

Gram Sabha

Recommendations Numbers 186 and 187/  
of the Bongirwar Committee's Report.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Rural Development Department.

Circular No. VPM 1272/48004 - E.

Sachivalaya, Bombay-32(BR), Dated the 18th November 1972.

**READ:-** Recommendation Numbers 186 and 187 of the Bongirwar Committee's Report.

"186. The Gram Sabha has over the years, developed a number of weaknesses. However, this is a basic institution at the Village level for encouraging a democratic way of life as distinguished from democratic administration. At the grass-roots level this distribution is very important. It is therefore recommended that the Gram Sabha should be continued and its growth nurtured with proper care and attention. It should be the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that at least the minimum two meetings of the Gram Sabha prescribed by law are held positively. The failure of the Sarpanch or Upa-Sarpanch to convene the minimum two meetings should result in their summary dismissal."

(13.22)

"187. As far as possible the two minimum meetings of the Gram Sabha may be convened so as to coincide with festivals like Dassara, Pola, Kojagiri, Poornima, etc. Additionally, entertainments like film shows, sports, events, etc. could also be organised on the occasions of the Gram Sabha meetings. The Chief Executive Officer or senior members of the executive and office-bearers of the Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad should attend as many meetings as possible. Similarly, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti should attend as 'important invitees' as many meetings of the Gram Sabha as possible. The Block Development Officers also can take an active hand in those meetings wherever found convenient."

(13.23)

**CIRCULAR:-** According to the provisions of section 6 of the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, on publication of a Notification under section 4, all persons whose names are included in the list of voters are deemed to constitute a Gram Sabha for the "village". Section 7 provides for holding of at least two meetings of the Gram Sabha in every financial year. It also provides that if the Sarpanch, or in his absence the Upa-Sarpanch fails, without sufficient cause, to hold such two meetings, he shall be disqualified for continuing as Sarpanch or, as the case may be, Upa-Sarpanch for the remainder of the term of office of the Village Panchayat. The Collector has been empowered under this section to decide whether or not there was sufficient cause for not holding two statutory meetings of the Gram Sabha.

2. The recommendations made by the Bongirwar Committee in paras 13.22 and 13.23 of its Report in regard to the institution of Gram Sabha have been very carefully considered by Government and the following orders are accordingly issued.

3. The suggestion of the Committee to continue the institution of Gram Sabha has been accepted by Government. The recommendation of the

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GCP.ROTA/R.D.D.-H-725(600-11-72)

Committee that the Sarpanch/Upa-Sarpanch who fails to convene the prescribed number of Gram Sabha meetings should be summarily dismissed has not, however, been accepted by Government. It is considered that the present arrangement according to which an opportunity is given to the concerned Sarpanch/Upa-Sarpanch to show cause before the Collector, against his removal for failure to hold the Gram Sabha meetings should continue. As regards the recommendation of the Committee to make the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad responsible for ensuring that at least the minimum two statutory meetings of the Gram Sabha are held positively, Government has decided that this responsibility should be cast on the Block Development Officer instead of on the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad. The Block Development Officer should discharge this responsibility with the assistance of the Extension Officers under him.

4. Government has decided that the recommendation (No.187) contained in para 13.23 of the Bongirwar Committee's Report should not be accepted as it will not be convenient to hold Gram Sabha meetings on festivals like Dassera, Pola, Kojagiri, etc.

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

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR  
BATHAGIRI. *EB*  
DATE 27 NOV-1972  
To

M.B. BAPAT,  
Section Officer,  
Government of Maharashtra.

All the Commissioners of Divisions,  
All Collectors,  
All Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Parishads,  
All Block Development Officers,  
All Officers, Sections, Branches of the Rural Development  
Department,  
Select File, E Section.

U.N.  
K.W.C.B.

No.

of 1972.

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