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Panchayati Raj Committee meetings at Akola  
Amravati and Yeotmal. Recommendation of  
the regarding Gram Sabha meetings. 64

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA  
Rural Development Department,  
Circular No. VPM-1375/3555/XXIII,  
Sachivalaya, Bombay-400 032, dated 10th February 1976. (24)

READ: (1) Government Circular, Rural Development Department No. VPM-1369/14608/E, dated the 14th May 1969.

(2) Government Circular, Rural Development Department No. VPM-1272/48004/E, dated the 18th November 1972.

CIRCULAR: In Government Circular, Rural Development Department No. VPM-1369/608/E of 14th May 1969, it has been clarified that it is the statutory responsibility of the "Sarpanch or in his absence of the Upa-Sarpanch to hold at least two meetings of the Gram Sabha every year according to section 7(i) of the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 read with rule 3(i) of the Bombay Village Panchayat (Gram Sabha meetings) Rules, 1959. Failure to hold these two meetings disqualifies him from continuing as a Sarpanch/Upa-Sarpanch. In the same Circular it was also clarified that the Village Panchayat Secretary should also be responsible in regard to the holding of the Gram Sabha meetings regularly. Further under Government Circular of 18th November 1972 responsibility has been cast upon the Block Development Officers of the Panchayat Samiti concerned who should take the assistance of the Extension Officer to ensure that at least the minimum two statutory meetings of the Gram Sabha are held positively.

2. In spite of the above instructions it transpired during the course of discussion at the meetings of the Panchayati Raj Committee at Akola and Amravati that many of the Sarpanchas are not holding the Gram Sabha meetings and moreover no action is proposed to be taken by the visiting Officers against the defaulting Secretaries and the Sarpanchas of the Village Panchayats, nor do the Extension Officers (Panchayats) or the Block Development Officers take any notes in their diaries or inspection reports.

3. When no notice is taken by the Inspecting Officers in their inspecting reports regarding such serious lapses the purpose of inspection is lost. Government, therefore, hereby reiterates the orders issued under the above quoted Circular and is pleased to direct that the Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Parishads should impress upon all concerned Sarpanchas, Secretaries and the Inspecting Officers the importance of the matter and also the Block Development Officers who should ensure that two Gram Sabha meetings are held every financial year. Any lapse on their part will be severely dealt with. 11

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By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

K.S. TATA,  
Section Officer,  
Government of Maharashtra.

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