulation made thereunder shall have effect in so far as it is inconsistent with any provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

[68 of 1986]

Delegation.

312. The State Commission may, by general or special order in writing, delegate to any member, or any officer of the State Commission, or any other person, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions under this chapter, except the power to adjudicate disputes under clause (d) of sub-section (2) of section 294 and the power to make regulations under section 315, as it may deem necessary.

Overriding effect.

313. Save as otherwise provided in section 311, the provisions of this chapter shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Power of State Government to make rules

314. (1) The State Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :-

- (a) the salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and the other members under sub-section (2) of section 291;
- (b) the Form and the manner in which, and the authority before whom, the oath of office and secrecy shall be subscribed under sub-section (4) of section 291;
- (c) the Form in which, and the time at which, the State Commission shall prepare its budget under section 300;
- (d) the Form in which the annual statement of accounts shall be prepared by the State Commission under sub-section (1) of section 301;
- (e) the Form in which, and the time within which, the annual report shall be furnished under sub-section (1) of section 302;
- (f) any other matter which may be, or is required to be, prescribed by rules.

Power of State Commission to make regulations.

315. (1) The State Commission may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :-

(a) the powers and the duties of the Secretary under sub-section (1) of section 293;

(b) the salary and allowances and the other terms and conditions of service of the Secretary and the other officers and other employees under sub-section (3) of section 293;

(c) the terms and conditions of appointment of consultants under sub-section (4) of section 293;

(d) the manner in which the rates of user charges shall be determined under section 299;

(e) any other matter which may be, or is required to be, provided by regulations.

Chapter XXVII

Communication Systems

A. Public Streets

Surface transport system and accessories.

316. For the purposes of this Act, -

(a) the surface transport systems shall include streets, roads, footpaths, pedestrian pathways, parking areas, transportation terminals, both for passengers and goods, bridges, sub-ways, over-bridges, ferries and inland water transport systems, and

- (b) the transport system accessories shall include traffic engineering schemes, street furniture, street lighting, parking lots and bus stops.

Vesting of public streets in Municipality.

- 317. (1) Subject to the provisions of chapter XXI, all public streets and parking areas in any municipal area including the soil, sub-soil, stones, other materials, side-drains, footpaths, pavements, subways and over-bridges and all erections, implements and trees and other things provided therein, shall vest in the Municipality :

Provided that no public street in the municipal area, which immediately before the commencement of this Act vested in the State Government or in any authority under any law for the time being in force, shall, unless so directed by the authority competent to take a decision in this behalf, vest in the Municipality by virtue of this sub-section.

- (2) The State Government may, subject to such terms and conditions as it may determine, by notification -
 - (a) transfer to any Municipality any public street or parking area belonging to it, or
 - (b) take over from any Municipality any public street or parking area, or
 - (c) transfer such public street or parking area, so taken over, to any authority under any law for the time being in force, or any other agency,

for a limited period for the purpose of proper maintenance and development of such public street or parking area by such

Municipality or the State Government or such authority or agency, as the case may be.

- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer shall maintain a register, in such Form, and in such manner, as may be specified by regulations, and such register shall separately include a list of all public streets vested in the Municipality or in such authority or agency.
- (4) The Municipality may publish, in such Form, and in such manner, as may be provided by regulations, the contents of such register for sale to the public.

Functions of Municipality in respect of public streets etc.

318. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality or any other agency, as the case may be, shall cause all public streets, parking areas, squares, sub-ways or over-bridges vested in it to be developed, maintained, controlled and regulated in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations made thereunder.
- (2) The Municipality or any other agency, as the case may be, shall, from time to time, cause all public streets vested in it to be levelled, metalled, paved, channelled, altered or repaired, and may widen, extend or otherwise improve any such street or cause the soil thereof to be raised, lowered or altered or may place and repair fences and guard-rails thereon for the safety of pedestrians.

Power to make new public streets etc.

319. Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality or any other agency, as the case may be, may, at any time, -
 - (a) lay out and make new public streets, or
 - (b) construct bridges or sub-ways, or

- (c) turn or divert any existing public street, or
- (d) lay down and determine the position and direction of a street or streets in any part of the municipal area notwithstanding that no proposal for the erection of any building in its vicinity has been received, or
- (e) declare any street, made and duly constructed under any scheme or any development or improvement scheme in pursuance of the provisions of any law for the time being in force or by any authority under any other law for the time being in force, to be a public street, or
- (f) declare any private street to be a public street.

Minimum width of new public street.

320. No new public street made, or declared as such, under this chapter, shall be less than ten metres in width including the footpath :

Provided that such width may be reduced by the Municipality in the case of a class 'C' municipal area or a transitional area, for reasons to be recorded in writing, but the width shall in no case be less than six metres.

Acquisition of lands and buildings for public streets, public parking places and transportation terminals.

321. (1) The Municipality may, subject to the other provisions of this Act, require to be acquired -

- (a) any land together with structure including building, if any, standing thereon for the purpose of opening, widening, extending or otherwise improving any public street, parking or transportation terminal, square, park or garden or of making a new one or for enforcing the regular line of street,

(b) in relation to any land or any structure including building as aforesaid, such land or structure including building as the Municipality may think expedient, outside the regular line or projected regular line of the public street as aforesaid, and

(c) any land for the purpose of laying out, or making, a public parking place.

(2) Where any land or structure including building is required to be acquired under sub-section (1) and the Municipality is satisfied that the remaining portion of the land will not be suitable or fit for any beneficial use to the owner, it shall, at the request of the owner, proceed for the acquisition, in addition, of such remaining portion of the land which shall, on acquisition, vest in the Municipality.

(3) Where any land or structure including building is required to be acquired under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the procedure for such acquisition as provided in this Act shall apply.

Permanent closure of public street.

322. (1) The Municipality may permanently close the whole or any part of a public street in the public interest or for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act :

Provided that before closing such public street, the Municipality shall, by notice published in such manner as may be provided by regulations, give an opportunity to the residents likely to be affected by such closure to make suggestions or objections, with respect to such closure, within one month from the date of publication of the said notice, and shall consider all such suggestions, or objections.

- (2) Whenever any public street or a part thereof is permanently closed under sub-section (1), the site of such street or any portion thereof may be disposed of as land vested in the Municipality.

Temporary closure of public street.

323. The Chief Municipal Officer may temporarily close the whole or any part of a public street to permit development and maintenance work, and may authorize such closure for other purposes for any period not exceeding fifteen days.

Closure of public street for parking purposes and levy of parking fee.

324. (1) The Municipality may close any portion of a public street and declare it as a parking area.
- (2) Parking fees at different rates for different types of vehicles, in different areas, for different times of the day, and for different durations may be levied at such rates as may be determined by the Municipality by regulations from time to time.

Right of owners to require streets to be declared public.

325. (1) If any private street has been levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, sewerred, drained, conserved, and lighted to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer, he may, or on the requisition of a majority of the owners of such private street, shall, declare such street to be a public street and, thereupon, the street shall vest in the Municipality.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, at any time, by a notice fixed up in any street or part thereof, not maintainable by the Municipality, but which has already been levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, drained, sewerred and lighted to his satisfaction, give intimation of his intention to declare such street or part thereof to be a public street, and unless

within thirty days of such notice, the owner or any one of the several owners of such street or such part of a street, lodges objection thereto at the office of the Municipality, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, in writing, put up in such street or part thereof, declare such street or part thereof, as the case may be, to be a public street vested in the Municipality.

***B. Traffic Engineering Schemes, Street Furniture,
Parking Lots and Bus Stops***

Traffic engineering schemes.

326. The Municipality may, either on its own or through any other agency authorized by it in this behalf, as and when necessary, having regard to the abutting land uses and traffic flow patterns, implement traffic engineering schemes to ensure public safety, convenience and expeditious movement of traffic including pedestrian traffic.

Street furniture and bus stops.

327. Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality shall, either on its own or through any other agency authorized by it in this behalf, from time to time, cause various items of street furniture including fences, guard-rails, traffic lights, traffic signs, street markings, median strips, bus stops and any other item to be installed or done, and shall cause them to be maintained so as to ensure public safety and convenience and expeditious movement of traffic including pedestrian traffic.

C. Street Lighting

Measures for lighting.

328. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, either on his own or through any other agency, -

- (a) take measures for lighting, in a suitable manner, such public streets and public places as may be specified by him,
 - (b) procure, erect and maintain such number of lamps, lamp-posts and other appurtenances as may be necessary for the purpose of lighting, and
 - (c) cause such lamps to be lighted by appropriate means.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer or any other agency may attach to the outside of any building brackets for lamps in such manner as may not cause any injury or inconvenience thereto.

Chapter XXVIII

Markets, Commercial Infrastructure and Slaughterhouses

Commercial Infrastructure.

329. Subject to the provisions of chapter XXI, the Municipality may, either on its own or through any other agency authorized by it in this behalf, implement any scheme for construction, operation, maintenance and management of commercial infrastructure including district centres, neighbourhood shopping centres, shopping malls and office complexes, and may rent out, lease or dispose by outright sale, such commercial infrastructure or any part thereof.

Provision of municipal markets and slaughterhouses.

330. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency, provide and maintain in the municipal area such number of municipal markets, slaughterhouses or stockyards, as he thinks fit, together with stalls, shops, sheds, pans and other buildings and conveniences for the use of persons carrying on trade or business and may provide and maintain in any such markets, buildings or other places, machines, weights, scales and measures for the weighment or measurement of goods sold thereon.

- (2) Subject to such directions as the Municipality may give in this behalf, the Chief Municipal Officer or any other agency, as the case may be, may, after giving a notice, close any municipal market or slaughterhouse or stockyard or any portion thereof on and from the date specified in the notice, and the premises occupied for any municipal market, slaughterhouse or stockyard or any portion thereof so closed may be disposed of as the property of the Municipality.

Use of municipal markets.

331. (1) No person shall, without the general or special permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer, sell, or expose for sale, any animal or article in any municipal market within the municipal area.
- (2) Any person contravening the provisions of sub-section (1) and any animal or article exposed for sale by such person may, by or under the order of the Chief Municipal Officer, be summarily removed from the market by a police-officer or any officer or other employee of the Municipality authorized by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf.

Levy of stallage, rent and fee.

332. Subject to such regulations as may be made from time to time, the Chief Municipal Officer, either on his own or through any other agency, as the case may be, may charge stallage, rent or fee for the occupation or use of facilities in a municipal market or a municipal slaughterhouse.

PART VI

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Chapter XXIX

Local Agenda for Urban Environmental Management

Duties of Municipality.

333. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, and having regard to the linkages between urban economy, infrastructure, productivity, poverty and environmental health in the municipal area, the Municipality shall take adequate measures for -
- (a) management of urban environment,
 - (b) measuring quality of living and working environment,
 - (c) monitoring of pollution levels, and
 - (d) undertaking health risk assessment.
- (2) For carrying out the purposes of sub-section (1), the Municipality shall involve such professional agencies and community based organizations, either in the public sector or in the private sector, as may be necessary, to -
- (a) carry out studies on vulnerability and risk assessment,
 - (b) enhance the capability of concerned municipal or other agencies through research and training activities for better management of environment,

- (c) prepare environmental management strategy and action plan, and establish adequate institutional framework for its implementation, and
- (d) provide and manage environmental infrastructure services.

Functions in relation to urban environmental management and submission of report on environmental status of municipal area.

334. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10 and without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of section 333, the Municipality shall, either by itself or through any other agency, undertake functions relating to the following matters :-

- (a) supply of safe water,
- (b) low cost sanitation,
- (c) environmentally sound solid waste management,
- (d) toxic waste collection and disposal,
- (e) waste recycling and recovery,
- (f) preservation of wetlands,
- (g) control of air pollution,
- (h) control of sound pollution,
- (i) control of cattle and other animal in the municipal area,
- (j) area improvement and resettlement,
- (k) promotion of urban agriculture and urban forestry,
- (l) development of parks, gardens and open spaces,

- (m) promotion of community awareness on environmental education, and
 - (n) such other matters as the Municipality may consider necessary.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall prepare and submit a report on the environmental status of the municipal area at the time of submission of the budget estimates.

Chapter XXX

Environmental Sanitation and Community Health

A. Duties and General Powers

Duties of Municipality for environmental sanitation.

335. It shall be the duty of the Municipality or any other agency authorized by it in this behalf to take adequate measures for each of the following matters, namely :-

- (a) inspection, supervision, regulation, and control of premises to ensure proper environmental sanitation,
- (b) regulation of public bathing and washing,
- (c) provision and maintenance of public conveniences,
- (d) licensing of animals and control of stray animals,
- (e) licensing of butchers and slaughterhouses, and
- (f) control of nuisances.

Powers of Chief Municipal Officer.

336. Subject to such regulations as may be made in this behalf, the Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency authorized by him in this behalf, -

- (a) cause any building or other premises to be inspected for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition thereof,
- (b) require the owner or the occupier of any land or building or any part thereof to cleanse it, if it appears necessary so to do for reasons of sanitation,
- (c) issue such order as he deems necessary for the improvement of any insanitary huts and sheds and untenanted premises which are likely to cause risk of disease to the inmates thereof or to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood or are, for any reason, likely to endanger community health or safety,
- (d) by notice, prohibit the owner or the occupier from the use of any building, or any room in a building, which appears to him to be unfit for human habitation, as dwelling, or
- (e) direct the filling up of any well, pool, ditch, tank, pond, pit or undrained ground, cistern, or reservoir of any waste or stagnant water, which appears to him to be, or likely to become, injurious to health or offensive to the neighbourhood.

Power to regulate excavations.

337. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, by a general order, or by a special order affecting such portion of the municipal area as may be specified therein, prohibit -

- (a) the making of excavation for the purpose of taking earth therefrom or storing rubbish or offensive matter therein,
or

(b) the digging of cesspool, tanks, ponds, wells or pits,

without his special permission.

- (2) No person shall make any excavation referred to in clause (a), or dig any cesspool, tank, pond, well or pit referred to in clause (b), of sub-section (1) in contravention of any such order.
- (3) If any such excavation is made, or any such cesspool, tank, pond, well or pit is dug in contravention of the order under sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, in writing, require the owner or the occupier of the land, on which such excavation is made or such cesspool, tank, pond, well or pit is dug, to fill it up with earth or other material approved by him.

Power to require trees, hedges, etc., to be trimmed.

338. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, if he thinks fit, by notice, in writing, require the owner or the occupier of any land in the municipal area on which trees, shrubs or hedges are growing to keep such trees, shrubs or hedges in a trim condition, and remove any such tree, shrub or hedge, if it obstructs traffic on any street or poses a danger to public safety or overhangs any street causing inconvenience or danger to the passers-by.
- (2) If it appears to the Chief Municipal Officer that immediate action is necessary for public safety, he may, without notice, cause such tree, shrub or hedge to be removed from the land as aforesaid and the expenses thereof shall be paid by the owner or the occupier of such land.

B. Regulation of Public Bathing, Washing, etc.

Regulation of public bathing etc.

339. The Chief Municipal Officer may, by order, -

- (a) regulate the use by the public of any river or other public place, whether vested in the Municipality or not, for bathing or washing,
- (b) prohibit the use by the public of any lake, tank, reservoir, fountain, cistern, duct, stand-pipe, stream or well or any part of any river, whether vested in the Municipality or not, for bathing or washing,
- (c) prohibit steeping in any tank, reservoir, stream, well or ditch of any animal, vegetable or mineral matter likely to render the water thereof offensive or dangerous to health,
- (d) prohibit bathing in any lake, tank, reservoir, fountain, cistern, duct, stand-pipe, stream or well by a person suffering from any contagious or infectious disease,
- (e) prohibit any person engaged in any trade or manufacture from causing to flow into any lake, tank, reservoir, cistern, well, duct or other place for storage of water, whether vested in the Municipality or not, or drain or pipe communicating therewith, any washing or other substance produced in the course of any such trade or manufacture, or wilfully do any act connected with any such trade or manufacture whereby such water is likely to be fouled or corrupted, or
- (f) prohibit, by notice, the washing of clothes by washermen in pursuance of their calling, except at such places as may be licensed for this purpose.

C. Public Conveniences

Public latrines and urinals.

340. (1) The Municipality shall, by itself or through any other agency, provide and maintain in proper and convenient places a sufficient number of public latrines and urinals for use by the public.
- (2) Such public latrines and urinals may be so constructed as to provide separate compartments for each sex.

D. General Provisions

Prohibition of nuisances.

341. (1) No person shall -
- (a) commit any nuisance in any public street or public place, or
 - (b) unauthorizely affix upon any building, monument, post, wall, fence, tree or other thing, any bill, notice or other document, or
 - (c) unauthorizely deface, or write upon, or otherwise mark, any building, monument, post, wall, fence, tree or other thing, or
 - (d) carry rubbish, filth or other polluted and obnoxious matter along any route in contravention of any prohibition made in this behalf by the Chief Municipal Officer by notice, or
 - (e) bury or cremate or otherwise dispose of any corpse at a place not licensed for the purpose, or
 - (f) disturb public peace or order in violation of sound pollution control order, if any, or
 - (g) cause pollution of air in violation of air pollution control order, if any, or

- (h) cause obstruction to the movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic without permission from the competent authority.
- (2) Where the Chief Municipal Officer is of the opinion that there is a nuisance on any land or building, he may, by notice, in writing, require the person by whose act, default or sufferance the nuisance arises or continues or all of the owners, lessees or occupiers of such land or building to remove or abate the nuisance by taking such measures, in such manner, and within such period, as may be specified in the notice.
- (3) Where the Chief Municipal Officer is of the opinion that immediate removal of any nuisance continuing on any land or building in contravention of the provisions of this Act is necessary, he may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, cause such nuisance to be removed forthwith.

Control of pollution.

- 342. Subject to the provisions of any law relating to air, water or noise pollution for the time being in force and in accordance with any notification by the State Government in that behalf, the Municipality may function as a competent authority for the enforcement of such law.

Power to require wells, tanks, etc., to be rendered safe.

- 343. Where in any municipal area, any well, tank, reservoir, pool, depression or excavation, or any bank or tree is, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, in a ruinous state for want of sufficient repairs, protection or enclosure and is a nuisance or is dangerous to passers-by, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, in writing, require the owner or the part-owner or any other person claiming to be

the owner or the part-owner thereof, or failing any of them, the occupier thereof, to repair, protect or enclose it in such manner as he thinks necessary, and if, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, the danger is imminent, he shall forthwith take such steps as he thinks necessary to avert such danger.

Quarrying, blasting, cutting timber or building operation.

344. No person shall quarry, blast, cut timber, or carry on building operations in such manner as to cause, or is likely to cause, danger to persons passing by, or dwelling or working in, the neighbourhood.

Power to stop improper use of land or building.

345. If, within any municipal area, any land or building, by reason of its being abandoned or unoccupied, -

(a) is in a filthy or unwholesome state, or

(b) has become a resort of -

(i) idle and disorderly persons, or

(ii) persons who have no ostensible means of subsistence or cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves, or

(c) is used for gambling or immoral purposes, or

(d) is likely to occasion a nuisance,

the Chief Municipal Officer may, after due enquiry, by notice, in writing, require the owner or the part owner or any person claiming to be the owner or the part owner of such land or building, or the lessee, or any person claiming to be the lessee, thereof to -

(i) secure, enclose, cleanse or clear such land or building, or

(ii) stop use of such land or building for gambling or immoral purposes, or

(iii) abate the nuisance,

within such time as may be specified in the notice, and shall affix a copy of such notice on the door of the building or on some conspicuous part of the land, as the case may be.

Polluters to pay.

346. The Municipality may, by regulations, provide for recovery of charges and imposition of penalty on those persons who are directly responsible for causing pollution of any kind referred to in this chapter.

Chapter XXXI

Restraint of Infection

Municipality to prevent and check dangerous diseases.

347. (1) It shall be the duty of the Municipality to take such measures as are necessary for preventing, or checking the spread of, any dangerous disease in the municipal area or of any epidemic disease among any animals therein.

(2) Any person, whether as a medical practitioner or otherwise, being in charge of, or in attendance upon, any other person whom he knows or has reason to believe to be suffering from a dangerous disease, or being the owner, lessee, or occupier of any building in which he knows that any such person is so suffering, shall forthwith give information respecting the existence of such disease to the Chief Municipal Officer.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer to inspect any place and take measures to prevent spread of dangerous disease.

348. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, at any time, by day or by night, and with or without notice, inspect any place in which any dangerous disease is reported or suspected to exist, and take such measures as he may think fit to prevent the spread of such disease beyond such place, and shall forthwith send information thereof to the State Government, the District Magistrate and the seniormost functionary of the Health Department of the State Government in the District.

(2) When any person suffering from any dangerous disease is found to be -

(a) without proper lodging or accommodation, or

(b) living in a room or house which he neither owns nor pays rent for, nor occupies as a guest or relative of the person who owns, or pays rent for such room or house, or

(c) living in a *sarai*, hotel, boarding-house, or hostel, or

(d) lodged in premises occupied by members of two or more families,

the Chief Municipal Officer or any person authorized by him in this behalf may, on the advice of any Medical Officer, remove the patient to any hospital or place at which persons suffering from such disease are received for medical treatment and may do anything necessary for such removal.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer to cleanse, disinfect, destroy, or control places of infection.

349. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may cleanse, or disinfect, or cause destruction of, any building, hut or shed, water-source or lodging and eating house, if, in his opinion, such cleansing, disinfection or destruction would tend to prevent or check the spread of any

dangerous disease, and, in case of emergency, he may cause such cleansing or disinfection to be done by the employees of the Municipality at the cost of the owner or the occupier of such place, or, at the cost of the Municipality, if, in his opinion, such owner or the occupier is unable to pay the cost owing to poverty.

- (2) Where the Chief Municipal Officer is satisfied that the destruction of any building, hut or shed, or clothing, or article is immediately necessary for the purpose of preventing the spread of any dangerous disease, he may cause such building, hut or shed, or clothing, or article to be destroyed :

Provided that compensation may be paid by the Chief Municipal Officer to any person who sustains substantial loss by the destruction of such building, hut or shed, or clothing, or article.

- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may, on being satisfied that it is in the public interest so to do, by order, in writing, direct that any lodging house or any place in the municipal area where articles of food and drink are sold, or prepared, stored or exposed for sale, being a lodging house or place in which a case of dangerous disease exists or has recently occurred, shall be closed for such period as may be specified in the order :

Provided that such lodging house or place may be declared to be open, if the Municipal Health Officer certifies that it has been disinfected or is free from infection.

- (4) The Chief Municipal Officer or any person authorized by the Municipality may, at all reasonable times, enter into, and inspect, any market, building, shop, stall or place, used for the sale of food or drink, or as a slaughterhouse, or for the sale of drugs, and inspect and examine any food, drink, animal or drug, which may be therein, and, if any article of food or drink, animal or drug therein, intended for the consumption of persons, appears to be unfit therefor, he may, by notice, restrict the sale of such food,

drink, animal or drug, in such manner, and for such period, as he may deem fit.

- (5) If the Chief Municipal Officer is of the opinion that the water in any well, tank, or other place in the municipal area is likely to cause the spread of any disease, he may, by notice, in writing, prohibit the removal or use of such water for drinking, and require the owner or the person having control of such well, tank, or other place to take such steps as may be required by the notice to prevent the public from having access to, or from using, such water and may take such other steps as he may consider expedient to prevent the outbreak or spread of such disease :

Provided that in the case of an emergency, the Chief Municipal Officer or any person authorized by him in this behalf may, with or without notice and at any time, inspect and disinfect any well, tank or other place from which water is, or is likely to be, taken for the purpose of preventing the spread of any dangerous disease.

Special measures in case of outbreak of dangerous or epidemic diseases.

350. (1) In the event of any municipal area or any part thereof being visited or threatened by an outbreak of any dangerous disease among the inhabitants thereof or of any epidemic disease among any animals therein, the Chief Municipal Officer may, if he thinks that the other provisions of this Act and the provisions of any other law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose of preventing the outbreak of such disease, with the previous approval of the Municipality, -

- (a) take such special measures, and

- (b) by notice, give such directions to be observed by the public or by any class or section of the public as he

thinks necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease :

Provided that where, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, immediate action is necessary, he may take such action without such approval and, if he does so, he shall forthwith report such action to the Municipality.

- (2) Any person, who commits a breach of any direction given in the notice under clause (b) of sub-section (1) shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

(45 of 1860.)

Means for disinfection.

351. (1) The Municipality may, in its discretion, or shall, when the State Government so directs, -

- (a) provide proper places within the municipal area with necessary attendants and apparatus for disinfection of conveyances, clothings, beddings, or other articles which have been exposed to infection, and

- (b) cause conveyances, clothings, beddings, or other articles brought for disinfection, to be disinfected, either free of charge or on payment of such charges as it may fix.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may notify places at which such conveyances, clothings, beddings, or other articles, which have been exposed to infection, shall be washed and if he does so, no person shall wash any such conveyances, clothings, beddings, or other articles at any place, not so notified, without previous disinfection.

- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may direct the destruction of any clothing, bedding, or other article likely to retain infection, and may give such compensation as he thinks fit for any clothing, bedding or other article, so destroyed.

Special conveyance for carrying infected persons.

352. (1) Subject to such regulations as may be made in this behalf, the Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency, provide and maintain suitable conveyances for the free carriage of persons suffering from any dangerous disease or dead bodies of persons who died of any such disease.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, either on his own or through any other agency, provide for disinfection of any public conveyance, which has carried any person suffering from a dangerous disease, or the corpse of a person who died of any such disease.

Prohibitions.

353. Subject to such regulations as may be made in this behalf, the Chief Municipal Officer may prohibit -

- (a) the letting out of any infected building without being first disinfected,
- (b) the disposal of infected articles without disinfection,
- (c) the washing of any infected clothes by any washerman or laundry, and

- (d) the making and selling of food, or washing of clothes, by infected persons.

Chapter XXXII

Disposal of the Dead

Acts prohibited in connection with disposal of dead.

354. (1) No person shall -

- (a) retain a corpse on any premises without burning, burying or otherwise lawfully disposing it of, for so long a time after death as to create a nuisance,
- (b) carry a corpse, or a part of a corpse, along any street without having or keeping such corpse or part of a corpse decently covered or without taking such precautions to prevent risk of infection or injury to the community health as the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, from time to time, think fit to require,
- (c) carry, except when no other route is available, a corpse or part of a corpse along any street on which the carrying of corpse is prohibited by notice issued by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf,
- (d) remove a corpse or part of a corpse, which has been kept or used for purpose of dissection, otherwise than in a closed receptacle or vehicle,
- (e) place or leave, during its conveyance, a corpse or part of a corpse, on or near any street without urgent necessity,
- (f) bury, or cause to be buried, any corpse or part of a corpse in the grave or vault or otherwise in such manner as may cause the surface of the coffin or, when no coffin is used,

- of the corpse or part of the corpse, to be at a depth of less than two metres from the surface of the ground,
- (g) build, dig, or cause to be built or dug, any grave or vault in any burial ground at a distance of less than one-half of a metre from the margin of any other grave or vault,
 - (h) build or dig, or cause to be built or dug, a grave or vault in any burial ground in any line, not marked out for such purpose by or under the order of the Chief Municipal Officer,
 - (i) reopen for the interment of a corpse or of any part of a corpse a grave or vault already occupied, without the written permission of the Chief Municipal Officer,
 - (j) make, without the permission of the Chief Municipal Officer, any vault or grave or interment within any wall, or underneath any passage, porch, portico, plinth or verandah, of any place of worship,
 - (k) make, without the permission of the Chief Municipal Officer, any interment or otherwise dispose of any corpse in any place which is closed under section 356,
 - (l) build, dig, or cause to be built or dug, any grave or vault, or, in any way, dispose of, or suffer or permit to be disposed of, any corpse at any place, which is not permitted under this chapter, without the permission of the Chief Municipal Officer, and
 - (m) exhume, without the permission of the Chief Municipal Officer, any body from any place for the disposal of the dead except under the provisions of the Code of Criminal

Procedure, 1973, or any other law for the time being in force.

(2 of 1974.)

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, in special cases, grant permission for any of the purposes referred to in clauses (j) to (m) of sub-section (1), subject to such general or special order as the State Government may, from time to time, make in this behalf.
- (3) Any contravention of the provisions of clauses (j) to (m) of sub-section (1) shall be deemed to be a cognizable offence within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(2 of 1974.)

Registration of places for disposal of the dead.

355. (1) Subject to such regulations as may be made in this behalf, every owner or person having the control of any place already used for disposal of the dead, but which is not vested in, or owned by, the Municipality or any Board appointed by the State Government for administration of such place, shall submit to the Chief Municipal Officer an application for registration of such place, containing such particulars as may be specified by the Municipality, within a period of three months from the date of commencement of this Act.
- (2) If the Chief Municipal Officer is satisfied with the application and the particulars under sub-section (1), he may register such place on such terms and conditions as may be provided by regulations.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may, with the approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, provide suitable and convenient place for the disposal of the dead within the municipal area, subject to the provisions of any State law regulating such land use or, in the absence of any provisions of any State law in this behalf in the municipal area, with the approval of the State Government.

- (4) No place which has not previously been lawfully used or registered for the disposal of the dead shall be opened for such disposal except in conformity with the provisions of any state law regulating such land use or, in the absence of any provisions of any State law in this behalf in the municipal area, with the approval of State Government.

Power to require closing of burning and burial grounds etc.

356. Where the Chief Municipal Officer is of the opinion that any burning place or burial ground or place for the disposal of the dead has become offensive or dangerous to the health of persons residing in the neighbourhood, or for any other reasons to be recorded in writing, he may, with the previous approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, and by notice, in writing, require the owner or the person in charge of such burning place or burial ground or place for the disposal of the dead, to close such burning place or burial ground or place for the disposal of the dead, from such date as may be specified in the notice.

Disposal of dead animals.

357. (1) Whenever any animal, which is under the charge of any person, dies, such person shall, within twenty-four hours of such death, either, -
- (a) convey the carcass to a place provided or appointed under this Act for the final disposal of carcasses of dead animals, or
 - (b) give notice of the death to the Chief Municipal Officer whereupon he shall cause the carcass to be disposed of.

- (2) In respect of the disposal of the carcass of a dead animal under clause (b) of sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may charge such fee as may be determined by the Municipality by regulations.
- (3) Where any dead animal does not belong to any person, the Chief Municipal Officer shall act immediately for causing the carcass to be disposed of.

Chapter XXXIII

Urban Forestry, Parks, Gardens, Trees and Playgrounds

Municipality to implement schemes.

358. (1) The Municipality shall take necessary steps for -
 - (a) promotion of urban forestry,
 - (b) creation of public parks and gardens, and planting of trees,
 - (c) provision of parks and playgrounds for children and youth,
 - (d) provision of street-side gardens,
 - (e) encouragement of nurseries, and
 - (f) organization of flower shows.
- (2) The Municipality may, from time to time, take steps to promote awareness about the national heritage of flora and fauna among the school children and the youth.

PART VII
REGULATORY JURISDICTION

Chapter XXXIV

Development Plans

Representation in District Planning Committee or Metropolitan Planning Committee.

359. Having regard to the provisions of article 243ZD and article 243ZE of the Constitution of India and of any State law enacted under these articles, a Municipality shall participate in the election of members of the District Planning Committee or the Metropolitan Planning Committee, as the case may be, and such members shall actively represent the interests of the Municipality in such Committees.

Municipality to implement development plans.

360. (1) Having regard to the draft development plan, as prepared by the District Planning Committee or the Metropolitan Planning Committee, as the case may be, and as approved by the State Government, the Municipality shall implement such components of such development plan as relates to its jurisdiction and carry out such functions as may be assigned to it in this behalf.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this section and subject to the provisions of section 10, the Municipality shall undertake -
- (a) preparation of plans for improvement under chapter XXXV, and
 - (b) plans for infrastructure development including water-supply, drainage and sewerage, solid waste management, roads, and transport system accessories.

Chapter XXXV

Improvement*

Removal of congested buildings.

361. (1) If it appears to the Chief Municipal Officer that any block of buildings is in an unhealthy condition by reason of the manner in which the buildings are crowded together or the narrowness, closeness, or faulty arrangement of streets or the want of proper drainage and ventilation or the impracticability of cleansing the buildings or by reason of any other cause to be specified in writing, he shall cause such block of buildings to be inspected by the Chief Municipal Health Officer and the Chief Municipal Engineer, who shall consult the owners and the occupiers of such block of buildings and the owners and the occupiers of other buildings affected by the unhealthy condition and shall, thereafter, make a report, in writing, to him regarding the sanitary condition of such block of buildings.

(2) If, upon receipt of the report under sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer considers that the sanitary condition of such block of building is likely to cause risk of disease to the inhabitants of the buildings or the neighbourhood or otherwise to endanger the community health, he shall, with the approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, select the buildings which, in his opinion, should wholly or in part be removed in order to abate the unhealthy condition of such block of buildings, and may, thereupon, by notice, in writing, require the owners of such buildings to remove them within such period as may be specified in the notice :

Provided that before issuing the notice, a reasonable opportunity shall be given to the owners to show cause, either in writing or in person, why the buildings should not be removed :

* Each State Government may select an alternative legislative scheme for the chapter on Improvement

Provided further that the Chief Municipal Officer shall, for the removal of any such building, which may have been erected lawfully, pay compensation to the owner for any such building.

- (3) If the notice under sub-section (2) requiring any owner of a building to remove such building is not complied with, then, after the expiration of the period specified in the notice, the Chief Municipal Officer may himself remove the building and recover from the owner of the building the expenses of such removal as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Power to require improvement of building unfit for human habitation.

362. (1) If, upon information in his possession, the Chief Municipal Officer is satisfied that any building is in any respect unfit for human habitation, he may, unless, in his opinion, the building is not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense, serve on the owner of the building a notice requiring him, within such period, not being less than thirty days, as may be specified in the notice, to execute the works of improvement specified therein, and stating that in his opinion such works will render the building fit for human habitation.
- (2) In addition to the notice served on the owner of the building under sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may also serve a copy of the notice on any other person having an interest in the building, whether as a lessee or as a mortgagee or otherwise.
- (3) In determining whether a building can be rendered fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense, regard shall be had to the estimated cost of the works necessary to render the building so fit and the estimated value which the building will have on completion of the works.

- (4) If the notice under sub-section (1) requiring the owner of the building to execute the works of improvement is not complied with, then, on the expiration of the period specified in the notice, the Chief Municipal Officer may himself do the works required to be done by the notice and recover the expenses incurred in connection therewith as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Power to order demolition of building unfit for human habitation.

363. (1) Where, upon information in his possession, the Chief Municipal Officer is satisfied that any building is unfit for human habitation and is not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit, he shall serve upon the owner of the building and upon any other person having an interest in the building, whether as a lessee or as a mortgagee or otherwise, a notice to show cause within such time as may be specified in the notice as to why an order of demolition of the building should not be made.
 - (2) If the owner of the building, or other person, upon whom a notice has been served under sub-section (1), appears in pursuance thereof before the Chief Municipal Officer and gives an undertaking that he shall, within a period specified by the Chief Municipal Officer, execute such works of improvement in relation to the building as will, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, render the building fit for human habitation or that the building shall not be used for human habitation until the Chief Municipal Officer, on being satisfied that it has been rendered fit for such habitation, cancels the undertaking, the Chief Municipal Officer shall not make an order of demolition of the building.
 - (3) If no such undertaking as is referred to in sub-section (2) is given, or if, in a case where any such undertaking has been given, the works of improvement to which the undertaking relates are not carried out within the specified period or the building is used in

contravention of the undertaking, the Chief Municipal Officer shall forthwith make an order of demolition of the building requiring that the building shall be vacated within a period to be specified in the order, not being less than thirty days from the date of the order, and demolished within six weeks on the expiration of that period.

- (4) Where an order of demolition of a building under this section has been made, the owner of the building or any other person having an interest therein shall demolish such building within the period specified in the order, and if such building is not demolished within that period, the Chief Municipal Officer shall demolish the building and shall sell the materials thereof.
- (5) Any expenses incurred by the Chief Municipal Officer for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (4), which cannot be met out of the proceeds of the sale of materials of the building, shall be recovered from the owner of the building or any other person having an interest therein as an arrear of tax under this Act.
- (6) In determining, for the purposes of this section and section 362, whether a building is unfit for human habitation, regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the matters, such as, -
 - (a) repair,
 - (b) stability,
 - (c) freedom from damp,
 - (d) natural light and air,
 - (e) water-supply,
 - (f) drainage and sanitary conveniences, and

- (g) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of rubbish, filth and other polluted matter,

and the building shall be deemed to be unfit for human habitation only if it is so defective in one or more of the matters as aforesaid that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition.

- (7) For the purposes of this section and section 362, “works of improvement”, in relation to a building, shall include any one or more of the following works, namely :-

- (a) necessary repairs,
- (b) structural alterations,
- (c) provision of light points and water taps,
- (d) construction of drains, open or covered,
- (e) provision of latrines and urinals,
- (f) provision of additional or improved fixtures and fittings,
- (g) opening up or paving of courtyard,
- (h) removal of rubbish, filth and other polluted and obnoxious matters, and
- (i) any other work including the demolition of any building or any part thereof which, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, is necessary for executing any of the works as aforesaid.

- (8) The provisions of this section and section 361 and section 362 shall not apply in relation to any building in any area which has

been declared to be a slum area under any State law relating to improvement or clearance of slums.

Area improvement scheme.

364. If the Municipality, upon information in its possession in respect of any built-up area within the municipal area, is satisfied that -

- (a) the buildings in that area are, by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects, unfit for human habitation or are, by reason of their bad arrangement or narrowness or bad arrangement of the streets or want of light, air, ventilation or proper conveniences, dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants of that area, or
- (b) because of bad layout or obsolete or undesirable dwellings, renewal of such area is necessary, or
- (c) there is need to create new or improved means of communication and facilities for traffic,

and that the most satisfactory method of remedying these defects is to prepare an area improvement scheme in respect of such area, the Municipality may pass a resolution so to do.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section and section 365, the expression “built-up area” shall mean an area which, in the opinion of the Empowered Standing Committee, is densely built-up.

Matters to be provided in area improvement scheme.

365. An area improvement scheme may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :-

- (a) laying out, or relaying out, land, either vacant or already built upon,

- (b) filling up, or reclamation, of low lying swampy or unhealthy areas or levelling up of land,
- (c) redistribution of sites belonging to owners of property comprised in the scheme,
- (d) reconstitution of plots,
- (e) construction or reconstruction of buildings,
- (f) restriction on the erection or re-erection of any building or any class of buildings,
- (g) imposition of conditions and restrictions in regard to the open spaces to be maintained around any building, percentage of built-up area for a plot, number, height and character of buildings allowed in specified areas, subdivision of plots, discontinuance of objectionable uses of land or building in any area for specified periods, parking spaces and loading and unloading spaces for any building and advertisement signs,
- (h) closure or demolition of buildings or portions of buildings unfit for human habitation,
- (i) demolition of obstructive buildings or portions thereof,
- (j) laying out of new streets or roads and construction, diversion, extension, alteration, improvement and closing up of streets or roads and other means of communication,
- (k) regular lines of streets and prohibition of buildings within the regular lines of streets,

- (l) construction, alteration and removal of bridges and other structures,
- (m) provision for traffic engineering schemes, street lighting, street furniture and other conveniences,
- (n) provision for water-supply, sewerage, surface or sub-soil drainage and sewage disposal,
- (o) provision for open spaces,
- (p) preservation and protection of objects of historical importance or of national interest or of natural beauty and of buildings actually used for religious purposes, and
- (q) any other matter not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and for which, in the opinion of the Municipality, it is expedient to make provisions with a view to improving the area to which the scheme relates.

Submission of area improvement scheme to Municipality and State Government.

366. (1) Every area improvement scheme shall, as soon as may be after it has been prepared, be submitted for approval by the Chief Municipal Officer to the Municipality which may either approve the scheme without modifications or with such modifications as it may consider necessary, or reject the scheme with directions to the Chief Municipal Officer to have a fresh scheme prepared according to such directions.
- (2) No area improvement scheme approved by the Municipality under sub-section (1), which involves acquisition of land and provision of funding support from the State Government, shall be valid unless it has been approved by the State Government.

Re-housing scheme.

367. While preparing an improvement scheme under this chapter for any area, the Chief Municipal Officer may also prepare a scheme (hereinafter referred to in this Act as re-housing scheme) for the construction, maintenance and management of such buildings as he may consider necessary for providing accommodation for persons who are likely to be displaced by the execution of the area improvement scheme.

Area improvement scheme and re-housing scheme to comply with structure plan.

368. No area improvement scheme or re-housing scheme prepared under this chapter shall be valid unless such scheme is in conformity with the provisions of the structure plan, if any, for the municipal area.

Explanation. – “Structure Plan” shall mean a plan which provides a broad strategic framework for preparation of subsequent local plans and takes into consideration the regional context, the transportation linkages and the issues relating to employment, shelter and environment.

Execution of area improvement scheme.

369. Any area improvement scheme prepared under this chapter may be executed by the Municipality itself or by such person or authority as the Empowered Standing Committee may select under chapter XXI.

Power to acquire land and building for area improvement scheme.

370. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Municipality may require acquisition of any land or building, whether situated in the municipal area or not, for the purpose of -
- (i) opening out any congested or unhealthy area or otherwise improving any portion of municipal area, or

- (ii) erecting sanitary dwellings for working and poor people, or
- (iii) executing any development plan or scheme for the benefit of persons residing in the municipal area.

Power of Municipality to define and to alter limits of slum.

371. The Municipality may define the external limits of any slum and may, from time to time, alter such limits.

Slum improvement scheme.

372. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Municipality may, with the approval of the State Government, prepare such improvement scheme for the purpose of effecting environmental or general improvement of slums as it may consider necessary, and publish a copy of such scheme in such manner as may be prescribed.

- (2) The slum improvement scheme may provide for all or any of the following matters :-

- (a) water-supply including sinking of tube-wells, laying of water pipelines, installation of overhead reservoirs, and flushing arrangements for privies and urinals,
- (b) drainage and sewerage including connections with any existing channel or sewer main or laying or diverting of drains,
- (c) conversion of service privies into septic tank privies or water-borne privies connected with sewer mains,
- (d) sewage and garbage removal,
- (e) raising, lowering or levelling of land and improvement of pathways and passages,

- (f) lighting including laying of cables or overhead lines,
 - (g) improvement of huts or other structures, and
 - (h) such other matters as may be considered necessary for carrying out the purposes of this chapter.
- (3) While approving any slum improvement scheme, the State Government shall take into account the activities of other agencies or authorities affecting all or any of the matters referred to in sub-section (2).

Acquisition of right of user.

373. (1) If, at any time, it becomes necessary to acquire the right of user in any land in or around any slum for the purpose of implementing any improvement scheme in respect of such slum, the State Government may, on the recommendations of the Municipality in this behalf, declare, by notification, its intention to acquire such right, and invite suggestions or objections from persons likely to be affected thereby within such time as may be specified in the notification.
- (2) Every suggestion or objection received under sub-section (1) shall be heard by the Chief Municipal Officer after giving an opportunity to all persons affected to make personal representations, if any.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer shall submit a report to the Empowered Standing Committee after the hearing under sub-section (2) and after making such enquiry in this behalf as he may consider necessary.

- (4) After considering the views of the Empowered Standing Committee, the State Government may, by notification, declare that the right of user in such land shall be acquired.
- (5) With effect from the date of publication of the notification under sub-section (4), the right of user in such land shall vest in the Municipality, free from all encumbrances.

Work to be executed in slum.

374. Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this chapter, the Chief Municipal Officer may, for reasons of environmental sanitation, cause the following works to be executed in any slum :-

- (a) sinking of tube-wells inside a slum including laying of water-pipe lines, installation of overhead reservoirs and other appurtenances necessary to maintain flushing arrangements of privies and sewers,
- (b) laying of drains or diversion of existing drains,
- (c) conversion of service privies into connected privies or septic tanks,
- (d) removal of silt from sewers and sludge from septic tanks inside a slum,
- (e) removal of solid or liquid wastes from slums including cleansing of the deck or squatting platform of the connected privies, or septic tanks,
- (f) laying of internal roads,
- (g) provision of street lighting, and
- (h) repair work relating to any of the works referred to in clauses (a) to (e).

Chapter XXXVI

Public Streets

A. General Powers

Municipal Streets Technical Committee*.

375. (1) If the State Government so requires, the Municipality shall constitute a Municipal Streets Technical Committee with the following elected members, namely :-

- (a) in the case of a Municipal Corporation, seven Councillors to be elected by the Municipal Corporation,
- (b) in the case of a Class 'A' Municipal Council, five Councillors to be elected by the Municipal Council, and
- (c) in the case of a Class 'B' or Class 'C' Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, three Councillors to be elected by the Class 'B' or Class 'C' Municipal Council or the Nagar Panchayat, as the case may be.

(2) In addition to the members mentioned in sub-section (1), the Municipal Streets Technical Committee shall have five other members, namely :-

- (a) the Chief Municipal Officer who shall be the convenor of the Committee,
- (b) the Municipal Engineer,

* Each State Government may decide whether provisions for a Municipal Streets Technical Committee are necessary in respect of any class or classes of Municipalities.

- (c) a police officer, not below the rank of an Inspector of Police, to be nominated by the Superintendent of Police of the District concerned, and
 - (d) two officers having responsibility for fire services and preparation of development plans for the municipal area, to be nominated by the State Government either from amongst the officers of the Municipality or from the officers of the concerned State Government Departments or any authority under any law for the time being in force.
- (3) The term of the Municipal Streets Technical Committee shall be such as may be specified by the Chief Councillor, and a new Municipal Streets Technical Committee shall be constituted before the expiry of the term of the existing Municipal Streets Technical Committee.
- (4) The Municipal Streets Technical Committee shall meet at least once in a month.
- (5) The Municipal Streets Technical Committee shall, in order to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic, including pedestrian traffic, and suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the public streets, and having regard to, -
- (a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises,
 - (b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected, and
 - (c) any other relevant matter referred to it by the Municipality,

aid, advise and assist the Municipality in the following matters, namely :-

- (i) classification of public streets and specification of width thereof,
- (ii) prescription of regular line of street,
- (iii) regulation of abutting land uses,
- (iv) regulation of traffic,
- (v) designation of on-street parking areas,
- (vi) allocation of rights of way for underground utilities,
- (vii) placement of street furniture,
- (viii) placement of authorized fixtures on streets, such as electric and telegraph poles, post-boxes, telephone junction boxes, sheds for buses, and milk booths,
- (ix) opening of new public streets,
- (x) permanent or temporary closure of existing public streets,
- (xi) declaring private streets as public streets, and
- (xii) any other matter that may be referred to it by the Municipality.

- (6) The Municipal Streets Technical Committee shall make recommendations to the Municipality on any matter in conformity with the structure plan, or a scheme under section 364 or section 367, as the case may be, or any other development and improvement scheme prepared by any competent authority under any law for the time being in force, and shall take into account such plans, proposals, surveys, studies and supporting technical data on such matter as might be in the possession of the Municipality or any planning or development authority or any Department of the State Government or any such competent authority.

Explanation. – “Structure Plan” shall have the same meaning as in the Explanation below section 368.

- (7) The Municipal Streets Technical Committee may call for any record, document, map or data from the Municipality or any planning or development authority or any Department of the State Government or any other authority under any State law for the time being in force, and, thereupon, it shall be the duty of such Department or authority to comply with such requisition.
- (8) The Municipality shall consider the recommendations of the Municipal Streets Technical Committee and take such decision thereon as it thinks fit after taking into account plans, proposals, surveys, studies, and supporting technical data, if any, referred to in sub-section (6).
- (9) If any doubt arises as to whether the decision under sub-section (8) is in conflict with any plan, scheme or programme of any competent authority under any law for the time being in force, the matter shall be referred to the State Government whose decision thereon shall be final.

Classification of public streets.

376. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, the Empowered Standing Committee shall classify all public streets in the municipal area in the following categories :-

- (a) category I – arterial roads,
- (b) category II – sub-arterial roads,
- (c) category III – collector roads,
- (d) category IV – local roads, and
- (e) category V – pedestrian pathways.

(2) The classification shall be done with due regard to the traffic role of the particular public street and the nature and volume of traffic on it, its existing width, and abutting land uses :

Provided that the different names of public streets, which constitute essentially parts of a continuous traffic corridor, shall not come in the way of their inclusion in any particular category.

(3) The Empowered Standing Committee shall, from time to time, specify the minimum widths of different categories of public streets without regard to the existing widths of such streets as may be included in such categories :

Provided that the minimum width of any public street included in category I or category II or category III or category IV shall be not less than ten metres including the adjoining footpath, if any, and that of a public street included in category V, shall be not less than six metres :

Provided further that such minimum widths may be revised by the Empowered Standing Committee from time to time.

- (4) The classification of the public streets in different categories may be revised from time to time.

Compulsory provision of footpaths.

377. (1) The Municipality shall ensure, within a reasonable time, and subject to the availability of resources, that all public streets under category I, category II and category III have raised footpaths adjoining such public streets.

- (2) Notwithstanding the existing situation, the Empowered Standing Committee shall specify different minimum widths for footpaths which are adjacent to the public streets under category I, category II, or category III so as to be not less than one and a half metres on each side in any case :

Provided that more than one minimum width may be specified for the footpath abutting each category of public street so as to provide for different requirements owing to different abutting land uses :

Provided further that while prescribing or revising any regular line of a public street, it shall be stipulated that the specifications of minimum width for footpaths shall be complied with.

- (3) The minimum widths referred to in sub-section (2) may be revised by the Empowered Standing Committee.

Naming and numbering of streets.

378. (1) The Municipality shall -

- (a) determine the name or number by which any street or public place vested in it shall be known,
 - (b) cause to be put up or painted at a conspicuous part of any building, wall or place at or near each end, corner or entrance of such street or some convenient part of such street, the name or number by which it shall be known, and
 - (c) cause to be put up or painted on boards of suitable size the name of any public place vested in the Municipality.
- (2) The Municipality may, having regard to the hierarchy of the street system, by regulations, specify the norms according to which the streets may be named or numbered.
- (3) No person shall destroy, remove, deface, or, in any way, injure or alter any such name or number or sub-number put up, or paint any name or number or sub-number different from that put up or painted by order of the Municipality.

Unique premises number.

379. (1) The Municipality shall, when so required by the State Government, assign a unique premises number to every premises or part thereof in the municipal area and shall cause to be maintained a register wherein such unique premises number shall be recorded in respect of each such premises.

Explanation. – In this section, the expression “unique premises number” shall mean a number assigned to the premises or part thereof by the Municipality in the following manner, namely :-

- (a) the first three digits* indicating the ward number,
 - (b) the next three digits* indicating the street number,
 - (c) the next four digits* indicating the premises number,
 - (d) the next three digits* indicating the sub-premises number,
 - (e) the next one digit* indicating the code of the building use, such as residential, commercial, industrial or other use, and
 - (f) the last one digit* indicating the code of type of construction.
- (2) When the unique premises numbers in respect of premises in any ward of the Municipality have been determined, the Chief Municipal Officer shall notify such unique premises numbers in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (3) When, after the unique premises numbers in respect of premises in any ward have been notified under sub-section (2), any person is required under this Act or any other state law to make any application to the Municipality for any permission or licence or for payment of any tax, or for payment of any dues for any service, or for such other purposes as may be prescribed, the person making the application shall mention in the application the unique premises number assigned under sub-section (1).

* The number of digits may vary from State to State. For wider coverage on a Statewide basis, additional digits may be added to indicate the District Code.

Rights of way for underground utilities.

380. Subject to the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, and such other laws as may be notified by the State Government for the purposes of this section, the State Government may, by rules, provide for the following, namely :-

(13 of 1885.)
(9 of 1910.)

- (a) the sanction by the Municipality of specific rights of way in the sub-soil of public and private streets in any municipal area for different public utilities including electric supply, telephone or other telecommunication facilities, gas pipes, water-supply, drainage and sewerage, and underground rail system, pedestrian sub-ways, shopping plazas, warehousing facilities and apparatus and appurtenances related thereto provided by the State Government, or any statutory body or any licensee under any of the above mentioned Acts or other laws,
- (b) the levy of any fee or charges under any of the Acts or other laws as aforesaid,
- (c) the furnishing to the Municipality of maps, drawings and statements which shall enable it to compile and maintain precise records of the placement of the underground utilities in the municipal area,
- (d) the fixing of time limit for execution of work and imposing of such conditions in this respect as the Municipality may consider appropriate, and
- (e) the imposing of penalty in case of delay in the completion of work.

Maps of underground utilities.

381. The Chief Municipal Officer shall cause to be maintained complete survey maps, drawings and descriptions of all underground utilities in the municipal area, and maps of fire hydrants and sewerage man-holes in such Form, and in such manner, as may be provided by regulations, and shall ensure the secrecy of the same in conformity with the provisions of any law relating to right to information.

Power to prohibit use of public streets for certain kind of traffic.

382. (1) The Municipality may, by notice, in writing, -

- (a) prohibit or regulate, either temporarily or permanently, vehicular traffic in any public street or any portion thereof so as to prevent danger, obstruction or inconvenience to the public or to ensure quietness in any locality,
- (b) prohibit, in respect of a public street or a portion thereof, the transit of any vehicle of such type, form, construction, weight, emission, or size, or of any vehicle laden with such heavy or unwieldy object as is likely to cause injury to the roadways or any construction thereon, or of any vehicle on the ground of public convenience, except under such conditions as to time, mode of traction or locomotion, use of appliances for the protection of roadways, number of lights and assistants, and other general precautions, and on payment of such charges, as may be specified by the Municipality generally or specifically in each case,

- (c) prohibit, at all times or during any particular hours, entry of any vehicular traffic from, or exit of such vehicular traffic into, any premises from any particular public street carrying such traffic.
- (2) Any notice under sub-section (1) shall, if such notice applies to any particular public street, be pasted in conspicuous places at or near both ends of such public street or any portion thereof to which such notice applies or, if such notice applies generally to all public streets, be advertised.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Municipality may declare, by notice, in writing, that any pedestrian pathway, or a portion thereof, shall be used as bicycle and pedestrian track.
- (4) The notice referred to in sub-section (3) shall be pasted in conspicuous places at or near both ends of such public street or any portion thereof to which the provisions of sub-section (3) apply.

B. Regular Line of Street

Defining regular line of street.

383. (1) The Municipality may, with due regard to the minimum widths specified for various categories of streets including the footpaths adjoining the same, define the regular line on one or both sides of any public street or portions thereof in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf and may redefine at any time any such regular line :

Provided that before such defining or redefining, as the case may be, the Municipality shall, by notice, afford a reasonable opportunity to the residents of premises abutting on such public

street to make suggestions or objections with respect to the proposed defined or redefined line of the street and shall consider all such suggestions or objections which may be made within one month from the date of publication of such notice :

Provided further that the street alignment of any public street operative under any law for the time being in force in any part of the municipal area immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to be the regular line of such public street defined by the Municipality under this sub-section.

- (2) The line defined or redefined shall be called the regular line of the street.
- (3) No person shall construct or reconstruct any building or a portion thereof or any boundary wall or other structure whatsoever within the regular line of a street.
- (4) The Chief Municipal Officer shall maintain a register containing such particulars as may be specified by the Municipality in this behalf, with plans attached thereto, showing all public streets in respect of which the regular line of the street has been defined or redefined and containing any other particulars which he may deem necessary.
- (5) All such registers shall be open to inspection by any person on payment of such fee, and any extract therefrom may be supplied on payment of such charge, as may be determined by the Municipality by regulations.

Setting back buildings to regular line of street.

384. (1) If any part of a building abutting on a public street is within the regular line of that street, the Municipality may, whenever it is proposed -

- (a) to repair, rebuild or construct such building or to pull down such building to an extent, measured in cubic metre, exceeding one-half thereof above the ground level, or
- (b) to repair, remove, construct or reconstruct or make any additions to, or structural alterations of, any portion of such building, which is within the regular line of the street,

by order, as respects the additions to, or rebuilding, construction, repair or alterations of, such building, require such building to be set back to the regular line of such street.

- (2) When any building or any part thereof within the regular line of a public street falls down or is burnt down or is, whether by reason of any order of the Municipality or otherwise, pulled down, the Chief Municipal Officer may forthwith take possession, on behalf of the Municipality, of the portion of the land within the regular line of the street heretofore occupied by such building and, if necessary, clear the same.
- (3) Any land acquired under this section shall be deemed to be a part of the public street and shall vest in the Municipality.

Compulsory setting back of building to regular line of street.

- 385. (1) Where any building or any part thereof is within the regular line of a public street and, in the opinion of the Municipality, it is necessary to set back such building or part thereof to the regular line of such street, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, by a notice served on the owner of such building in accordance with the provisions of this Act, require him to show cause, within such period as may be specified in the notice, as to why such building

or part thereof, which is within the regular line of such street, should not be pulled down and the land within the regular line acquired by the Municipality.

- (2) If the owner fails to show cause as required under sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may, with the approval of the Municipality, require the owner, by another notice to be served on him in such manner as may be specified by regulations, to pull down the building or part thereof, which is within the regular line of the street, within such period as may be specified in the notice.
- (3) If, within such period the owner of the building fails to pull down the building or part thereof as required under sub-section (2), the Chief Municipal Officer may pull down the same, and all the expenses incurred in so doing shall be paid by the owner and be recoverable from him as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Setting forward of building to regular line of street.

386. The Municipality may, upon such terms as it thinks fit, allow any building to be set forward for the purpose of improving the regular line of a public street and may require any building to be set forward in the case of reconstruction thereof or of a new construction.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, a wall separating any premises from a public street shall be deemed to be a building, and it shall be deemed to be a sufficient compliance with the permission or the requirement to set forward a building to the regular line of a street, if a wall of such materials and dimensions, as are approved by the Municipality, is erected along such line.

Acquisition of open land and land occupied by platforms etc. within regular line of street.

387. If any land, whether open or enclosed, not vested in the Municipality and not occupied by any building, is within the regular line of a public

street or if any platform, verandah, step, compound wall, hedge or fence or some other structure, authorized or not, external to a building abutting on a public street, or a portion of such platform, verandah, step, compound wall, hedge, fence or other structure is within the regular line of such street, the Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Municipality and after giving the owner of such land or building not less than seven clear days' notice of his intention so to do, take possession, on behalf of the Municipality, of such land with its enclosing wall, hedge or fence, if any, or of such platform, verandah, step, compound wall, hedge, fence or other structure or of any portion thereof within the regular line of the public street, and, if necessary, clear the same, and the land so acquired shall thereupon be deemed to be a part of the public street and shall vest in the Municipality :

Provided that where the land or the building is vested in the State Government or the Central Government or any agency thereof, the Chief Municipal Officer shall not take possession thereof without the previous sanction of the State Government or the Central Government, as the case may be.

Acquisition of remaining part of building and land after their portions within regular line of street have been acquired.

388. (1) Where a land or building is partly within regular line of a public street and the Municipality is satisfied that the land remaining after the excision of the portion within such line will not be suitable or fit for any beneficial use, it may, at the request of the owner, acquire such land in addition to the land within such line, and such surplus land shall be deemed to be part of the public street and shall vest in the Municipality.

- (2) Such surplus land may, thereafter, be utilized for the purpose of setting forward a building under section 386 or for such other purpose as the Municipality may deem fit.

Compensation to be paid in certain cases of setting back or setting forward of building etc.

389. (1) A compensation shall be paid by the Municipality to the owner of any building or land acquired for a public street under the provisions of section 384, section 385, section 387, or section 388 for any loss which such owner may sustain in consequence of his building or land being so acquired and for any expense incurred by such owner in consequence of any order made by the Municipality.
- (2) If, in consequence of any order under section 386 to set forward a building, the owner of such building sustains any loss or damage, compensation shall be paid to him by the Municipality for such loss or damage.
- (3) If the additional land, which will be included in the premises of any person required or permitted under sub-section (2) to set forward such building, belongs to the Municipality, the order or permission of the Municipality to set forward the building shall be a sufficient conveyance to the said owner of the said land, and the price to be paid to the Municipality by the said owner of such additional land and the other terms and conditions of the conveyance shall be set forth in the order or permission.
- (4) If, when the Municipality requires any building to be set forward, the owner of the building is dissatisfied with the price fixed to be paid to the Municipality or with any of the terms or conditions of conveyance, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, upon the application of the owner at any time within fifteen days after the said terms and conditions are communicated to him, refer the case

to the court of the District Judge having jurisdiction for determination, and the decision of the said court thereon shall be final.

C. Obstruction on Streets

Special provision regarding streets belonging to Central or State Government.

390. (1) If any national highway, state highway, or a street is vested in the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, -

(a) the Municipality shall not, in respect of such national highway, state highway, or street, grant permission to do any act, the doing of which without its permission, in writing, would contravene the provisions of this Act, except with the sanction of the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, and

(b) if so required by the Central Government or the State Government, the Municipality shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Act or any regulations relating to such street.

(2) In the case of roads vested in the State Government, and passing through the municipal area, the Municipality shall have control over such roads in so far as permission for temporary occupation thereof and removal of encroachments therefrom are concerned, but the maintenance of such roads shall remain with the State Government.

Temporary erection on streets during festivals.

391. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may grant a permission, in writing, for temporary erection of a booth, *pandal*, or any other structure on any public place on occasions of ceremonies and festivals, on payment of such fee, and on such conditions, as may be

determined by the Municipality by regulations, and for such period as may be mentioned in the letter of permission :

Provided that no permission shall be given under this section without consultation with the Superintendent of Police of the district or any police officer of equivalent rank having jurisdiction over the municipal area.

- (2) The person to whom such permission is granted shall fill in the ground and reinstate the same to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer within such period as may be mentioned in the letter of permission.

Precautions during construction or repair of street, drain or premises.

392. Subject to the terms and conditions as may be specified by regulations, the Chief Municipal Officer, during construction or repair of any public street or any municipal drain or any premises vested in the Municipality, shall -

- (a) cause the same to be fenced and guarded,
- (b) take proper precaution against accident affecting public street or adjoining buildings,
- (c) prohibit, without his written permission, the deposit of any building material or the setting up of any scaffolding or any temporary erection on any public street,
- (d) close any street wholly or partly to traffic,
- (e) provide for necessary diversion of traffic, wherever necessary,
- (f) ensure the reinstatement of the public street or restoration of any drain or premises to its original condition, and

- (g) take steps for repairing or enclosing of any place which, in his opinion, is dangerous or causing inconvenience to traffic along a street or to persons who have legal access thereto or to the neighbourhood thereof, and recover the costs of such repair works from the owner or the occupier of any such place or premises.

Power of Municipality in relation to regulation of street.

393. Subject to such terms and conditions as may, from time to time, be specified by regulations, the Municipality may -

- (a) prohibit or regulate vehicular traffic in any public street or any portion thereof so as to prevent danger, obstruction or inconvenience to the public or injury to the roadways,
- (b) prohibit, at all times or during any particular hours, entry of any vehicular traffic from, or exit of such vehicular traffic into, any premises from any particular public street carrying such traffic,
- (c) prohibit tethering of any animal for any purpose in any public street,
- (d) prohibit in any street installation of structures or fixtures which may cause obstruction,
- (e) prohibit the opening of the ground floor door, gate, bar or window outwards on any street,
- (f) prohibit projections upon any street, or drain, or open channel in any street, and
- (g) remove anything erected, deposited or hawked on any public place or public street in contravention of the provisions of this Act.

Restoration of municipal properties by public utilities.

394. (1) Subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, any public utility concern requiring the use of the sub-soil under any municipal street, drain, land or other property for the purpose of laying lines for such utility service such as electric supply or telecommunication, shall obtain permission of the Municipality for such use.
- (2) At the time of according such permission, the Municipality shall, in consultation with such public utility, arrive at the full cost of restoration of the sub-soil and the surface thereon and obtain an undertaking from the public utility that such restoration shall be done at their cost so as to bring back the property to its original condition to the satisfaction of the Municipality within a reasonable time after the completion of the work.

Chapter XXXVII

Buildings

A. Procedure

Definitions.

395. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the expression -

(1) “to erect a building” means -

(a) to erect a new building on any site, whether previously built upon or not,

(b) to re-erect -

(i) any building of which more than one-half of the cubical extent above the level of plinth have been pulled down, burnt or destroyed, or

- (ii) any building of which more than one-half of the superficial area of the external walls above the level of plinth has been pulled down, or
 - (iii) any frame-building of which more than half of the number of posts or beams in the external walls have been pulled down,
- (c) to convert into a dwelling-house any building or any part of a building not originally so constructed for human habitation or, if originally so constructed for human habitation, subsequently appropriated for any other purpose,
- (d) to convert into more than one dwelling-house a building originally constructed as one dwelling-house only,
- (e) to convert into a place of religious worship or into a sacred building any place or building, not originally constructed for such purpose,
- (f) to roof or cover an open space between walls or buildings to the extent of the structure formed by the roofing or covering of such space,
- (g) to convert two or more tenements in a building into a greater or lesser number of such tenements,
- (h) to convert into a stall, shop, office, warehouse or godown, workshop, factory or garage any building not originally constructed for use as such, or to convert any building constructed for such use, by sub-division or addition, into greater or lesser

number of such stalls, shops, offices, warehouses or godowns, workshops, factories or garages,

- (i) to convert a building, which, when originally constructed, was legally exempt from the operation of any building regulations or any rules made under this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, into a building which, had it been originally erected in its converted form, would have been subject to such building regulations,
 - (j) to convert into, or use as, a dwelling-house any building, which has been discontinued as, or appropriated for any purpose other than, a dwelling-house,
 - (k) to make any addition to a building, and
 - (l) to remove or reconstruct the principal staircase of a building or to alter its position;
- (2) “occupancy” or “use-group” means the principal occupancy for which a building or a part of a building is used or intended to be used, and the occupancy classification shall, unless otherwise spelt out in any development plan or any other improvement scheme under any law for the time being in force, include -
- (a) residential buildings, that is to say, any building in which sleeping accommodation is provided for normal residential purposes with or without cooking facility or dining facility or both, and such building shall include one or two or multi-family dwelling, lodging or rooming houses, hostels,

dormitories, apartment houses and flats, and private garages,

- (b) educational buildings, that is to say, any building used for school, college or day-care purposes involving assembly for instruction, education or recreation incidental to educational use,
- (c) institutional buildings, that is to say, any building or part thereof ordinarily providing sleeping accommodation for occupants and used for the purposes of medical or other treatment or care of persons suffering from physical or mental illness, disease or infirmity, care of infants, convalescents or aged persons and for penal or correctional detention in which the liberty of the inmates is restricted, and such buildings shall include hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, sanatoria, custodial institutions, and penal institutions like jails, prisons, mental hospitals and reformatories,
- (d) assembly buildings, that is to say, any building or part thereof where groups of people congregate or gather for amusement or recreation or for social, religious, patriotic, civic, travel, sports, and similar other purposes, and such buildings shall include theatres, motion picture houses, drive-in-theatres, city halls, town halls, auditoria, exhibition halls, museums, skating rinks, gymnasia, restaurants, eating-houses, hotels, boarding-houses, places of worship, dance halls, club rooms, gymkhanas, passenger stations and terminals of air, surface and

other public transportation services, recreation piers, and stadia,

- (e) business buildings, that is to say, any building or part thereof used for transaction of business or for the keeping of accounts and records or for similar purposes and such buildings shall include offices, banks, professional establishments, court houses, and libraries for the principal function of transaction of public business and keeping of books and records, and shall also include office buildings (premises) solely or principally used as an office or for office purpose,
- (f) mercantile buildings, that is to say, any building or part thereof used as shops, stores or markets for display or sale of merchandise, either wholesale or retail, or for office, storage or service facilities incidental to the sale of merchandise and located in the same building, and such building shall include establishments wholly or partly engaged in wholesale trade, manufacturer's whole-sale outlets (including related storage facilities), warehouses, and establishments engaged in truck transport (including truck transport booking agencies),
- (g) industrial buildings, that is to say, any building or structure or part thereof in which products or materials of all kinds and properties are fabricated, assembled or processed as in assembly plants, and such buildings shall include laboratories, power plants, smoke houses, refineries, gas plants, mills,

dairies, factories, workshops, automobile repair garages and printing presses,

(h) storage buildings, that is to say, any building or part thereof used primarily for the storage or sheltering of goods, wares or merchandise as in warehouse, and such buildings shall include cold storages, freight depots, transit sheds, store houses, public garages, hangars, truck terminals, grain elevators, barns and stables,

(i) hazardous buildings, that is to say, any building or part thereof used for the storage, handling, manufacture or processing of highly combustible or explosive materials or products, which are liable to burn with extreme rapidity or which may produce poisonous fumes or explosions during storage, handling, manufacture or processing or which involve highly corrosive, toxic or noxious alkalis, acids or other liquids or chemicals producing flames, fumes, explosions or mixtures of dust or which result in the division of matter into fine particles subject to spontaneous ignition;

(3) “alteration” means the change from one occupancy to another, or the structural change, such as the addition to any area or height, or the removal of a part of building, or the change to the structure, such as the construction, or cutting into, or removal of, any wall, partition, column, beam, joist, floor, or other support, or the change to, or closing of, any required means of ingress or egress, or the change to any fixture or equipment;

(4) “plan” means a plan prepared by a surveyor, or a draughtsman, or an engineer holding a degree of Bachelor of Engineering, or an Architect registered under the Architects Act, 1972.

(20 of 1972.)

Explanation. – For the purposes of classification of a building according to occupancy under clause (2), -

- (a) an occupancy shall be deemed to include subsidiary occupancies, which are contingent upon such occupancy, and
- (b) building with mixed occupancies shall mean those buildings in which more than one occupancy are present in different portions thereof.

Prohibition of erection without sanction.

396. No person shall erect, or commence to erect, any building or execute any of the works specified in section 395 in any municipal area, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the regulations made thereunder in relation to such erection of building or execution of work, as the case may be :

Provided that the erection of a residential building upto a height of three storeys, or with a height of eleven* metres, whichever is lower, on a plot of land of three hundred* square metres or less, may be commenced and may be proceeded with if the building plan has been prepared by an architect registered under the Architects Act, 1972, and authenticated by him certifying that the building plan for such erection conforms to the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder :

(Act 2 of 1972.)

* Each State Government may, having regard to the local conditions and practices, decide the number of storeys or height of buildings and the plot area on which erection of a residential building may be commenced if the plans for such buildings are prepared by a duly registered architect.

Provided further that any such plan shall be submitted to the Chief Municipal Officer before the commencement of the work referred to in the first proviso for sanction thereof in due course :

Provided also that if any deviation from the provisions of this Act, or the rules, or the regulations made thereunder or any material deviation from such plan is detected in erection of any such building, the Chief Municipal Officer may take necessary action against such person in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or the rules, or the regulations made thereunder and, in the case of any deviation from the provisions of this Act, or the rules, or the regulations made thereunder, send a report to the Institution of Architects against the architect who prepared the building plan and authenticated it by certifying that the building plan conforms to the provisions of this Act, or the rules or the regulations made thereunder for such action as the Institution of Architects may deem fit :

Provided also that the Chief Municipal Officer shall, by order, direct that no certification by such architect in respect of any building plan shall be accepted by the Municipality till a decision on the aforesaid report is received from the Institution of Architects by the Chief Municipal Officer :

Provided also that in a case where the Chief Municipal Officer has sanctioned or provisionally sanctioned erection of any building above a height of fourteen metres, he shall cause publication of the fact of such sanction in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed, at the cost of the person in whose favour such sanction has been given.

Erection of building.

397. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 396, every person who intends to erect a building shall apply for sanction by giving a notice, in

writing, of his intention to the Chief Municipal Officer in such Form, and containing such information, as may be prescribed.

- (2) Every such notice shall be accompanied by such documents and plans as may be prescribed.

Application for addition to, or repair of, building.

398. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 396, every person who intends to execute any of the works specified in sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of section 395 shall apply to the Chief Municipal Officer for sanction by giving a notice, in writing, of his intention in such Form, and containing such information, as may be prescribed.

- (2) Every such notice shall be accompanied by such documents and plans as may be prescribed.

Purpose for which building to be used and conditions of validity of notice.

399. (1) Every person giving any notice of his intention to erect a building under section 397 shall specify the purpose for which such building is intended to be used :

Provided that for any building, not more than one class of use, consistent with the occupancy or the use group within the meaning of clause (2) of section 395, shall be considered, except in respect of the case where, under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force, mixed occupancies of specified nature may be permissible.

- (2) Every person giving any notice under section 397 of his intention to execute any of the works specified in sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of section 395, shall specify whether the original purpose for which such work was intended to be executed, is proposed, or is likely, to be changed by such execution of work :

Provided that if such change would result in mixed occupancies, which are contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any other law for the time being in force, such change shall not be allowed.

- (3) No notice shall be valid until the information required under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) and any other information and plans, which may be required by regulations made under this Act, have been furnished to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer along with the notice.

Sanction or provisional sanction or refusal of building or work.

400. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 396, the Chief Municipal Officer shall sanction, or provisionally sanction, the erection of a building or the execution of a work within the municipal area, unless such building or work would contravene any of the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section or the provisions of section 411 or section 413 :

Provided that no such sanction shall be accorded without the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee in the case of any building, except a residential building proposed to be erected or re-erected on a plot of land of five hundred square metres or less :

Provided further that the Empowered Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Municipal Building Committee and shall finalize its decision after such consideration.

- (2) The sanction for erection of a building or execution of a work may be refused on the following grounds, namely :-
 - (a) that the building or the work or the use of the site for the building or the work or any of the particulars comprised

in the site plan, ground plan, elevation, section or specification, would contravene the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or of any other law for the time being in force or any scheme sanctioned thereunder,

- (b) that the notice for sanction does not contain the particulars, or is not prepared in the manner, required under the rules or the regulations made in this behalf under this Act,
 - (c) that any information or document, required by the Chief Municipal Officer under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, has not been duly furnished,
 - (d) that the building or the work would be an encroachment on the State Government land or land vested in the Municipality, and
 - (e) that the site of the building or the work does not abut on a street or projected street and that there is no access to such building or work from any such street by any passage or pathway appertaining to such site.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Chief Municipal Officer may, while granting permission under this chapter, specify such special conditions, relevant to each case, regarding disposal of solid, liquid or gaseous wastes or for parking of vehicles or for loading or unloading of goods or for abatement of nuisance of any kind whatsoever as he deems fit.
- (4) The Chief Municipal Officer shall communicate the sanction or the provisional sanction to the person who has given the notice

under section 397 or section 398, and where he refuses sanction or provisional sanction, either on any of the grounds specified in subsection (2) or under section 411 or section 413, he shall record a brief statement of his reasons for such refusal and shall communicate the refusal along with the reason therefor to the person who has given the notice.

- (5) The sanction, or the provisional sanction, or the refusal of sanction, to the erection of a building or the execution of a work shall be communicated in such manner as may be prescribed and, in the case of sanction or provisional sanction to the erection of a building, the occupancy or use group shall be specifically stated in such sanction.

Municipal Building Committee for Municipal Corporation,
Class 'A' Municipal Council and Class 'B' Municipal Council .

401. (1) In the case of a Municipal Corporation, a Class 'A' Municipal Council, a Class 'B' Municipal Council, the Empowered Standing Committee shall constitute a Municipal Building Committee with the Chief Municipal Officer as its Chairperson and an officer of the Municipality as its convenor.
- (2) The Municipal Building Committee shall have, in addition to the Chairperson and the convenor, six other members of whom -
 - (a) one shall be an officer of the planning and development authority for the municipal area under any law for the time being in force,
 - (b) one shall be an officer of the police authority responsible for traffic in the municipal area,
 - (c) one shall be an officer of the fire services having jurisdiction over the municipal area,

- (d) one shall be an engineer or an architect, having experience of not less than five years,
- (e) one shall be an officer of the authority responsible for environmental management of the municipal area, and
- (f) one shall be an officer of the State Government,

nominated by the State Government.

- (3) The Municipal Building Committee may co-opt one person to be nominated by the concerned department of the State Government while dealing with any case regarding any educational building or institutional building or assembly building or industrial building or hazardous building.
- (4) The Municipal Building Committee shall meet at such periodical intervals as may be necessary, but not less than once in every calendar month.
- (5) The Municipal Building Committee shall scrutinize every application for erection or re-erection of a building for which notice has been received under section 397, other than a residential building upto four storeys or with a height of fourteen metres, whichever is higher, on a plot of land of five hundred square metres or less, and make its recommendations :

Provided that in respect of any building or execution of any work, if such building or work, as the case may be, affects or is likely to affect -

- (a) the functioning of the microwave system for telecommunication purposes, or
- (b) any functions for the purpose of civil aviation,

the Municipal Building Committee shall, if so considered necessary, refer the matter to the concerned Department of the Central Government or authority for opinion before finalizing the recommendations.

- (6) The recommendations of the Municipal Building Committee shall be referred to the Empowered Standing Committee for its consideration and approval, with or without change :

Provided that the reasons for any deviation from the recommendations shall be recorded in writing.

- (7) The manner of conduct of business of the Municipal Building Committee, and the procedure to be followed by it, shall be such as may be specified by regulations.

Committee for sanction of building plans in case of
Class 'C' Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats.

402. The State Government shall, by order, in writing, constitute a Committee or Committees to deal with the sanction of building plans for Class 'C' Municipal Councils or Nagar Panchayats in the specified municipal areas.

Sanction or provisional sanction accorded under misrepresentation.

403. If, at any time, after the communication of sanction or provisional sanction to the erection of any building or the execution of any work, the Chief Municipal Officer is satisfied that such sanction or provisional sanction was accorded in consequence of any material misrepresentation or any fraudulent statement in the notice given or information furnished under section 397 or section 398 or section 399, he may, by order in writing, cancel, for reasons to be recorded in writing, such sanction or provisional sanction, as the case may be, and any building or any work commenced, erected or executed shall be

deemed to have been commenced, erected or executed without such sanction and shall be dealt with accordingly under the provisions of this chapter :

Provided that before making any such order, the Chief Municipal Officer shall give a reasonable opportunity to the person affected to show cause as to why such order should not be made.

When building or work may be proceeded with.

404. (1) Where within a period of sixty days, or in cases falling under sub-clause (b) to sub-clause (l) of clause (1) of section 395, within a period of thirty days, of the receipt of any notice under section 397 or section 398 or of any information under section 399 the Chief Municipal Officer does not refuse the sanction to the erection of any building or the execution of any work or, upon refusal, does not communicate the refusal to the person who has given the notice, such person may make a representation in writing to the Chief Councillor :

Provided that if it appears to the Chief Municipal Officer that the site of the proposed building or work is likely to be affected by any scheme of acquisition of land for any public purpose or by any proposed regular line of a public street or extension, improvement, widening or alteration of any street, the Chief Municipal Officer may withhold sanction to the erection of the building or the execution of the work for such period, not exceeding six months, as he may deem fit, and the period of sixty days or, as the case may be, the period of thirty days, specified in this sub-section, shall be deemed to commence from the date of expiry of the period for which the sanction has been withheld.

- (2) Where the erection of a building or the execution of a work is sanctioned, the person who has given the notice shall erect the

building or execute the work in accordance with such sanction and shall not contravene any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or of any other law for the time being in force.

- (3) If the person as aforesaid or any one lawfully claiming under him does not commence the erection of the building or the execution of the work within two years of the date on which the erection of the building or the execution of the work, as the case may be, is sanctioned, he shall give notice under section 397 or, as the case may, under section 398 for fresh sanction and the provisions of this section shall apply in relation to such notice as they apply in relation to the original notice.
- (4) Such person shall, before commencing the erection of the building or the execution of the work within the period specified in subsection (3), give notice to the Chief Municipal Officer of the proposed date of commencement of such erection or execution :

Provided that if the commencement does not take place within fifteen days of the date of the notice, the notice shall be deemed not to have been given and a fresh notice shall be necessary in this behalf.

Period for completion of building or work.

405. The Chief Municipal Officer shall, when sanctioning the erection of a building or the execution of a work, specify a reasonable period within which the building or the work is to be completed, and if the building or the work is not completed within the period so specified, it shall not be continued thereafter without fresh sanction obtained in the manner hereinbefore provided, unless the Chief Municipal Officer, on an application made in this behalf, allows an extension of such period.

Order of demolition and stoppage of buildings or works in certain cases and appeal.

406. (1) Where the erection of any building or the execution of any work has been commenced, or is being carried on, or has been completed without, or contrary to, the sanction referred to in section 400 or in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the Chief Municipal Officer may, in addition to any other action that may be taken under this Act, make an order directing that such erection or work shall be demolished by the person at whose instance the erection or the work has been commenced or is being carried on or has been completed, within such period, not being less than five days and more than fifteen days from the date on which a copy of the order of demolition with a brief statement of the reasons therefor has been delivered to such person, as may be specified in the order :

Provided that no order of demolition shall be made unless such person has been given, by means of a notice served in such manner as the Chief Municipal Officer may think fit, an opportunity of showing cause why such order shall not be made :

Provided further that where the erection of any building or the execution of any work has not been completed, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by the same order or by a separate order, whether made at the time of the issue of the notice under the first proviso or at any other time, direct such person to stop the erection of such building or the execution of such work until the expiry of the period within which an appeal against the order of demolition, if made, may be preferred under sub-section (3).

Explanation. – In this chapter, “the person at whose instance” shall mean the owner, or the occupier, or any other person who causes

the erection of any building or the execution of any work, including alterations or additions, if any, to be done, or does it by himself.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may make an order under sub-section (1), notwithstanding the fact that the assessment of such building has been made for the levy of the property tax on lands and buildings.
- (3) Any person aggrieved by an order of the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (1) may, within thirty days from the date of the order, prefer an appeal against the order to the Municipal Building Tribunal appointed under section 412.
- (4) Where an appeal is preferred under sub-section (3) against an order under sub-section (1), the Municipal Building Tribunal may stay the enforcement of the order on such terms, if any, and for such period, as it may think fit :

Provided that where the erection of any building or the execution of any work has not been completed at the time of the order under sub-section (1), no order staying the enforcement of the order under that sub-section shall be made by the Municipal Building Tribunal unless a surety, sufficient in the opinion of that Tribunal, has been given by the appellant for not proceeding with such erection or work pending the disposal of the appeal.

- (5) Save as provided in this section, no Court shall entertain any suit, application or other proceeding for injunction or other relief against the Chief Municipal Officer to restrain him from taking any action, or making any order, in pursuance of the provisions of this section.

- (6) Every order made by the Municipal Building Tribunal on appeal and, subject to such order, every order made by the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (1), shall be final and conclusive.
- (7) Where no appeal has been preferred against an order made by the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (1) or where an order under that sub-section has been confirmed on appeal, whether with or without modification, the person against whom the order has been made shall comply with the order within the period specified therein or, as the case may be, within the period, if any, fixed by the Municipal Building Tribunal on appeal, and, on the failure of such person to comply with the order within such period, the Chief Municipal Officer may himself cause the building or the work to which the order relates to be demolished, and the expenses of such demolition shall be recoverable from such person as an arrear of tax under this Act.
- (8) Notwithstanding anything contained in this chapter, if the Empowered Standing Committee is of the opinion that immediate action is called for in relation to a building or a work being carried on in contravention of the provisions of this Act, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, cause such building or work to be demolished forthwith.

Order of stoppage of building or work in certain cases.

407. (1) Where the demolition of any building or the erection of any building or the execution of any work has been commenced or is being carried on without, or contrary to, the sanction referred to in section 400 or in contravention of any condition subject to which such sanction has been accorded or in contravention of any provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the Chief Municipal Officer may, in addition to any

other action that may be taken under this Act, by order, require the person at whose instance the building or the work has been commenced or is being carried on to stop the same forthwith.

- (2) (a) Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act or in any rules or regulations made thereunder, no owner of any building, and no person engaged in the construction of any building on behalf of the owner thereof, shall allow storage or stagnation of water in the site for the construction of such building and every such owner or every such person, as the case may be, shall completely empty all collections of such water at least once in a week.

(b) Where the construction of a building is carried on in contravention of the provisions of clause (a), the Chief Municipal Officer may, in addition to any other action that may be taken under this Act, by order, in writing, require the person at whose instance such storage or stagnation of water in the site for the construction of the building is made, to stop forthwith any further construction of the building, and such order shall remain in force till the person as aforesaid complies with the requirements of the order as aforesaid, to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer.

- (3) If an order by the Chief Municipal Officer under clause (b) of subsection (2) directing any person to stop the construction of any building is not complied with, the Chief Municipal Officer may take such measures as he deems fit or may require any police officer to remove such person and all his assistants and workmen from the premises within such time as may be specified by the Chief Municipal Officer, and such police officer shall comply with such requirement.

- (4) If an order by the Chief Municipal Officer under section 406 or under sub-section (1) of this section, directing any person to stop the erection of any building or the execution of any work, is not complied with, the Chief Municipal Officer may take such measures as he deems fit or may require any police officer to remove such person and all his assistants and workmen from the premises within such time as may be specified by the Chief Municipal Officer, and such police officer shall comply with such requirements.
- (5) No Court shall entertain any suit, application or other proceeding for injunction or other relief against the Chief Municipal Officer to restrain him from taking any action or making any order in pursuance of the provisions of this section.
- (6) On the compliance with the requirement under sub-section (5), the Chief Municipal Officer may, if he thinks fit, depute, by an order, in writing, a police officer or an officer or other employee of the Municipality to watch the premises in order to ensure that the erection of the building or the execution of the work is not continued.
- (7) Where a police officer or an officer or other employee of the Municipality has been deputed under sub-section (6) to watch the premises, the cost of such deputation, to be determined by the Municipality by regulations, shall be paid by the person at whose instance such erection or execution is being continued or to whom notice under sub-section (1) has been given, and shall be recoverable from such person as an arrear of tax under this Act.

Construction of building in contravention of the provisions of the Act or the rules made thereunder.

408. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the rules made thereunder or in any other law for the time being in force, any

person, who, being responsible, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, so constructs, or attempts, or conspires, to so construct, any new building or additional floor or floors of any building, in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, as endangers, or is likely to endanger, human life, or any property of the Municipality, whereupon the water-supply, drainage or sewerage or the road traffic is disrupted or is likely to be disrupted or is likely to cause a fire hazard, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years and also with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

Explanation. – “Person” shall include an owner, occupier, lessee, mortgagee, consultant, promoter or financier, or a servant or agent of an owner, occupier, lessee, mortgagee, consultant, promoter or financier, who supervises, or causes the construction of, any new building or additional floor or floors of any building as aforesaid.

- (2) The offence under sub-section (1) shall be cognizable and non-bailable within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(2 of 1974.)

- (3) Where an offence under sub-section (1) has been committed by a company, the provisions of section 521 shall apply to such company.

Explanation. – “Company” shall have the same meaning as in the *Explanation* to section 521.

Power of Chief Municipal Officer to require alteration of work.

409. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, at any time during the erection of any building or the execution of any work or at any time within three months after the completion thereof, by notice, in writing,

specify any matter in respect of which such erection or execution is without, or contrary to, the sanction referred to in section 400 or is in contravention of any condition of such sanction or of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder and require the person who gave the notice under section 397 or section 398 or the owner of such building or work either -

- (a) to make such alterations as may be specified by the Chief Municipal Officer in the notice with the object of bringing the building or the work in conformity with such sanction or such condition of such sanction or the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or
 - (b) to show cause, within such period as may be stated in the notice, why such alterations should not be made.
- (2) If such person or such owner does not show any cause as aforesaid, he shall be bound to make the alterations specified in the notice.
- (3) If such person or such owner shows the cause as aforesaid, the Chief Municipal Officer shall, by order, either cancel the notice issued under sub-section (1) or confirm the same subject to such modifications as he thinks fit.

Completion certificate.

410. (1) Every person giving a notice under section 397 or section 398 or every owner of a building or work to which such notice relates shall, within one month after the completion of erection of such building or execution of such work, deliver or send or cause to be delivered or sent to the Chief Municipal Officer a notice, in writing, of such completion accompanied by a certificate in the

Form specified in the rules made in this behalf and shall give to the Chief Municipal Officer all necessary facilities for inspection of such building or work.

- (2) No person shall occupy, or permit any other person to occupy, any such building or use, or permit any other person to use, any building or a part thereof affected by any such work until permission has been granted by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf in accordance with the rules and the regulations made under this Act :

Provided that if the Chief Municipal Officer fails, within a period of thirty days of receipt of the notice of completion, to communicate his refusal to grant such permission, such person may make a representation in writing to the Chief Councillor.

B. Municipal Building Code

Power of State Government to make building rules and to classify municipal areas for the purpose of application of building rules.

411. (1) The State Government shall prepare a Code to be called the Municipal Building Code containing rules providing for -

- (a) the regulation or restriction of the use of sites for buildings,
- (b) the regulation or restriction of buildings, and
- (c) compliance with the provisions of any law relating to urban land ceiling or urban land use planning.

- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such Code may provide for all or any of the following matters :-

- (a) information and plans to be submitted together with application under any of the provisions of this chapter,

- (b) requirements of sites,
- (c) means of access,
- (d) development of land into land sub-division and layout,
- (e) land use classification and uses,
- (f) open space, area and height limitations,
- (g) parking spaces,
- (h) requirements of parts of building plinth, habitable room, kitchen, pantry, bathroom, water closet, loft, ledge, mezzanine floor, store-room, garage, roof, basement, chimney, lighting and ventilation of room, parapet, wells, septic tanks, and boundary wall,
- (i) provision of lifts,
- (j) exit requirements including doorways, corridors, passageways, staircase, ramps and lobbies,
- (k) fire protection requirements including materials and designs for interior decoration,
- (l) special requirements of occupancies for residential building, educational building, institutional building, assembly building, business building, mercantile building, industrial building, storage building and hazardous building (including those for assembly, movement, parking, loading, unloading, public conveniences, water-supply and vendors' plazas),
- (m) structural design,
- (n) quality of materials and workmanship,

- (o) alternative materials, methods of design, construction and tests,
 - (p) building services including electric supply and such supply from non-conventional sources of energy, air-conditioning or heating, and telecommunication systems,
 - (q) water-supply, water harvesting, and plumbing services,
 - (r) signs and outdoor display structures,
 - (s) special requirements for building in the hill areas,
 - (t) special requirements of access for handicapped persons in respect of matters referred to in chapter XXII, chapter XXIII, chapter XXIV, and chapter XXV,
 - (u) protection against natural disasters including earthquakes and cyclones and technological disasters, and
 - (v) any other matter considered necessary in relation to building activities.
- (3) The State Government may, by notification, exempt any municipal area or any group of municipal areas as classified under section 7 from the operation of all or any of the provisions of this chapter or the rules made under this section.
- (4) While such exemption under sub-section (3) remains in force in any municipal area or group of municipal areas, the State Government may make rules consistent with the provisions of this chapter for application to such municipal area or group of municipal areas.

C. Municipal Building Tribunal*

Municipal Building Tribunal.

412. (1) The State Government may appoint one or more Municipal Building Tribunals (hereinafter referred to in this section as the Tribunal) as may be considered necessary to hear and decide appeals arising out of matters referred to in chapter XXXVII in accordance with such procedure, and to realize such fees in connection with such appeals, as may be prescribed.
- (2) Each Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson and such other members, not exceeding four, as the State Government may determine.
- (3) The Chairperson and one other member shall be persons who are or have been members of the State Higher Judicial Service, having such experience as may be prescribed.
- (4) At least one of the remaining other members shall be a person who shall have such knowledge or experience in town planning, civil engineering or architecture as may be prescribed.
- (5) The Chairperson and the other members of the Tribunal shall be appointed by the State Government for such period, and on such terms and conditions, as the State Government may determine and shall be paid from the Municipal Fund :

Provided that a Councillor or a person who is or has been an officer or other employee of the Municipality shall not be eligible for appointment as a member of the Tribunal.

- (6) The State Government may, if it thinks fit, remove for reason of incompetence or misconduct or for any other good or sufficient reason the Chairperson or any other member of the Tribunal.

* Each State Government may consider whether to constitute a Municipal Building Tribunal or not.

- (7) The Tribunal shall have such officers and other employees, appointed on such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed, and

the expenses of the Tribunal shall be paid out of the Municipal Fund.

- (8) The provisions of Part II and Part III of the Limitation Act, 1963, relating to appeal shall apply to every appeal preferred under this section.

(36 of 1963).

- (9) No court shall have jurisdiction in any matter for which provision is made in this chapter for appeal to the Tribunal.

D. General Powers

Building at corners of streets.

413. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the rules and the regulations made thereunder or of any other law for the time being in force, the Chief Municipal Officer may, in the case of any building which is intended to be erected at the corner of two streets, -

- (a) refuse sanction for such reasons as may be recorded in writing, or
- (b) impose restrictions on its use, or
- (c) place special conditions concerning exit to, or entry from, any street, or
- (d) require it to be rounded off or splayed or cut off to such height and to such extent as he may determine, or
- (e) acquire such portion of the site at the corner as he may consider necessary for public convenience or amenity :

Provided that nothing shall be done in any case under the provisions of this sub-section without any scrutiny of such case by

the Municipal Building Committee for a Municipal Corporation, Class 'A' Municipal Council and Class 'B' Municipal Council, constituted under section 401, or the Committee for sanction of building plans in case of building plans for Class 'C' Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats, constituted under section 402, as the case may be, and without prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, by order, in writing, require any alteration, corresponding to any of the provisions in clauses (b) to (e) of sub-section (1), to be made to any building completed before the commencement of this Act.

Provision as to building and work on either side of new street or near fly-over or transportation terminal.

414. (1) The sanction to the erection of any work on either side of a new street may be refused by the Chief Municipal Officer unless and until such new street has been levelled, and, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, wherever practicable, metalled or paved, drained, lighted and laid with a water main, to his satisfaction.
- (2) The sanction to the erection of any such building or the execution of any such work may be refused by the Chief Municipal Officer, if such building or any portion thereof or such work comes within the regular line of any street, the position and direction of which have been laid down by the Chief Municipal Officer but which has not been actually erected or executed, or if such building or any portion thereof or such work is in contravention of any building plan or any other scheme or plan prepared under this Act or any other law for the time being in force.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may refuse permission for the erection or re-erection of any building which, when completed,

will be within such distance from a fly-over or overbridge or transportation terminal or other construction as may be provided by rules or regulations made in this behalf.

Provision against use of inflammable material for building etc. without permission.

415. (1) No roof, verandah, *pandal* or wall of a building or no shed or fence shall be constructed or reconstructed of cloth, grass leaves, mats or other inflammable materials except with the permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer, nor shall any such roof, verandah, *pandal*, wall, shed or fence, constructed or reconstructed in any year, be retained in a subsequent year except with the fresh permission obtained in this behalf.
- (2) Every permission under sub-section (1) shall expire at the end of the year for which it is granted.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may regulate the use of materials, design or construction or other practices for interior decoration in accordance with the rules and the regulations in this behalf.

Power to regulate future construction of buildings in particular streets or localities.

416. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, subject to the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, give notice of his intention to declare -
- (a) that in any street or portion thereof specified in such notice, the elevation and construction of the frontage of all buildings or any classes of buildings erected or re-erected after such notice shall, in respect of their architectural features, be such as the Empowered Standing Committee may consider suitable to the locality, or

- (b) that in any locality specified in such notice, there shall be allowed the erection of only detached or semi-detached building or both and that the land appurtenant to each such building shall be of an area, being not less than that specified in such notice, or
 - (c) that the division or sub-division of building plots in a particular locality shall be of a minimum specified area, or
 - (d) that in any locality specified in the notice, the construction of more than a specified number of buildings on each acre of land shall not be allowed, or
 - (e) that in any street, portion of a street, or locality, specified in such notice, the construction of any one or more of the different classes of buildings (such as residential, educational, institutional, assembly, business, mercantile, industrial, storage, and hazardous buildings) shall not be allowed without the special permission of the Empowered Standing Committee.
- (2) The Empowered Standing Committee shall consider all suggestions or objections, received within a period of three months of the publication of such notice, and may confirm the declaration, or may modify it, so, however that the effect of such notice is not extended.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer shall publish any declaration so confirmed or modified in the *Official Gazette* and the declaration shall take effect from the date of such publication.
- (4) No person shall, after the date of publication of such declaration, erect or re-erect any building in contravention of such declaration.

- (5) The Empowered Standing Committee shall ensure that such declaration is in conformity with the provisions of any State law relating to urban land use planning.

Power to stop excavation.

417. If, during excavation or any other operation for the purpose of construction of any building or execution of any work, any of the underground utilities (such as electric or telephone cables, water-supply, drainage and sewerage mains, and gas pipes) is touched or is likely to be touched, or if the Chief Municipal Officer is of opinion that such excavation may cause danger to the public, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by order, in writing, stop forthwith any such excavation or other work till the matter is investigated and decided to his satisfaction.

Power to require alteration of existing buildings.

418. The Chief Municipal Officer may, with a view to promoting convenience, safety, privacy of the public or the occupier, or sanitation or to securing conformity with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder, by order, in writing, require the owner of any existing building to make such alterations therein, and within such period, as may be specified in the order :

Provided that before making any such order, the Chief Municipal Officer shall afford a reasonable opportunity to the owner to show cause why such order should not be made.

Power to order removal of dangerous buildings.

419. (1) If any wall or building, or anything affixed thereto, is deemed by the Chief Municipal Officer to be in a ruinous state, or is likely to fall, or to be in any way dangerous, he shall forthwith cause a notice, in writing, to be served on the owner and to be put on some conspicuous part of the wall or building or served on the occupier, if any, of the building requiring such owner or occupier forthwith to demolish, repair, or secure such wall, building or thing, as the case may require.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, if it appears to him necessary so to do, cause a proper hoarding or fence or other means of protection to be put up at the expense of the owner of such wall or building for the safety of the public or the inmates thereof; and may, after giving them such notice as the Chief Municipal Officer may think necessary, require the inmates of the building to vacate it.
- (3) The provisions of this Act and of any rules or regulations made thereunder relating to buildings shall apply to any work done in pursuance, or in consequence, of a notice issued under sub-section (1).
- (4) (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section, the Chief Municipal Officer may, forthwith or with such notice as he thinks fit, demolish, repair or secure or cause to be demolished, repaired or secured, any such wall or building or thing affixed thereto, on the report of the Municipal Architect and Town Planner, certifying that such demolition, repair or securing of the building, wall or thing is necessary for the safety of the public or the inmates of the building.
- (b) In any such case, the Chief Municipal Officer may cause the inmates of the building to be summarily removed from such

building or from such portion thereof as he may consider necessary.

(c) All expenses incurred by the Chief Municipal Officer for carrying out the purposes of this sub-section shall be paid by the owner of such wall, building or thing.

- (5) Anything done or any action taken by the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (4) shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been done or taken lawfully and in good faith.

Inspection of building.

420. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, at any time during the erection or re-erection of a building or the execution of any work under this chapter, make an inspection thereof without giving any previous notice of his intention so to do.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may inspect any existing building at any time by giving seven day's notice in advance.

Permission in case of non-residential uses of premises.

421. (1) No person shall, without the previous permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer, or otherwise than in conformity with the conditions, if any, of such permission, put any premises to non-residential use including the use for an educational building or an institutional building or an assembly building or a business building or a mercantile building or an industrial building or a storage building or a hazardous building.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may refuse to give such permission in any case on the ground that such use -
- (a) would be objectionable by reason of the density of population in the neighbourhood, or

- (b) would add to the traffic constraints in the vicinity including parking spaces for vehicles, or
 - (c) would not conform to other predominant uses in the neighbourhood, or
 - (d) would constitute a fire hazard, or
 - (e) would be a nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, or
 - (f) in the case of a hospital or a clinic, would be harmful to the patients due to noise or an environment, which poses a health hazard, or
 - (g) in the case of an educational building, would deprive the students of playground facilities.
- (3) Subject to any land use control under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the decision of the Chief Municipal Officer in every case where permission is refused under this section shall be final.

Conditions for grant of permission.

422. In the case of any premises for the use of which a licence or permission is required from the State Government or any authority under any law for the time being in force, the Chief Municipal Officer shall not grant such permission under this Act to any person until such person produces before the Chief Municipal Officer the licence or the permission from the State Government or such authority, as the case may be, and submits duly authenticated copy thereof to him :

Provided that in the case where production of a permission of the Municipality is a precondition for the grant of a licence or permission under any other law for the time being in force, the Chief Municipal

Officer may grant a provisional permission which shall be authenticated to be final only upon production of a licence or permission under the said law :

Provided further that such provisional permission shall have validity only for the purpose of fulfilling any precondition for the grant of the licence or the permission under any other law as aforesaid.

E. Regulation of Building Uses

Power to prohibit change of authorized use of building.

423. (1) No person shall, without the permission, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer or otherwise than in conformity with the conditions of such permission, -

- (a) use, or permit to be used, for the purpose of human habitation any building or part thereof not originally erected or authorized to be used for such purpose,
- (b) change, or allow the change of, the use of a building for any purpose other than that specified in the sanctioned plan,
- (c) change, or allow the change of, the use of any building erected before the commencement of this Act contrary to the use for which such erection was originally sanctioned or to the use to which such building was actually put,
- (d) convert, or allow the conversion of, a tenement within a building to an occupational use, other than the use intended in the original sanctioned plan, or materially alter, enlarge, or extend such use.

- (2) If, in any case, such permission is given, no change of occupancy or use shall be allowed before necessary alterations or provisions have been made to the satisfaction of the Chief Municipal Officer and in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder and any other law for the time being in force.
- (3) Any change of use made before the commencement of this Act, except in so far as such use is permissible under the provisions of an earlier State law on the subject in force before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to be a change in contravention of the provisions of this Act.
- (4) Without prejudice to any other action that may be taken against any person, whether owner or occupier, contravening any provision of this section, the Municipality may levy on such person such fine, not exceeding, in each case, rupees one hundred per square metre per month for the area under unauthorized use throughout the period during which such contravention continues, as may be provided by regulations.
- (5) The Chief Municipal Officer may, if he deems fit, order that such unauthorized use be stopped forthwith :

Provided that before making any such order, he shall give a reasonable opportunity to the person affected to show cause why such order shall not be made.

- (6) Any person aggrieved by an order of the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (5) may, within thirty days from the date of the order, prefer an appeal against the order to the Municipal Building Tribunal whose decision in the matter shall be final and conclusive.

- (7) When an appeal is preferred under sub-section (6), the Municipal Building Tribunal or the Municipality, as the case may be, may stay the enforcement of the order made by the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (5) on such terms, and for such period, as it may think fit.
- (8) Save as otherwise provided in this section, no court shall entertain any suit, application or other proceeding for any relief or injunction, restraining the Chief Municipal Officer or the Municipal Building Tribunal or the Municipality from taking any action or making any order in pursuance of the provisions of this section.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this chapter, “unauthorized use” shall mean change or conversion of a building without sanction from one occupancy or use group to another occupancy or use group referred to in sub-section (2) of section 395.

Power to prevent use of premises for specified purpose in particular area for environmental reasons.

424. (1) The Municipality may give notice of its intention to declare that in any area specified in the notice, no person shall, for environmental reasons stated therein, use any premises for any purpose specified in the notice.
- (2) Any objection to any such notice shall be received within a period of thirty days from the date of the notice.
- (3) The Municipality shall consider all objections received within the period as aforesaid, giving any person affected by the notice an opportunity of being heard, and may, thereupon, make a declaration in accordance with the notice under sub-section (1), with such modifications, if any, as it may think fit.

- (4) Every such declaration shall be published in the manner provided by regulations and shall take effect from the date of such publication.
- (5) No person shall, in any area specified in the declaration published under sub-section (4), use any premises for any purpose specified in the declaration, and the Chief Municipal Officer shall have the power to stop such use of any such premises by such means as he may consider necessary.
- (6) The Municipality shall ensure that such declaration is in conformity with the provisions of any land use plan in force in the municipal area under any State law regulating such use.

Chapter XXXVIII

Municipal Licences

Premises not to be used for non-residential purpose without municipal licence.

425. (1) Except as hereinafter provided in this Act, no person shall use, or permit to be used, any premises for any of the non-residential purposes mentioned in the Schedule* without or otherwise than in conformity with the terms of a licence granted by the Chief Municipal Officer or the Wards Committee under sub-section (6) of section 30, as the case may be, so as not to contravene the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section :

* Each State Government may amend the list in the Schedule as per its requirements.

Provided⁺ that no such licence shall be given in respect of any non-residential use of a premises, if such use is otherwise than in conformity with the provisions of this Act, or any other law for the time being in force, or the rules or the regulations or the orders made thereunder :

Provided further that except in cases which come under the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section or section 427 or section 429, the power to issue such licence within its jurisdiction may be exercised by the Wards Committee, subject to such conditions, and in such manner, as may be determined by regulations.

- (2) In the case of a non-residential use of a premises for a purpose for which a licence or permission is required from the State Government or any statutory body under any law for the time being in force, no licence under this section shall be given until the licence or the permission under the said law has been produced before the Chief Municipal Officer, and duly authenticated copies thereof have been submitted to him :

Provided that in the case where the production of a licence under this Act is a pre-condition for the grant of a licence under any other law for the time being in force, the Chief Municipal Officer may grant a provisional licence, which shall be authenticated to be final only upon the production of a licence or permission under the said law :

Provided further that such provisional licence shall have validity only for the purpose of fulfilling the preconditions of the grant of a licence under any other law as aforesaid.

+ Each State Government may make specific provisions to suit its local conditions.

- (3) In specifying the terms of a licence granted under this section, the Chief Municipal Officer may require the licensee to take all or any of such measures as he may deem fit to guard against danger to life, health or property or for the abatement of nuisance of any kind.

- (4) The Municipality shall, by regulations, determine the fees to be paid in respect of a licence granted under sub-section (1), and may specify different fees for different categories of non-residential uses in different areas within the municipal area :

Provided that no such fees shall exceed rupees two thousand and five hundred in any case.

- (5) The Municipality may, by regulations, determine -
- (a) as to when the initial licence is to be taken out and the procedure of annual renewal thereof, and
 - (b) the matters connected with the display of licence, inspection of premises, power of inspectors, and such other matters as may be deemed necessary.

Registers to be maintained.

426. The Chief Municipal Officer shall maintain in such Form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed, two separate registers of which -

- (a) one shall contain premiseswise information of non-residential uses, indicating the unique premises number, if any, assigned under this Act, and
- (b) the other shall contain such information, on the basis of different non-residential user groups for factories, warehouses, medical institutions, educational institutions, and such other uses, as may be provided by regulations.

Municipal licence for private markets.

427. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Municipality, grant to any person a licence to establish or keep open a private market on payment of such fees as may be

determined by the Municipality by regulations, and may specify such conditions consistent with this Act as he may deem fit.

- (2) When the Chief Municipal Officer refuses to grant any licence, he shall record a brief statement of the reasons for such refusal.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Municipality and for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, suspend a licence in respect of a private market for such period as he thinks fit or cancel such licence.
- (4) A private market in respect of which the licence has been suspended or cancelled under sub-section (3) shall be closed with effect from such date as may be specified in the order of suspension or cancellation.

Municipal licence for sale of flesh, fish or poultry.

428. (1) No person shall, without or otherwise than in conformity with a licence from the Chief Municipal Officer, carry on the trade of a butcher, fish-monger, poulterer or importer of flesh, intended for human food, or use any place for the sale of flesh, fish or poultry, intended for human food :

Provided that no person shall sell, or expose for sale, any flesh obtained from an animal unless the skinned carcass of the animal is stamped in such manner as the Chief Municipal Officer may, by general order made in this behalf, require in token of the fact that the animal has been slaughtered in a municipal or licensed slaughterhouse :

Provided further that no licence shall be required for any place used for sale, or storage for sale, of preserved flesh or fish contained in air-tight or hermetically sealed receptacles.

- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer may, by order, and subject to such conditions as to supervision and inspection as he may think fit to impose, grant a licence or may, by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, refuse to grant a licence.
- (3) The Municipality shall, by regulations, determine the procedure for the issue of a licence and renewal thereof.
- (4) If any place is used for the sale of flesh, fish or poultry intended for human food in contravention of the provisions of this section, the Chief Municipal Officer may stop the use of such place in such manner as he may consider necessary.

Prohibition of unlicensed activities.

429. (1) Without or otherwise than in conformity with the terms of a licence granted by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf, no person shall, within the municipal area, use, or permit to be used, any land or building -
- (a) for keeping horses, cattle or other quadruped animals or birds for transportation, sale or hire or for sale of the produce, or
 - (b) as a market in respect of which a licence is required under this Act, or
 - (c) for carrying out work as an artisan, or
 - (d) for trade of a butcher, fish-monger, poulterer or importer of flesh intended for human food or for sale thereof.
- (2) If any land or building, public or private, is used, or permitted to be used, in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may stop the use thereof by such means as he deems fit, and may confiscate any article in respect of which

such use is being made, prepare an inventory thereof, and, in the case of perishable items, auction them without notice.

Power to stop use of premises used in contravention of licences.

430. (1) If the Chief Municipal Officer is of the opinion that any premises is being used for a non-residential purpose without a licence under this Act or otherwise than in conformity with the terms of a licence granted in respect thereof, he may stop the use of any such premises for any such purpose for a specified period by such means as he may consider necessary.
- (2) If a person continues to use a premises in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may, notwithstanding any other action that may be taken against such person under this Act, levy on such person a continuing fine in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (4) of section 423.

Power to seize food or drug etc.

431. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer, or any officer or other employee of the Municipality authorized by him in this behalf, may, at any time by day or night, without notice, inspect and examine any food or drug or any utensil or vessel used for preparing, manufacturing or storing such food or drug.
- (2) If, upon such inspection or examination, any such food or drug is, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer or the officer or other employee authorized by him in this behalf, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption, or is not what it is represented to be, or if any such utensil or vessel is of such kind, or in such state, as to render any food or drug prepared, manufactured, or stored therein, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption, he may seize, seal or carry away such food or drug or utensil or vessel.
- (3) If any food or drug seized under sub-section (2) is, in the opinion of the Chief Municipal Officer, unfit for human consumption, he

shall cause such food or drug to be forthwith destroyed in such manner as to prevent its being again exposed for sale or used for human consumption, and the expenses thereof shall be paid by the person in whose possession such food or drug was at the time of its seizure.

Chapter XXXIX

Vital Statistics

Appointment of Chief Registrar and Registrars.

432. (1) The Chief Municipal Health Officer shall be the Chief Registrar of births and deaths occurring in the municipal area.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall, for the purposes of this chapter, appoint such number of persons to be Registrars of births and deaths as he deems necessary and shall define the respective areas which shall be under the charge of such Registrars.

Duties of Registrars.

433. Each Registrar shall keep himself informed of every birth or death occurring within the area of his jurisdiction and shall ascertain such particulars in respect of every birth or death as may be prescribed in this behalf.

Register books to be maintained.

434. (1) Such particulars regarding births and deaths as the Chief Municipal Officer may, from time to time, specify, shall be entered in separate registers of births and of deaths, and such registers shall be maintained by each Registrar.
- (2) The Chief Municipal Officer shall specify the Forms of the registers required to be maintained under sub-section (1) and the manner in which such registers shall be maintained.

- (3) On an application from a person interested, the Chief Registrar or a Registrar, as the case may be, shall issue an extract from any entry in a register on payment of such fees as may be determined by the Municipality by regulations.

Registration of births and deaths.

435. Subject to the provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, the Municipality shall cause registration of births and deaths taking place within the municipal area and extracts of information therefrom shall be supplied, on application, in such Form of a certificate, and on payment of such fees, as may be determined by regulations.

(18 of 1969.)

Registration of name of child or of alteration of name.

436. (1) When the birth of any child has been registered and the name, if any, by which it was registered, is altered or, if it was registered without a name, when a name is given to it, the parent or the guardian of such child or other person proposing such name to be altered or given may, within sixty months next after the registration of the birth, deliver to the Registrar of the area in which the birth was registered, such certificate as hereinafter provided, and the Registrar, upon the receipt of the certificate, shall, without any erasure of the original entry, forthwith enter in the register the name mentioned in the certificate as having been given to the child.
- (2) The certificate shall be in such Form as the Chief Municipal Officer may, from time to time, specify, and shall be signed by the parent, or the guardian, of the child or other person proposing the name of the child to be altered or given.

Correction of errors in registers of births or deaths.

437. (1) Any clerical error, which may, at any time, be discovered in a register of births or register of deaths, may be corrected by any person authorized in this behalf by the Chief Municipal Officer.
- (2) An error of fact or substance in any such register may be corrected by any person authorized as aforesaid by entry in the margin, without any alteration of the original entry, upon production to the Chief Municipal Officer by the person requiring such error to be corrected, of a declaration (setting forth the nature of the error and the fact of the case) on oath made before a Magistrate, by the person required by this Act to give information concerning the birth or death with reference to which the error has been made or, in default of such person, by a person having knowledge of the case.
- (3) Except as provided in sub-section (2), no alteration shall be made in any such register.

Information of births.

438. It shall be the duty of the father or the mother of every child born in the municipal area and, in default of the father or the mother, of any relation, of the child living in the same premises and, in default of such relation, of the person having charge of the child, to give, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, to the Registrar of the area concerned within eight days after such birth, information containing such particulars as may be prescribed in this behalf :

Provided that -

- (a) in the case of an illegitimate child, no person shall, as father of such child, be required to give information under this Act concerning the birth of such child, and the Registrar shall not enter in the register the name of

any person as father of such child, except at the joint request of the mother and the person acknowledging himself to be the father of such child, and such person shall, in such case, sign the register together with the mother,

- (b) a person required to give information only in default of some other person shall not be bound to give such information if he believed, and had reasonable grounds for believing, that such information had been given, and
- (c) when a child is born in a hospital or a nursing home or a maternity home, none but the officer-in-charge thereof shall be bound to forward forthwith to the Registrar a report of such birth in such time, and in such Form, as the Chief Registrar may, from time to time, specify.

Information respecting finding of newborn child.

439. In case any newborn child is found exposed, it shall be the duty of any person finding such child or of any person in whose charge such child may be placed, to give, to the best of his knowledge and belief, to the Chief Registrar or the Registrar, within eight days after the finding of such child, such information of the particulars required to be registered concerning the birth of such child as such person possesses.

Information regarding deaths.

440. It shall be the duty of the nearest relation present at the time of the death or in attendance during the last illness of any person dying in the municipal area and, in default of such relation, of any person present or in attendance at the time of the death and of the occupier of the premises in which, to his knowledge, the death took place and, in

default of the person as aforesaid, of each inmate of such premises and of the undertaker or other person causing the corpse of the deceased person to be disposed of, to give, to the best of his knowledge and belief, to the Registrar of the area within which the death took place information containing such particulars as may be prescribed within twenty-four hours of such death :

Provided that -

- (a) if the cause of death is known to be a dangerous disease, the information as aforesaid shall be given within twelve hours of its occurrence, and
- (b) if the death of any person occurs in a hospital or a nursing home or a maternity home, it shall be the duty of none but the medical officer or other officer-in-charge thereof to forward forthwith a report of such death in such Form as the Chief Registrar may, from time to time, specify.

Medical Practitioner to certify cause of death.

441. In the case of a person who has been attended in his last illness by a duly qualified medical practitioner, such practitioner shall, within three days of his becoming cognizant of the death of such person, sign and forward to the Chief Registrar a certificate of the cause of death of such person in such Form as shall, from time to time, be specified by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf, and the cause of death as stated in such certificate shall be entered in the register together with the name of the certifying medical practitioner.

Duties of police in regard to unclaimed corpses.

442. It shall be the duty of the police to convey every unclaimed corpse to a registered burial or burning ground or other place for disposal of the

dead or to a duly appointed mortuary and, thereafter, to inform the Registrar within whose jurisdiction such corpse was found.

Sextons etc., not to bury etc. corpse.

443. A sexton or a keeper of a registered burial or burning ground or other place for disposal of the dead, whether situated in municipal area or not, shall not bury, burn or otherwise dispose of, or allow to be buried, burnt or otherwise disposed of, any corpse unless such corpse is accompanied by a certificate in such Form as may be prescribed, and signed by a Registrar appointed under section 432 or by a registered medical practitioner or any other medical practitioner authorized by the State Government in this behalf.

Chapter XL

Disaster Management

Management of natural or technological disasters.

444. (1) As far as possible, the Municipality shall, in collaboration with the concerned authorities of the Central Government or the State Government, including the meteorological office, have prepared environmental base maps and impact area diagrams and shall collect other relevant data and shall take necessary steps for erecting installations and other accessories required to mitigate the effects of natural or technological disasters.
- (2) The Municipality shall organize emergency operations and promote public awareness in relation to disaster management.
- (3) The Municipality shall take adequate measures to implement the regulations, if any, made by the planning and urban development authorities to mitigate earthquake hazards in high seismic zones and to promote citizen awareness in this regard.

Chapter XLI

Industrial Townships

Exclusion of industrial townships from municipal areas.

445. No Municipality shall be constituted in such urban area or part thereof as the Governor may, having regard to the size of the area and the municipal services being provided or proposed to be provided by an industrial establishment in that area and such other factors as he may deem fit, by notification, specify to be an industrial township.

PART VIII

POWERS, PROCEDURES, OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Chapter XLII

Procedure

A. Licences and Permissions

Signature, conditions, duration, suspension, revocation, etc., of licences and permissions.

446. (1) Whenever it is provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder that a licence or a permission, in writing, may be granted for any purpose, such licence or permission shall be signed by the Chief Municipal Officer or by any other officer empowered to grant such licence or permission under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder and shall specify the following particulars in addition to any other particulars required to be specified under any other provision of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder :-

- (a) the date of the grant of licence or permission,
- (b) the purpose and the period, if any, for which it is granted,
- (c) restrictions or conditions, if any, subject to which it is granted,
- (d) the name and address of the person to whom it is granted,
and
- (e) the fee, if any, paid for the licence or the permission.

- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, for every such licence or permission, a fee may be charged at such rate as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Municipality, and such fee shall be payable by the person to whom the licence or the permission is granted.
- (3) Save as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, any licence or permission granted under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder may, at any time, be suspended or revoked by the Chief Municipal Officer or the officer by whom it was granted, if he is satisfied that it has been secured by the grantee through misrepresentation or fraud, or if any of the restrictions or conditions of licence or permission has been infringed or evaded by the grantee, or if the grantee has been convicted for the contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder relating to any matter for which the licence or the permission, as the case may be, was granted :

Provided that -

- (a) before making any order of suspension or revocation, an opportunity shall be given to the grantee of the licence or the permission to show cause why it should not be suspended or revoked; and
 - (b) every such order shall contain a brief statement of the reasons for the suspension or the revocation of the licence or the permission, as the case may be.
- (4) When any such licence or permission is suspended or revoked, or when the period for which such licence or permission was granted

has expired, the grantee shall, for the purposes of this Act and the rules and the regulations made thereunder, be deemed to be without a licence or permission, as the case may be, until such time as the order suspending or revoking the licence or the permission, as the case may be, is rescinded or until the licence or the permission, as the case may be, is renewed.

- (5) Every grantee of any licence or permission granted under this Act shall, at all reasonable times while such licence or permission, as the case may be, remains in force, if so required by the Chief Municipal Officer or the other officer by whom it was granted, produce such licence or permission, as the case may be.

B. Entry and Inspection

Power of entry.

447. The Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer or employee of the Municipality authorized by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf, or empowered by or under any provision of this Act, may enter into or upon any land or building with or without assistants or workmen, for the purpose of -

- (a) ascertaining whether in connection with the land or the building there is or has been any contravention of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or
- (b) ascertaining whether or not circumstances exist which render it necessary for the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer or employee of the Municipality authorized by him in this behalf, or empowered by or under any provision of this Act, to take any action or execute any work under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or

- (c) taking any action or executing any work authorized or required by or under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or
- (d) making such inquiry, inspection, examination, measurement, valuation or survey as may be authorized or required by or under this Act or as may be necessary for the proper administration of this Act, or
- (e) generally ensuring efficient discharge of the functions by any of the municipal authorities under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.

Power to enter land or adjoining land in relation to any work.

448. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer or any person authorized by him in this behalf, or empowered by or under this Act, may enter upon any land within fifty metres of any work authorized by or under this Act with or without assistants or workmen, for the purpose of depositing thereon any soil, gravel, stone or other materials or for obtaining access to such work or for any other purpose connected with the execution thereof.
- (2) Every person so authorized shall, before entering upon any such land, state the purpose thereof, and shall, if so required by the owner or the occupier thereof, fence off so much of the land as may be required for such purpose.
- (3) Every person as aforesaid shall, in exercising any power conferred by this section, do as little damage as may be necessary, and compensation shall be payable by the Municipality in accordance with the rules or the regulations made under this Act in this behalf to the owner or the occupier of such land or to both for any such damage, whether permanent or temporary.

Breaking into building.

449. (1) It shall be lawful for the Chief Municipal Officer or any person authorized by him in this behalf, or empowered by or under this Act, to make any entry into any place and to open or cause to be opened any door, gate or other barrier, -

(a) if he considers the opening thereof necessary for the purpose of such entry, and

(b) if the owner or the occupier is absent or, being present, refuses to open such door, gate or other barrier.

(2) Before making any entry into any such place or opening or causing to be opened any such door, gate or other barrier, the Chief Municipal Officer or the person authorized or empowered in this behalf shall call upon two or more respectable inhabitants of the locality in which the place to be entered into is situate, to witness the entry or the opening and may issue an order, in writing, to them or any of them so to do.

(3) A report shall be made to the Empowered Standing Committee, as soon as may be after any entry has been made into any place or any door, gate or other barrier has been opened under this section.

Time of making entry.

450. Save as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, no entry authorized under this Act shall be made except between the hours of sunrise and sunset :

Provided that if the Chief Municipal Officer is satisfied that the erection of any building or the execution of any work has been commenced or is being carried on in contravention of the provisions of this Act in any premises between the period of sunset and sunrise, he may, if he considers it necessary so to do, enter such premises

during such period accompanied by a police officer to make an inspection thereof and take such action as may be necessary under this Act.

Consent ordinarily to be obtained.

451. Save as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, no land or building shall be entered without the consent of the occupier, or if there is no occupier, of the owner thereof, and no such entry shall be made without giving such occupier or owner, as the case may be, not less than twenty four hours' notice, in writing, of the intention to make such entry :

Provided that no such notice shall be necessary if the Municipality considers, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that there is immediate urgency for such entry and the service of a notice, in writing, may defeat its purpose :

Provided further that no such notice shall be necessary, if the land or the building to be entered is a factory or workshop or trade premises or place used for any of the purposes referred to in section 370 or a stable for horses or a shed for cattle or a latrine or a urinal or a work under construction, or for the purpose of ascertaining whether any animal intended for human consumption is slaughtered on such land or in such building in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.

Regard to be had to social or religious usages.

452. When any place used as a human dwelling is entered under this Act, due regard shall be paid to the social and religious customs and usages of the occupants of the place entered, and no apartment in the actual occupancy of a female shall be entered or broken open until she has been informed that she is at liberty to withdraw and every reasonable facility has been afforded to her for withdrawing.

Prohibition of obstruction or molestation in execution of work.

453. No person shall obstruct or molest any person authorized or empowered by or under this Act, or with whom the Municipality or any of the municipal authorities referred to in section 20 has lawfully contracted, in the execution of his duty or anything which he is authorized or empowered or required to do by virtue, or in consequence, of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or in fulfillment of his contract, as the case may be.

C. Public Notices and Advertisements

Public notices how to be made known.

454. Every public notice given under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder shall be in writing under the signature of the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer of the Municipality authorized by him in this behalf, and shall be widely made known in the locality to be affected thereby by affixing copies thereof in conspicuous public places within such locality or by publishing the same by advertisement in local newspapers or by such other means as the Chief Municipal Officer may think fit.

Newspapers in which advertisements or notices to be published.

455. Whenever it is provided by or under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder that notice shall be given by advertisement in local newspapers or a notification or information shall be published in local newspapers, such notice, notification or information shall be inserted in at least two newspapers of which at least one shall be in the regional language.

D. Evidence

Proof of consent etc. of Municipality, Empowered Standing Committee, Chief Councillor, Chief Municipal Officer, etc.

456. Whenever under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder the doing of, or the omission to do, anything or the validity of anything done depends upon the approval, sanction, consent, concurrence, declaration, opinion or satisfaction of -

- (a) the Municipality, or
- (b) the Empowered Standing Committee, or
- (c) the Chief Councillor, or
- (d) the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer of the Municipality,

as the case may be, a document, in writing, signed, -

- (i) in the cases referred to in clause (a) and clause (b), by the Municipal Secretary where there is a Municipal Secretary, or where there is no Municipal Secretary, by the Chief Municipal Officer, and
- (ii) in the cases referred to in clause (c) and clause (d), by the Chief Municipal Officer,

purporting to convey or set forth such approval, sanction, consent, concurrence, declaration, opinion, satisfaction, as the case may be, shall be sufficient evidence thereof.

E. Notices, etc.

Notices etc. to fix reasonable time.

457. Where any notice, bill, order, or requisition, issued or made under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, requires anything to be done, for the doing of which no time is fixed in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, such notice, bill, order or requisition shall specify a reasonable time for doing the same.

Signature on notices etc. may be stamped.

458. (1) Every licence, permission, in writing, notice, bill, summons or other document, which is required by this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder to bear the signature of the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer of the Municipality, shall be deemed to be properly signed if it bears a facsimile of the signature of the Chief Municipal Officer or such other officer, as the case may be, and stamped thereupon.
- (2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall be deemed to apply to a cheque drawn upon the Municipal Fund under section 89.

Notices etc. by whom to be served or issued.

459. Every notice, bill, summons, or other document, required by this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder to be served upon, or issued to, any person, shall be served or issued by an officer or other employee of the Municipality or by any person authorized by the Chief Municipal Officer in that behalf.

Service of notices etc.

460. (1) Every notice, bill, summons, order, requisition or other document required or authorized by this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder to be served or issued by or on behalf of the Municipality or by any of the municipal authorities referred to in section 20, or by any officer or other employee of the Municipality, shall, save as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, be deemed to be duly served, -
- (a) where the person to be served is a company, if the document is addressed to the secretary of the company at

its registered office or at its principal office or place of business and is either -

(i) sent by registered post, or

(ii) delivered at the registered office or at the principal office or place of business of the company, or

(b) where the person to be served is a partnership, if the document is addressed to the partnership at its principal place of business, identifying it by the name or style under which its business is carried on, and is either -

(i) sent by registered post, or

(ii) delivered at the said place of business, or

(c) where the person to be served is a public body or a Municipality, or a society or other body, if the document is addressed to the secretary, treasurer or other officer of such public body, Municipality, society, or other body at its principal office, and is either, -

(i) sent by registered post, or

(ii) delivered at that office, and

(d) in any other case, if the document is addressed to the person to be served, and

(i) is given or tendered to him, or

(ii) if such person cannot be found, is affixed on some conspicuous part of his last known place of residence or business, if within the municipal

area, or is given or tendered to some adult member of his family, or is affixed on some conspicuous part of the land or building, if any, to which it relates, or

(iii) is sent by registered post to such person.

(2) Any document, which is required or authorized to be served on the owner or the occupier of any land or building, may be addressed to “the owner” or “the occupier”, as the case may be, of such land or building (naming such land or building) without further name or description, and shall be deemed to be duly served, -

(a) if the document so addressed is sent or delivered in accordance with clause (d) of sub-section (1), or

(b) if the document or a copy thereof so addressed, is delivered to some person on the land or the building or, where there is no such person to whom it can be delivered, is affixed to some conspicuous part of such land or building.

(3) Where a document is served on a partnership under this section, the document shall be deemed to be duly served on each partner.

(4) For the purpose of enabling any document to be served on the owner of any premises, the Chief Municipal Officer may, by notice, in writing, require the occupier of such premises to state the name and address of the owner thereof.

(5) Where the person on whom a document is to be served is a minor, the service upon his guardian or any adult member of his family shall be deemed to be service upon the minor.

- (6) Nothing in section 458 or section 459 or in this section shall apply to any summons issued under this Act by any court.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, a servant shall not be deemed to be a member of the family.

F. Enforcement of Orders to Execute Works etc.

Time for complying with requisition or order, and power of Chief Municipal Officer to enforce requisition or order on default.

461. (1) When, under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, any requisition or order is made by a notice, in writing, issued to any person or persons by any municipal authority or any officer of the Municipality, such authority or officer shall specify in such notice such period within which -

(a) such requisition or order shall be complied with, and

(b) any objection thereto, in writing, shall be received by such authority or officer,

as such authority or officer may consider reasonable.

- (2) If any such requisition or order or any portion thereof is not complied with within the period specified in the notice under subsection (1), the Chief Municipal Officer may, subject to the provisions of section 462 and such regulations as may be made by the Municipality in this behalf, take such measures, or cause such measures to be taken, as may, in his opinion, be necessary for causing due compliance with such requisition or order, and, except where otherwise expressly provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the expenses, if any, incurred by such authority or officer in causing such compliance shall be paid by the person or persons to whom such notice is issued.

- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer may take any scheme, execute any work, or cause anything to be done under this section, notwithstanding any prosecution or punishment or liability to punishment of any person under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder for his failure to comply with such requisition or order.

Submission of objections to comply with notice.

462. (1) Any person who has been served with a notice under sub-section (1) of section 461 may, within such period as is specified in such notice, deliver to the municipal authority or the officer or the Municipality, as the case may be, any objection, in writing, setting forth the objections which he may desire to state for withdrawal or modification of such notice.
- (2) Every such objection shall be placed before the Chief Municipal Officer for determination and, pending such determination, compliance with any requisition or order in accordance with such notice shall be stayed.
- (3) The Chief Municipal Officer or, if he so directs, any other officer of the Municipality of such rank as may be specified by him, other than an officer who has issued such notice, shall, after hearing the person concerned or his agent duly authorized by him, in writing, in this behalf and after considering the circumstances of the case, make such order, either confirming or modifying or cancelling the notice, as he thinks fit.
- (4) (a) Where the Chief Municipal Officer or the other officer of the Municipality referred to in sub-section (3) makes an order under that sub-section, either confirming or modifying the notice, he may, if he thinks fit, -

- (i) direct that a portion of the expenses, if any, to be incurred in complying with the notice as confirmed or modified shall be borne by the Municipality, and
- (ii) fix a time within which the notice so confirmed shall be complied with.

(b) If the notice as confirmed or modified is not complied with by such person within the time fixed under sub-clause (ii) of clause (a), the Chief Municipal Officer shall take such measures, or cause such work to be executed, or such thing to be done, as may, in his opinion, be necessary for causing due compliance with such notice, and the expenses, if any, incurred by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf shall be payable to the Chief Municipal Officer on demand and, if not paid within ten days of such demand, shall be recoverable as an arrear of tax under this Act.

G. Recovery of Expenses

Power of Municipality to enter into agreement for payment of expenses in instalments.

463. (1) When, under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the expenses of any measure taken or work executed or thing done by or under the order of any municipal authority or any officer of the Municipality or any Magistrate are payable by any person, the Chief Municipal Officer may, if he thinks fit and with the approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, enter into an agreement with such person for payment of such expenses in such instalments, and at such intervals, as will secure the recovery of the whole amount due with interest thereon at such rate of interest as may be determined by the State Government from time to time

within such period, not exceeding six years, as the Municipality may determine.

- (2) Every such agreement shall provide for adequate security against the whole amount due from such person.

Power of Municipality to declare certain expenses to be improvement expenses.

464. (1) If any expenses are to be recovered or are incurred on account of any work mentioned -

(a) in section 255 and section 257, or

(b) in the rules or the regulations made under this Act,

the Municipality may, if it thinks fit, declare such expenses to be improvement expenses.

- (2) A register shall be maintained by the Chief Municipal Officer showing all expenses declared to be improvement expenses under this section, and such register shall be open to inspection by any person upon payment of such fee as may, from time to time, be determined by the Empowered Standing Committee.

Improvement expenses, how recoverable and by whom payable.

465. (1) Any improvement expenses under section 464 shall be a charge on the premises in respect of which, or for the benefit of which, such expenses are incurred, and shall be recoverable in such instalments, and at such intervals, as may be sufficient to discharge such expenses with interest thereon at such reasonable rate as may be determined by the Municipality from time to time, and within such period, not exceeding thirty years, as the Municipality may in each case determine.

- (2) The improvement expenses shall be payable by the owner or the occupier of the premises on which such expenses are chargeable.

Recovery of improvement expenses paid by occupier.

466. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 465, when the occupier of any premises pays any instalment of improvement expenses, he shall, subject to any agreement to the contrary, if any, between himself and the owner of such premises, be entitled to deduct the amount of such instalment from the rent payable by him to such owner or to recover such amount from such owner in pursuance of any order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Right of owner or occupier to redeem charge for improvement expenses.

467. At any time before the expiration of the period for payment of any improvement expenses, the owner or the occupier of the premises on which such expenses are chargeable may redeem such charge by paying to the Municipality such part of such expenses as is still payable.

Execution of work by occupier on the failure of owner.

468. Whenever the owner of any land or building fails to execute any work which he is required to execute under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the occupier, if any, of such land or building may, with the approval of the Chief Municipal Officer, execute such work and shall, subject to any agreement to the contrary between himself and the owner of such land or building, be entitled to recover from the owner the reasonable expenses incurred by him in the execution of the work and may deduct any amount thereof from the rent payable by him to such owner.

Relief to receivers, agents and trustees.

469. (1) Whenever under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, any person, by reason of his -

(a) receiving the rent of any immovable property as receiver or agent or trustee of such property, or

(b) being such receiver or agent or trustee, would receive the rent if such property were let to a tenant,

is bound to discharge any obligation imposed on the owner of such property but has not at his disposal funds, belonging or payable to such owner, sufficient for the purpose of discharging such obligation, he shall, within a period of six weeks from the date of service upon him by any municipal authority or officer of the Municipality empowered in this behalf under this Act, of any notice requiring him to discharge such obligation, apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for leave to raise such funds or for such directions as he may consider necessary for such purpose.

(2) If such receiver or agent or trustee fails to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction under sub-section (1) or, after such court has granted leave to raise funds or has issued directions, fails to discharge such obligation or to comply with such directions within twelve months of such leave or such directions, he shall be personally liable to discharge such obligation.

H. Payment of Compensation

General power of Municipality to pay compensation.

470. In any case not otherwise expressly provided for in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the Chief Municipal Officer may, with the prior approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, pay compensation to any person who sustains damage by reason of the exercise of any of the powers vested by this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder on the Chief Municipal Officer or on any other officer or other employee of the Municipality.

Compensation to be paid for damage to property of Municipality.

471. (1) Any person who has been convicted of any offence under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder shall, without prejudice to any punishment to which he may be subject, be liable to pay such compensation for any damage to any property of the Municipality resulting from such offence as the appropriate municipal authority may consider reasonable.
- (2) In the case of any dispute regarding the amount of compensation under sub-section (1), such amount shall, on an application, in writing, made by such person to the Magistrate who convicts such person of such offence, be determined by such Magistrate, and, if the amount of compensation so determined is not paid by such person, such amount shall be recovered under a warrant from such Magistrate as if it were a fine imposed by him on the person liable thereof.

I. Recovery of Expenses or Compensation in Case of Disputes

Reference by Municipality to Civil Court in certain cases of recovery of expenses.

472. (1) If, in respect of any expenses referred to in section 463, any dispute arises, the Chief Municipal Officer shall refer such dispute to the Civil Court having jurisdiction for determination.
- (2) Upon such reference, the Chief Municipal Officer shall defer further proceedings for the recovery of such expenses and shall recover only such amount, if any, as may be determined by the Civil Court having jurisdiction.

Application to Civil Court in certain cases of payment of expenses or compensation.

473. Save as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or in any other law for the time being in force, in the case of any dispute in respect of any expenses or any compensation payable to any person by any municipal authority or any officer or

other employee of the Municipality or any other person under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, the amount of such expenses or such compensation shall be determined by the Civil Court having jurisdiction at any time within one year from the date of such expenses or such compensation first becoming due.

Recovery of expenses or compensation determined under section 473.

474. If the amount of any expenses or compensation determined under section 473 is not paid on demand, such amount shall be recoverable as if the same were due under a decree of the Civil Court having jurisdiction or in the manner provided in chapter XIX.

Recovery of expenses or compensation by suit in court.

475. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 474, any expenses or compensation determined under section 473 may be recovered by a suit brought in a court of competent jurisdiction.

J. Recovery of Certain Dues

Recovery of certain dues of Municipality.

476. Save as otherwise provided in this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, any sum due to the Municipality on account of any charge, cost, expense, fee, rate or rent or on any other account under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder shall be recoverable from the person from whom such sum is due as if it were property tax.

K. Obstruction of Owner by Occupier

Application to Civil Court by owner when occupier prevents from complying with Act etc.

477. (1) Any owner of any land or building may, if he is prevented by the occupier thereof from complying with any provision of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or any requirement under any such provision in respect of such land or building, apply

to the Civil Court having jurisdiction within the time fixed for compliance with such provision or requirement, and, thereupon, such owner shall not be liable for his failure to comply with such provision or requirement within the time fixed for such compliance.

- (2) On receipt of any application under sub-section (1), the Civil Court may make an order, in writing, requiring the occupier of the land or the building, as the case may be, to afford all reasonable facilities to the owner for complying with the provision or the requirement as aforesaid, and may also, if it thinks fit, direct that the costs of such application and order shall be paid by the occupier.
- (3) The occupier shall, within eight days from the date of any order under sub-section (2), afford all reasonable facilities to the owner in compliance with such order. In the event of any continued refusal by the occupier to do so, the owner shall be discharged, during the continuance of such refusal, from any liability which he would otherwise have incurred by reason of his failure to comply with the provision or the requirement as aforesaid.

L. Proceedings before the Civil Court

Procedure in Civil Court.

478. (1) Whenever under this Act any application, appeal or reference is made to a Civil Court having jurisdiction, such Civil Court may, for the purpose of any inquiry or proceeding in connection with such application, appeal or reference, summon and enforce the attendance of witnesses and compel them to give evidence or compel the production of documents by the same means, and, as far as possible, in the same manner, as is provided in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and, in all matters relating to any such enquiry or proceedings, the Court shall be guided generally by the

provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, so far as such provisions are applicable to such inquiry or proceeding.

(5 of 1908.)

- (2) If, in any such inquiry or proceeding, any person summoned to appear before the Court fails to do so, the Court may proceed with such inquiry or proceeding in his absence.
- (3) The cost of every such inquiry or proceeding shall be payable by such person or persons, and in such proportion or proportions, as the Court may direct, and, the amount of such cost shall be recoverable as if the same were due under a decree of the Court.

Fees in proceeding before Civil Court.

479. (1) The Municipality may specify a fee -

- (a) for making under this Act any application, appeal or reference to a Civil Court having jurisdiction, or
- (b) for issue of any summons or other process in any inquiry or proceeding in connection with such application, appeal or reference :

Provided that the fee, if any, under clause (a) shall not, in the case where the value of any claim is capable of being estimated in money, exceed the fee leviable in a similar case under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

(5 of 1908.)

- (2) No application, appeal or reference under this Act shall be received by a Civil Court having jurisdiction until the fee, if any, under clause (a) of sub-section (1) has been paid :

Provided that the Civil Court may, in any case in which it thinks fit so to do, -

- (i) receive such application, appeal or reference, or

(ii) issue summons or other process,

without payment of such fee.

Repayment of half of fees on settlement before hearing.

480. Whenever under this Act any application, appeal or reference to a Civil Court having jurisdiction is settled by agreement between the parties concerned before hearing of such application, appeal or reference, half the amount of any fee paid by any of such parties under sub-section (2) of section 479 shall be repaid by the Civil Court to such party.

M. Municipal Magistrates and Proceeding before Municipal Magistrates

Municipal Magistrate*.

481. (1) The State Government may, in consultation with the High Court of the State, appoint one or more Judicial Magistrates of the First Class for the trial of offences against -

(a) this Act, and

(b) the rules and the regulations made thereunder,

and may prescribe the time within which, and the place at which, such Judicial Magistrate or Judicial Magistrates shall sit for such trial of offences.

(2) Every such Judicial Magistrate shall exercise all other powers, and discharge all other functions, of a Magistrate as provided in this Act.

(3) Every Judicial Magistrate appointed under sub-section (1) shall be called Municipal Magistrate.

(4) A Municipal Magistrate shall be paid by the State Government such salary, pension, leave and other allowances as it may, from time to time, determine.

* Each State Government may decide whether it shall have a separate class of Municipal Magistrates or not.

- (5) The Municipality shall pay to the State Government out of the Municipal Fund any amount paid by the State Government on account of salary, pension, leave and other allowances of a Municipal Magistrate together with the cost of establishment of such Municipal Magistrate and all other incidental charges in connection with such establishment.
- (6) Each Municipal Magistrate shall have jurisdiction over such municipal area or areas as may be specified by the State Government by notification.
- (7) The procedure in the court of a Municipal Magistrate shall, except where otherwise specifically provided in this Act, be in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(2 of 1974.)

Certain offences to be cognizable*.

482. The offences mentioned in section 396, section 406, section 407, section 409, section 453, and section 518 shall be cognizable within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Power of Municipal Magistrate to hear cases in absence of accused summoned to appear.

483. If, in any case, any person, who is summoned to appear before a Municipal Magistrate to answer any charge of an offence under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, fails to appear on the date and at the time and the place mentioned in the summons issued in this behalf or on any subsequent date to which the hearing of such case is adjourned, the Municipal Magistrate may, if -

- (a) service of the summons is, to his satisfaction, proved to have been effected, and

* Each State Government may include references to other sections in this clause.

(b) no sufficient cause is shown for non-appearance of such person,

hear and determine such case in the absence of such person.

Limitation of time for prosecution.

484. No person shall be liable to any punishment for an offence under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder unless a complaint of such offence is made before a Municipal Magistrate within six months next after -

(a) the date of commission of such offence, or

(b) the date on which the commission or the continuance of such offence is first brought to the notice of the Municipality or the Chief Municipal Officer.

Complaint regarding nuisance and removal thereof.

485. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer of the Municipality authorized by him in this behalf, in writing, or any person who resides or owns property in the municipal area, may complain of the existence of any nuisance to a Municipal Magistrate.

(2) Upon receipt of any such complaint, the Municipal Magistrate, after making such inquiry as he considers necessary, may, if he thinks fit, by an order, in writing, -

(a) direct the person responsible for such nuisance or the owner of the land or the building on which such nuisance exists to take, within such period as may be specified in the order, such measures for abating, preventing,

removing or remedying such nuisance as may appear to the Municipal Magistrate to be practicable and reasonable, and may direct the Chief Municipal Officer to enforce any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder for prevention of such nuisance, and

- (b) further direct the person held responsible for the nuisance to pay to the complainant such reasonable cost of the complaint (including compensation for loss of time in prosecuting such complaint) as the Municipal Magistrate may determine :

Provided that where, in the opinion of the Municipal Magistrate, immediate action to prevent the nuisance is necessary, he may dispense with the inquiry and make forthwith such order as he considers necessary.

- (3) If any person responsible for any nuisance or any owner of any land or building on which any nuisance exists fails to comply with any order under sub-section (2) within the period specified in the order, the Chief Municipal Officer may, on the expiry of such period, proceed to take necessary action in accordance with the order, or may take such other measures to abate, prevent, remove or remedy the nuisance as he may consider necessary, and the cost of any such action shall be recovered from such person or such owner, as the case may be.

Power of Municipal Magistrate to direct payment of fine and demolition of unlawful works.

- 486. (1) If, under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, any person is, in respect of any unlawful work, liable -

- (a) to pay any fine, and also

(b) to demolish such work,

the Municipal Magistrate having jurisdiction may, in his discretion, direct such person to pay the fine and also to demolish the work.

(2) All sums realized on account of fine under this section shall be credited to the Municipal Fund.

N. Legal Proceedings

Power to institute etc. legal proceeding and to obtain legal advice.

487. The Chief Municipal Officer may -

- (a) take, or withdraw from, proceeding against any person who is charged with -
 - (i) any offence under this Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder, or
 - (ii) any offence which affects, or is likely to affect, any property or interest of the Municipality or the due administration of this Act, or
 - (iii) committing any nuisance whatsoever, or
- (b) contest or compromise any appeal against assessment of any tax or rate, or
- (c) take, or withdraw from, or compromise, any proceeding under this Act for the recovery of expenses or compensation claimed to be due to the Municipality, or
- (d) withdraw or compromise any claim for a sum not exceeding one thousand rupees against any person, or

- (e) defend any suit or other legal proceeding brought against the Municipality or against any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by the Municipality or such municipal authority or officer or other employee under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder in the official capacity, or
- (f) compromise, with the approval of the Empowered Standing Committee or, where there is no Empowered Standing Committee, with the approval of the Municipality, any claim, suit or other legal proceeding brought against the Municipality or any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality in respect of anything done or omitted to be done under any of the foregoing clauses of this section, or
- (g) withdraw from, or compromise, any claim against any person in respect of a penalty payable under any contract entered into with such person by the Chief Municipal Officer on behalf of the Municipality, or
- (h) institute or prosecute any suit or other legal proceeding or, with the approval of the Empowered Standing Committee, or where there is no Empowered Standing Committee, with the approval of the Municipality, withdraw from, or compromise, any suit or claim, other than a claim referred to in clause (d), instituted or made, as the case may be, in the name of the Municipality or the Chief Municipal Officer, or
- (i) obtain, for any of the purposes mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this section or for securing lawful exercise or discharge of any power or duty vesting in, or imposed upon, any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality, such legal advice and assistance as he may,

from time to time, consider necessary or expedient, or as he may be required by the Municipality or the Empowered Standing Committee, to obtain.

Notice, limitation, and tender of amends in suits against Municipality etc.

488. (1) No suit shall be instituted in any court having jurisdiction against any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality or any person acting under the direction of any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality in respect of anything done, or purported to be done, under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, until the expiration of one month next after a notice, in writing, has been delivered or left at the office of such authority or at the office or the residence of such officer or other employee or person, stating -

(a) the cause of action,

(b) the name and residence of the intending plaintiff, and

(c) the relief which such plaintiff claims.

(2) Every such suit shall be commenced within four months next after accrual of the cause of action, and the plaint therein shall contain a statement that a notice has been delivered or left as required under sub-section (1).

(3) If the municipal authority, at the office of which, or the officer or the other employee of the Municipality or the person acting under the direction of any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality, at the office or the residence of whom, a notice has been delivered or left under sub-section (1), satisfies the court having jurisdiction that the relief claimed was

tendered to the plaintiff before the institution of the suit, the suit shall be dismissed.

- (4) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall apply to any suit instituted under section 38 of the Specific Relief Act, 1963.

(47 of 1963.)

Indemnity.

489. No suit shall be maintainable against any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality or any person acting under the direction of any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality or a Magistrate in respect of anything done lawfully and in good faith and with due care and attention under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.

O. Powers and duties of Police Officers

Co-operation of police.

490. (1) The Inspector-General of Police, the Commissioner of Police, if any, and the officers and the other employees subordinate to the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police, if any, shall -
- (a) co-operate with the Municipality for carrying into effect, and enforcing, the provisions of this Act and for maintaining good order in and outside the municipal area, and
 - (b) assist the Municipality or the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer or other employee of the Municipality in carrying out any order made by a Magistrate under this Act.
- (2) It shall be the duty of every police officer -
- (i) to communicate without delay to the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer of the Municipality any

information which he received in respect of any design to commit, or any commission of, any offence under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, and

- (ii) to assist the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer or other employee of the Municipality requiring his aid for the lawful exercise of any power vesting in the Municipality or the Chief Municipal Officer or such other officer or other employee under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.
- (3) Any officer or other employee of the Municipality may, when empowered by a general or special order of the Inspector-General of Police, or the Commissioner of Police, if any, on the recommendation of the Municipality in that behalf, exercise the powers of a police officer for such of the purposes of this Act as may be specified in such general or special order.
- (4) The District Magistrate, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, and the officers under them and the other employees subordinate to them shall cooperate with the municipal authorities in the performance of their duties under this Act.

Power of police to arrest offenders.

491. (1) Any police officer may arrest any person who commits, in his view, any offence under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, provided that such person declines to give, on demand, his name and address or gives a name or address which the police officer has reason to believe to be false.
- (2) No person so arrested shall be detained in custody after his correct name and address are ascertained or without the order of a Municipal Magistrate for a period longer than twenty-four hours from the time of arrest, exclusive of the period necessary for the

journey from the place of arrest to the court of such Municipal Magistrate.

- (3) On an application, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer authorized by him in this behalf, any police officer above the rank of a constable shall arrest any person who obstructs the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer or other employee of the Municipality in the exercise of any power or performance of any function or discharge of any duty under this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.
- (4) On an application, in writing, of the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer, not below the rank of an officer authorized in this behalf by the Chief Municipal Officer under sub-section (3), any police officer above the rank of a constable shall arrest any person who, in violation of the order referred to in sub-section (1) of section 406, commences the erection of a building, or execution of any work, referred to in that sub-section or carries on such erection or such execution.

P. General Provisions

Validity of notice and other document.

492. No notice, order, requisition, licence or permission, in writing, or any other document, issued under this Act, shall be invalid merely by reason of defect of Form.

Admissibility of document or entry as evidence.

493. A copy of any receipt, application, plan, notice, order, or other document or any entry in a register in the possession of any municipal authority shall, if duly certified by the legal keeper thereof or other person authorized by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf, be admissible in evidence of the existence of the document or entry, and shall be admitted as evidence of the matters and transactions therein

recorded, in every case where, and to the same extent to which, the original document or entry would, if produced, have been admissible to prove such matters and transactions.

Evidence of officer or employee of Municipality.

494. No officer or other employee of the Municipality shall, in any legal proceeding to which the Municipality is not a party, be required to produce any register or document, the contents of which can be proved under section 478 by a certified copy, or to appear as a witness to prove any matter or transaction recorded therein, save by an order made by a court having jurisdiction.

Prohibition against obstruction of Chief Councillor or any municipal authority etc.

495. No person shall obstruct or molest -

(a) any municipal authority, or the Chief Councillor, or the Deputy Chief Councillor, or a Councillor, or the Chief Municipal Officer, or any employee of the Municipality or any person employed by the Municipality, or

(b) any person, authorized or empowered by or under this Act or with whom the Municipality or any of the municipal authorities has lawfully entered into a contract,

in the performance of his or its duty, or in the execution of his or its work, or anything which he or it is empowered or required to do by virtue, or in consequence, of any provision of this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder, or in the fulfilment of the contract, as the case may be.

Prohibition against removal of mark.

496. No person shall remove any mark set up for the purpose of indicating any level or direction incidental to the execution of any work authorized by this Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder.

Prohibition against removal or obliteration of notice.

497. No person shall, without authority, remove, destroy, deface or otherwise obliterate any notice exhibited by or under the orders of the Municipality, or any municipal authority, or any officer or other employee of the Municipality specified by the Chief Municipal Officer in this behalf.

Prohibition against unauthorized dealings with public place or materials.

498. No person shall, without authority in that behalf, remove earth, sand or other material from, or deposit any matter in, or make any encroachment on, any land vested in the Municipality, or in any way obstruct such land.

Liability for loss, waste or misapplication of money or property of Municipality.

499. (1) Every person shall be liable for the loss, waste, or misapplication of any money or other property, owned by, or vested in, the Municipality, if such loss, waste or misapplication is a direct consequence of his neglect or misconduct in the performance of his duty, and he may, after being given an opportunity by a notice served in the manner provided for the service of summons in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, to show cause by a representation, in writing or oral, why he should not be required to make good the loss, by order, be surcharged with the value of such property or the amount of such money by the Director of Local Bodies, and if the amount is not paid within one month of the expiry of the period of appeal specified in sub-section (2), it shall be recoverable as an arrear of tax leviable under this Act.

(5 of 1908.)

- (2) The person, against whom an order under sub-section (1) is made, may, within thirty days of the date of communication of the order, appeal to the State Government, and the State Government may confirm, modify or disallow the surcharge :

Provided that no person shall, under this section, be called upon to show cause after the expiry of a period of four years, or, in the case of a Councillor, after a period of one year, from the occurrence of such loss or waste or misapplication.

Councillors and officers and other employees of Municipality to be public servants.

500. Every Councillor, the Chief Municipal Officer, and every other officer or other employee of the Municipality shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

(45 of 1860.)

Other laws not to be disregarded.

501. Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Municipality or any municipal authority or any officer or other employee of the Municipality to disregard any law for the time being in force.

Chapter XLIII

Rules and Regulations

Power to make rules.

502. (1) The State Government may, by notification, and subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Any rule made under this Act may provide that any contravention thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.

- (3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of ten days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the successive sessions aforesaid, the State Legislature agrees in making any modification in the rules or the State Legislature agrees that the rules should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done or omitted to be done under that rule.

Power to amend Schedule.

503. The State Government may, by notification, add to, amend or alter the Schedule to this Act.

Power to make regulations.

504. The Municipality may, from time to time, make regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

Conditions precedent to making of regulations.

505. The power to make regulations under this Act is subject to the condition of the regulations being made after previous publication and to the following further conditions, namely :-

- (a) such draft of regulations shall not be further proceeded with until a period of one month has expired from the date of such publication,

- (b) for not less than one month during such period, a printed copy of such draft shall be kept in the office of the Municipality for public inspection, and any person shall be permitted at any reasonable time to peruse such draft, free of charge, and
- (c) printed copies of such draft shall be obtainable by any person requiring such draft on payment of such fee as may be fixed by the Empowered Standing Committee.

Regulations to be subject to approval of State Government.

- 506. (1) No regulation made by the Municipality under this Act shall have any effect until it has been approved by the State Government and published in the *Official Gazette*.
- (2) Before approving any regulations, the State Government may make such changes therein as may appear to it to be necessary.

Power of State Government to cancel or modify regulations.

- 507. (1) If the State Government is, at any time, of opinion that any regulation should be cancelled or modified, either wholly or in part, it shall cause the reasons for such opinion to be communicated to the Municipality, and shall specify a reasonable period within which the Municipality may make such representation with regard thereto as it may think fit.
- (2) After receipt and consideration of any such representation or if, in the meantime, no such representation is received, after the expiry of the period as aforesaid, the State Government may, at any time, by notification, cancel or modify such regulation either wholly or in part.
- (3) The cancellation or modification of any regulation under subsection (2) shall take effect from such date as the State

Government may specify in the notification under that sub-section or, if no such date is specified, from the date of publication of such notification :

Provided that such cancellation or modification shall not affect anything done or suffered or omitted to be done under such regulation before such date.

- (4) Any notification under sub-section (2) shall also be published in local newspapers.

Supplemental provisions respecting regulations.

508. Any regulation, which may be made by the Municipality under this Act, may be made by the State Government within one year from the date of commencement of this Act, and any regulation so made may be altered or rescinded by the Municipality with the approval of the State Government.

Penalty for breach of regulation.

509. (1) Any regulation made under this Act may provide that a contravention thereof shall be punishable -
- (a) with fine which may extend to two thousand and five hundred rupees, or
 - (b) with fine which may extend to two thousand and five hundred rupees and, in the case of a continuing contravention, with an additional fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first of such contravention, or
 - (c) with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees for every day during which the contravention continues, after the receipt by the person contravening

the regulation of a notice requiring such person to discontinue such contravention from the Chief Municipal Officer or any other officer of the Municipality, duly authorized in that behalf.

- (2) Any such regulation may also provide that a person contravening that regulation shall be required to remedy, so far as lies in his power, the mischief, if any, caused by such contravention.

Rules and regulations to be available for inspection and purchase.

510. (1) A copy of all rules and regulations made under this Act shall be kept at the office of the Municipality and shall, during office hours, be open, free of charge, to inspection by any inhabitant of the municipal area.

- (2) Copies of such rules and regulations shall also be kept at the office of the Municipality and shall be sold to the public at such price as the Empowered Standing Committee may determine.

Doubts as to powers, duties or functions of municipal authorities.

511. If any doubt arises as to the municipal authority to which any particular power, duty or function appertains, the Chief Councillor shall refer the matter to the State Government, and the decision of the State Government thereon shall be final.

Chapter XLIV

Offences and Penalties

Punishment for certain offences.

512. Whoever -

- (a) contravenes any provision of any of the sections, sub-sections, clauses, provisos or any other provision of this Act,
or

- (b) fails to comply with any order lawfully given to him or any requisition lawfully made upon him under any of the said sections, sub-sections, clauses, provisos or other provisions,

shall be punishable -

- (i) with fine which may extend to such amount, or with imprisonment which may extend to such period, as the State Government may, by rules, provide, and
- (ii) in the case of a continuing contravention or failure, with an additional fine which may extend to such amount as the State Government may, by rules, provide for every day during which such contravention or failure continues after conviction for the first such contravention or failure :

Provided that in the case of a Class 'A' Municipal Council or a Class 'B' Municipal Council or a Class 'C' Municipal Council or a Nagar Panchayat, the amount to which the fine may extend for various offences, shall be such as the State Government may, by rules, provide, and, in the case of a continuing contravention or failure, the daily additional fine may extend to one tenth of the maximum amount of fine, provided for such class of municipalities in such rules.

Punishment for acquiring share or interest etc. with Municipality.

- 513. Any Councillor who knowingly acquires, directly or indirectly, any share or interest in any contract made with, or any work done for, the Municipality except as a shareholder (other than a Director) in an incorporated company or as a member of a co-operative society shall be deemed to have committed the offence punishable under section 168 of the Indian Penal Code.

(45 of 1860.)

Fine for not paying tax under chapter XVII.

514. If any person erects, exhibits, fixes or retains any advertisement referred to in chapter XVII, without paying any tax under that chapter, he shall be punished with fine which -

(a) may extend to an amount equal to five times the amount payable as such tax, and

(b) shall not ordinarily be less than an amount equal to two times of such tax.

Fine for putting building to any use other than that for which a licence has been granted.

515. When any premises is used or is permitted to be used by any person for any purpose other than that for which a licence has been granted under sub-section (1) of section 425 or as a stable or cattle-shed or cow-house, then such person shall, without prejudice to any other penalty to which he may be subject, be liable to a fine which may extend, in the case of a masonry building, to two hundred and fifty rupees and, in the case of a hut, to twenty-five rupees, and, in the case of continuance of such use, to a further fine which may extend, in the case of a masonry building, to fifty rupees and, in the case of a hut, to five rupees for each day during which such use continues after the first day.

Penalty for obstructing contractor.

516. Whoever obstructs or molests any person with whom the Municipality has entered into a contract for execution of any work under this Act shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two months or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

Penalty for causing damage to property belonging to Municipality.

517. No person shall cause any damage to any property belonging to the Municipality. Any person causing any damage to any property

belonging to the Municipality shall, on conviction, be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

Encroachment on streets.

518. No person shall cause any encroachment or obstruction on any municipal property such as a street or footpath or park without specific permission of an officer of the Municipality duly authorized to grant such permission. Any person causing such encroachment or obstruction on any municipal property as aforesaid shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

Punishment of imprisonment in default of payment of fine.

519. In every case where, under this Act, an offence is punishable with fine, or with imprisonment or fine, or with both, and a person is sentenced by a Court having jurisdiction to pay a fine, it shall be competent for such Court to direct that in default of payment of fine, he shall suffer imprisonment for such term or, as the case may be, such further term, not exceeding six months, as the Court may fix.

General penalty.

520. Whoever, in any case in which a penalty is not expressly provided by this Act, fails to comply with any notice or order or requisition issued under any provisions thereof, or otherwise contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, and, in the case of a continuing failure or contravention, with an additional fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for every day after the first during which he has persisted in such failure or contravention.

Offences by companies.

521. (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly :

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, -

(a) “company” means a body corporate, and includes a firm or other association of individuals, and

(b) “director”, in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

Prosecution.

522. Save as otherwise provided in this Act, no Court shall proceed to the trial of any offence punishable by or under this Act except on the complaint of, or upon information received from, the Chief Municipal

Officer or any person authorized by him by general or special order in this behalf.

Compounding of offences.

523. (1) The Chief Municipal Officer or, if so authorized by the Municipality in this behalf by a general or special order, the Municipal Health Officer, the Municipal Engineer or any other officer of the Municipality may, either before or after the institution of the proceeding and on payment of such fee as may be specified by regulations, compound any offence as may be classified as compoundable by the State Government by rules.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no offence punishable by or under this Act or by any rule or regulation made thereunder shall be compoundable if such offence is committed due to the failure to comply with any notice, order or requisition, as the case may be, issued by or on behalf of any of the municipal authorities referred to in section 20, unless and until such notice, order or requisition, as the case may be, has been complied with in so far as such compliance is possible.
- (3) Where an offence has been compounded, the offender, if in custody, shall be discharged and no further proceeding shall be taken against him in respect of the offence so compounded.

Chapter XLV

Supplemental Provisions

A. Extension of Act to Other Areas and Inclusion or Exclusion of Areas within or form the Municipal Area

Power of State Government to notify intention to extend Act to other areas.

524. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the State Government may, by notification and in such other manner as it may determine, declare its intention to extend,

subject to such modifications and restrictions, if any, as may be specified in the notification, all or any of the provisions of this Act to any other area.

B. Miscellaneous and Transitory Provisions

Provisions of the chapter to override other provisions.

525. The provisions of this chapter shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained elsewhere in this Act.

Removal of difficulties.

526. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, as occasion may require, by order do or cause to be done anything which may be necessary for removing the difficulty :

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of five years from the date of commencement of this Act.

Repeal and Savings.

527. With effect from the date of coming into force of this Act, the ..*.. shall stand repealed.

Transitory provision.

528. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained elsewhere in this Act, the State Government may appoint a person to be called the Administrator to exercise all the powers and discharge all the functions of the municipal authorities mentioned in section 20 for the period from the date of coming into force of this Act till the first meeting of the Municipality at which a quorum is present.
- (2) The Administrator appointed under sub-section (1) may constitute such Committees, and for such period, as he may deem fit.
- (3) Each such Committee shall consist of not more than twenty-five persons, appointed on such terms and conditions as the

Administrator may deem fit, and shall advise the Administrator in the discharge of his functions under this Act.

- * Each State Government shall mention the short title of the relevant State Act or Acts which shall stand repealed.

SCHEDULE*

(See section 425)

PURPOSES FOR WHICH PREMISES MAY NOT BE USED WITHOUT A LICENCE OR WRITTEN PERMISSION

1. Aerated water – manufacturing.
2. Aerated waters – manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
3. Aloe fibre and yarn – storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
4. Ammunition - storing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
5. Arecanut – soaking of.
6. Article made of flour – baking, preparing, keeping or storing for human consumption (for other than domestic use).
7. Asafoetida – storing.
8. Asafoetida – except for domestic purposes.
9. Ash - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, , preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever, dumping or shifting.
10. Ashes – except for domestic purposes.
11. Autocar or Autocycle servicing or repairing.
12. Bakelite goods – manufacturing or processing.
13. Bakelite goods – manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
14. Bamboo – storing for sale, hire or manufacture.
15. Bamboos – except for domestic purposes.
16. Banking.
17. Bidi leaves – storing or processing.
18. Bidi leaves - except for domestic purposes.
19. Biddies (indigenous cigarettes), snuff, cigars or cigarettes manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

* Each State Government may amend this Schedule as per its requirements.

20. Biscuit - baking, preparing, keeping or storing for human consumption (for other than domestic use).

21. Bitumen - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
22. Blacksmith.
23. Blasting powder - storing.
24. Blasting powder - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
25. Blasting powder – except for domestic purposes.
26. Blood - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
27. Blood - except for domestic purposes.
28. Bone - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
29. Bones, bone meal or bone powder – except for domestic purposes.
30. Bones – manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
31. Bread – baking, preparing, keeping or storing for human consumption (for other than domestic use).
32. Brick – manufacturing.
33. Bricks or tiles by hand power - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
34. Bricks or tiles by Mechanical power - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
35. Brushes - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
36. Camphor - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever or boiling.
37. Camphor - except for domestic purposes.
38. Candle - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
39. Candles - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
40. Carbide of calcium – storing.
41. Carbide of calcium – except for domestic purposes.
42. Cardboard – storing.
43. Cardboard – except for domestic purposes.
44. Carpet – manufacturing.
45. Cashewnut - storing, packing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.

46. Catgut - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
47. Catgut - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
48. Celluloid goods - storing.
49. Celluloid or celluloid goods - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
50. Celluloid or celluloid goods - except for domestic purposes.
51. Cement - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
52. Cement concrete designs or models - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
53. Charcoal - dumping, shifting, selling or storing.
54. Charcoal - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
55. Charcoal - except for domestic purposes.
56. Chemicals - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
57. Chemical preparation - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
58. Chemicals, liquid - except for domestic purposes.
59. Chemicals, non-liquid - except for domestic purposes.
60. Chilli – grinding by machinery.
61. Chilli (dried) – selling wholesale or storing for wholesale trade.
62. Chillis – except for domestic purposes.
63. Chillis or masala or corn or seeds. Grinding of by mechanical means.
64. Chlorate mixture - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
65. Chlorate mixture - except for domestic purposes.
66. Cinder - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever, dumping or shifting.
67. Cinematograph films stripping in connection with any trade manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
68. Cinematography film – shooting of, treating or processing.
69. Cinematograph films non-inflammable or acetateorsafety base – except for domestic purposes.
70. Cloth – dyeing, bleaching, mercerizing or storing.

71. Cloth is pressed bales or boras – except for domestic purposes.
72. Cloth or clothes of cotton, wool, silk, art silk, etc. - except for domestic purposes.
73. Cloth, yarn or leather in indigo or in other colours. Dyeing or printing of.
74. Cloth or yarn, Bleaching.
75. Coal – dumping, shifting, selling or storing.
76. Coal - except for domestic purposes.
77. Coconut fibre - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
78. Coconut fibre - except for domestic purposes.
79. Coconut husk – soaking of.
80. Coconut shell – storing.
81. Coir yarn - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
82. Coke – storing.
83. Coke - except for domestic purposes.
84. Combustible material – storing.
85. Combustible - baking, preparing, keeping or storing for human consumption (for other than domestic use).
86. Compound gas (oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide, sulphur, chlorine, acetylene) – storing.
87. Compound gas (oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide, sulphur, chlorine, acetylene) – except for domestic purposes.
88. Coppersmithy.
89. Copra – preparing or storing or selling wholesale.
90. Copra – except for domestic purposes.
91. Cosmetics or toilet goods - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
92. Cotton of all kinds, cotton refuse, cotton seed - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
93. Cotton seeds - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
94. Cotton seed - except for domestic purposes.
95. Cotton including kahok, surgical cotton and silky cotton - except for domestic purposes.

96. Cotton refuse or waste or cotton yarn refuse or waste - except for domestic purposes.
97. Cotton, cotton refuses, cotton waste, cotton yarn, silk, silk yarn, silk inclusive of waste yarn, art silk, art silk waste, art silk yarn, wool or woollen refuse or waste - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
98. Cow-dung cake - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
99. Dammar (Resin) - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
100. Detonator – storing.
101. Detonators – except for domestic purposes.
102. Drug - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
103. Drugs. Retail sale of.
104. Dry leaf – storing.
105. Dry leaves - except for domestic purposes.
106. Dye (stuff) - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
107. Dynamite – storing.
108. Dynamite – manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
109. Dynamite – except for domestic purposes.
110. Eating house or catering establishment. Keeping of an
111. Electroplating.
112. Explosive – storing.
113. Explosive paint (nitro-cellulose, lacquer, enamel) – storing.
114. Explosive paint (nitro-cellulose, lacquer enamel) - except for domestic purposes.
115. Fat - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
116. Fat - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
117. Fat - except for domestic purposes.
118. Felt – storing.
119. Felt - except for domestic purposes.
120. Fibre – selling or storing.

121. Fin - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
122. Fins - except for domestic purposes.
123. Firewood – selling or storing.
124. Firewood – except for domestic purposes.
125. Firework - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
126. Fireworks - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
127. Fireworks - except for domestic purposes.
128. Fish - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
129. Fish (dried) - except for domestic purposes.
130. Fish oil - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
131. Flax - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
132. Flax - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
133. Flax - except for domestic purposes.
134. Fleshing - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
135. Flour - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
136. Food - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
137. Food. Retail sale of.
138. Fuel – using for any industrial purpose.
139. Fulminate - except for domestic purposes.
140. Fulminate of mercury - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
141. Fulminate of mercury - except for domestic purposes.
142. Fulminate of silver - except for domestic purposes.
143. Furniture – making or storing for sale.
144. Gas - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
145. Gas - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
146. Gelatine – storing.

147. Gelatine – except for domestic purposes.
148. Gelignite - except for domestic purposes.
149. Ghee - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
150. Ghee - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
151. Glass or glass articles - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
152. Glass levelling.
153. Glass cutting.
154. Glass polishing.
155. Gold – refining.
156. Goldsmithy.
157. Grain – selling wholesale or storing for wholesale trade.
158. Grain - Parching.
159. Gram – husking by machinery.
160. Grass – storing.
161. Grass - except for domestic purposes.
162. Groundnut – selling wholesale or storing for wholesale trade.
163. Groundnut seeds, tamarind seeds or any other seeds. Parching.
164. Gun-cotton - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
165. Gun-cotton - except for domestic purposes.
166. Gunny bag - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
167. Gunny bags - except for domestic purposes.
168. Gunpowder - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
169. Gunpowder - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
170. Gunpowder - except for domestic purposes.
171. Hair - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
172. Hair - except for domestic purposes.

173. Hair dressing saloon or a barber's shop. Keeping of.
174. Hay – selling or storing.
175. Hay or fodder - except for domestic purposes.
176. Hemp - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
177. Hemp - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
178. Hemp - except for domestic purposes.
179. Hessain cloth – storing.
180. Hessain cloth (Gunny-bag cloth) - except for domestic purposes.
181. Hides - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
182. Hides (dried) - except for domestic purposes.
183. Hides (raw) - except for domestic purposes.
184. Hides or skins, whether raw or dried. Tanning, pressing or packing.
185. Hoof - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
186. Hoofs - except for domestic purposes.
187. Horn - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
188. Horns - except for domestic purposes.
189. Ice – manufacturing.
190. Ice (including dry ice) - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
191. Incense – storing.
192. Incense of esas - except for domestic purposes.
193. Ink for printing, writing, stamping etc. - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
194. Insecticide or disinfectants - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
195. Jaggery - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
196. Jute - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
197. Jute - except for domestic purposes.
198. Khaki – preparing.
199. Khokas, boxes, barrels, furniture or any other article of wood - except for domestic purposes.

200. Keeping of horses, cattle or other quadruped animals or birds for transportation, sale or hire or for sale of the produce thereof.
201. Lac - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
202. Lacquer - except for domestic purposes.
203. Laundry shop. Keeping.
204. Lead – melting.
205. Leather - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
206. Leather cloth or rexina cloth or water-proof cloth - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
207. Leather goods, manufacturing of by mechanical means.
208. Leather - except for domestic purposes.
209. Lime - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
210. Lime - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
211. Limeshell - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
212. Linseed oil - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
213. Litho press. Keeping a --
214. Lodging house. Keeping of a –
215. Machinery – using for any industrial purpose.
216. Manure - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
217. Marble cutting, grinding, dressing or polishing.
218. Match - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
219. Matches for lighting (including Bengal matches) - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
220. Matches for lighting (including Bengal matches) - except for domestic purposes.
221. Matirf-clifs and nillfiws - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
222. Meat - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
223. Metal (ferrous or non-ferrous or antimony by excluding previous metal) cutting or treating metal by hammering, drilling, pressing, filing, polishing, heating or by any other process whatever or assembling parts of metal.

224. Metals (including precious metals) – beating, breaking, hammering and casting.
225. Methylated spirit or denatured spirit – storing.
226. Methylated spirit, denatured spirit or French polish - except for domestic purposes.
227. Nitro-cellulose - except for domestic purposes.
228. Nitro-compound - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
229. Nitro-compound - except for domestic purposes.
230. Nitro-glycerine - except for domestic purposes.
231. Nitro-mixture - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
232. Nitro-mixture - except for domestic purposes.
233. Offal - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
234. Offal - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
235. Offal - except for domestic purposes.
236. Oil - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
237. Oil other than petroleum (either by mechanical power or by hand power or ghani driven by bullock or any other animal) - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
238. Oil other than petroleum - except for domestic purposes.
239. Oil-cloth - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
240. Oilseeds – storing.
241. Oilseeds including almonds, but excluding cotton seeds - except for domestic purposes.
242. Old Paper or waste paper including old newspapers, periodicals, magazines, etc. - except for domestic purposes.
243. Packing stuff (paper cutting, husic, saw dust, etc.) - except for domestic purposes.
244. Paddy – boiling or husking by machinery.
245. Paint – manufacturing or storing.
246. Paints - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
247. Paints - except for domestic purposes.
248. Paper – packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

249. Paper other than old paper in pressed bales or loose or in reams - except for domestic purposes.
250. Paper or cardboard - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
251. Petroleum product - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process, whatsoever.
252. Petroleum, other than dangerous petroleum, as defined in the Petroleum Act, 1934 - except for domestic purposes.
253. Pharmaceutical or medical products - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
254. Photography – studio.
255. Phosphorus – storing.
256. Phosphorus - except for domestic purposes.
257. Pickers from hides - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
258. Pitch - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
259. Pitch - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
260. Plastic or plastic goods – manufacturing or storing.
261. Plastic goods - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
262. Plastic or plastic goods - except for domestic purposes.
263. Plywood – storing.
264. Plywood - except for domestic purposes.
265. Polythene - manufacturing or storing.

- 266.Pottery - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
- 267.Pottery by hand power - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
- 268.Pottery by mechanical or any power other than hand power manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
- 269.Precious metals. Refining of or recovering them from embroideries.
- 270.Printing press. Keeping a –
- 271.Radio – manufacturing, assembling, servicing and repairing.
- 272.Radio (wireless receiving set) selling, repairing, servicing or manufacturing.
- 273.Rags, including small pieces or cuttings of cloth, hessian cloth, gunny-bag, cloth, silk, art silk or woolen cloth - except for domestic purposes.
- 274.Resin (including rosin) - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
- 275.Rosin or dram mar Battar otherwise known as Ral - except for domestic purposes.
- 276.Rubber or rubber goods - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
- 277.Rug - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
- 278.Safety fuses, fog signals, cartridges, etc. - except for domestic purposes.
- 279.Sago – manufacturing or distilling.
- 280.Salpetre - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
- 281.Salpetre - except for domestic purposes.
- 282.Sandalwood - except for domestic purposes.

283.Sanitary-ware of china-ware - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

284.Shellac - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

285.Silk – packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

286.Silk waste, or silk yarn waste, art silk waste, or art silk yarn waste - except for domestic purposes.

287. Silversmithy.

288. Sisal fibre – storing

289.Sisal fibre – except for domestic purposes.

290.Skin - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

291.Skins (raw or dried) - except for domestic purposes.

292.Soap - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

293.Soap - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

294.Spinning or weaving cotton, silk, art silk or jute or wool with the aid of power.

295.Spirit - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

296.Stone grinding, cutting, dressing or polishing.

297.Straw – selling or storing.

298.Straw - except for domestic purposes.

299.Sugar - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

300.Sugar - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

301.Sugar candy - packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

302.Sulphur - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

303.Sulphur - except for domestic purposes.

304.Surki - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

305.Sweetmeat – baking, preparing, keeping or storing for human consumption (for other than domestic use).

306.Sweetmeat and confectionery goods - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

307.Sweetmeat shop except in premises already licensed as an eating house. Keeping.

308.Tallow - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

309.Tallow – manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

310.Tallow - except for domestic purposes.

311.Tar - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

312.Tar - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

313.Tar, pitch (jammer or bitumen) - except for domestic purposes.

314. Tarpauline – storing.
315. Tarpauline – except for domestic purposes.
316. Thatching material – selling or storing.
317. Thinner – storing.
318. Thinner - except for domestic purposes.
319. Tiles – manufacturing.
320. Timber - selling or storing.
321. Timber - except for domestic purposes.
322. Timber or wood sawing or cutting by mechanical or electric power.
323. Tinsmithy.
324. Tobacco (including snuff, cigar, cigarette and bidi) - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
325. Turpentine - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.
326. Turpentine - except for domestic purposes.
327. Varnish – manufacturing or storing.
328. Varnish - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.
329. Varnish - except for domestic purposes.
330. Washerman’s trade.
331. Welding of metal by electric, gas or any process whatsoever.

332. Wooden furniture, boxes, barrels, kokas, or other articles of wood or of plywood or of sandalwood - manufacturing, parching, packing, pressing, cleaning, cleansing, boiling, melting, grinding or preparing by any process, whatsoever.

333. Wool - storing, packing, pressing, cleansing, preparing or manufacturing by any process whatsoever.

334. Wool (raw) - except for domestic purposes.

335. Yarn – dyeing or bleaching.

336. Yarn other than waste yarn - except for domestic purposes.

337. Manufacturing article from which offensive or unwholesome smell, fume, dust or noise arises.