

Gram Panchayat meetings  
Procedure for issuing the  
notices of ----

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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA,  
Rural Development Department,  
Circular No. VFA 1168/22510- E,  
Sachivalaya, Bombay-32, Dated 6th July, 1968.

CIRCULAR

During the course of the appeals heard by Government under section 40 of the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, it has come to the notice of Government that complaints and cross complaints are made that the Sarpanchas do not issue notices of the meetings properly and in accordance with the provisions of the Bombay Village Panchayat (Meetings) Rules, 1959, the members are not receiving the notices regularly and in time and that the members are trying to evade the notices issued by the Village Panchayats in order to claim that notices were not issued regularly and in time. Rule 7 of the meetings rule states that every notice shall be served personally, if practicable, and if the person is not available it should be given to an adult member of his family, who is residing with him and if there is no such person to whom such notice can be given, then it should be served by affixing it on the door of the member's house in which the member ordinarily resides. If none of the aforesaid modes of serving notices is feasible then the notice is to be affixed on some conspicuous part of the house in which the member is known to have last resided, etc. In order to ensure that this procedure of serving notices is made fool proof, Government desires that the following additional measures may be taken to ensure that notices are served to the members without fail:-

- (i) Dates of the monthly meetings should be announced by beat of drum in the village and a register maintained to show such announcements.
- (ii) The Sarpanch should announce, in consultation and with concurrence of the members present at a monthly meeting, the date of the next meeting of the Panchayat.
- (iii) The notice affixed to the houses of the member when he is not available should be affixed in the presence of two witnesses. This method should be followed whenever the member or an adult male member of his family is not available or when the member refuses to accept service of the notice.

The suggestions will require amendment to rule 7 of the Meetings Rules. Pending amendment, Government desires the Chief Executive Officers to issue instructions to the Block Development Officers to bring these suggestions to the notices of all the Village Panchayats and the Sarpanchas so that they may follow these instructions forthwith.

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

*Davidson*  
Under Secretary to Government of Maharashtra,  
Rural Development Department.

To

All Commissioners.  
All Collectors.

