

West Bengal Act XXXV of 1963
THE WEST BENGAL ZILLA PARISHADS ACT, 1963.

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West Bengal Act XXXV of 1963¹

THE WEST BENGAL ZILLA PARISHADS ACT, 1963.

AMENDED West Ben. Act XXVH of 1965. West Ben. Act XII of 1967.
West Ben. Act XIII of 1969.
Order No. 1504-L, dated the 31st
July, 1970.

[5(i) December, 1963.]

An Act to provide for the re-modelling of Local Government with a view to associating the local authorities with development activities and bringing about democratic decentralisation and people's participation, in planning and development.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the re-modelling of Local Government with a view to associating the local authorities with development activities and bringing about democratic decentralisation and people's participation in planning and development;

It is hereby enacted in the Fourteenth Year of the Republic of India by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

PART I.

CHAPTER

I.

Preliminary

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Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

West Ben.
Act XXXI of 1951, Ben.
Act XV of 1932, West
Ben. Act
XV of 1955,
2 of 1924.

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Zilla Parishads Act, 1963.

(2) It extends to the whole of West Bengal, except the areas to which the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951, the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, the Chondrnagore Municipal Act, 1955 and the Cantonments Act, 1924, apply. -

(3) It shall come into force in such areas and on such dates as the State Government may, by notification, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different areas or for different provisions of this Act.

[West Ben. Act

(Part I.—Chapter I.—Preliminary.—Section 2.)

2. (1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,
- (a) "Adhyaksha" means an Adhyaksha of a Gram Panchayat constituted under the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957;
 - (b) "Anchal" means the area included within the territorial limits or an Anchal Panchayat as notified under section 25 of the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957;
 - (c) "Anchal Panchayat" means an Anchal Panchayat constituted under the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957;
 - (d) "Anchalik Parishad" means an Anchalik Parishad established under section 51;
 - (e) "associate member" means an associate member referred to in sections 4 and 52;
 - (f) "backward community" means a community specified by the State Government by a notification under section 94;
 - (g) "block" means an area referred to in section 50;
 - (h) "Block Development Officer" means the Officer appointed as such by the State Government;
 - (i) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of a Division;
 - (j) "District Board" means a District Board established under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885;
 - (k) "District Panchayat Officer" means the officer appointed as such under the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957;
 - (l) "District School Board" means a District School Board established under the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930;
 - (m) "Gram Panchayat" means a Gram Panchayat constituted under the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957;
 - (n) "member" means a member of a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad not being an associate member;
 - (o) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
 - (p) "Pradhan" means a Pradhan of an Anchal Panchayat;
 - (q) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
 - (r) "prescribed authority" means an authority appointed by the State Government, by notification, for all or any of the

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(Part [1.ô Zilla Parishadô Chapter II.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Section 3.)

Ben. A« V
or 1919.

(s) "Sub-divisional Magistrate" includes any other officer appointed by [he Stale Government to discharge the functions of the Sub-divisional Magistrate under this Act;

(t) "Union Board" means a Union Board established under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919;

(u) "year" means the year beginning on the first day of April;

(v) "Zilla Parishad" means a Zilla Parishad established under section 3.

(2) The expression signifying 'residing in the block* or 'having a place of residence in or within the block or district' mean dwelling in the block or district for a period of at least six months in the aggregate during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of appointment or co-option under this Act, or having a dwelling-place in the block or district in any other case.

PART n.

Zilla Parishad.

CHAPTER n.

Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad.

3. (1) The State Government shall, by notification, 'establish for each district, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, a Zilla Parishad bearing the name of the district.

(2) A Zilla Parishad shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and may by its corporate name sue and be sued.

Establishment
of Zilla
Parishad.

The d'lfciencxZiHa Pari shad which we re establ i shed as per d i ffc ro nl No I i fi cm inn s arc as follows:ô

For the district of Muishidabad see Notification No. 1244/Panch/IZ-14/64, dated the 1.3.64; For the district of Birbhum see Notification No. 7146/Panch/IZ-14/64, dated the 15-12.64; For the district of Malj set Notification No. 7052/Panch/IZ-14/64. dated the 8.12.64; For the district of Midnapore see Notification No. 6849/PancWtZ-14/64, dated the 1.12.64; For the district of Datjecling see Notification No. 6233/Panch/IZ-14/64, daied the 19.11.64; for the district of 24-Parganas see Notification No. 6206/Ponch/IZ-14/64, daled Lhc S. 11.64; for the district of Burdwan see Notification No. 6010/Panch/ IZ-14/64, dated the 22.10.64; fur the district of How rah. West Dinajpur, Hooghly, Bank urn, Nadia. Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Bchai, see Notification No. 5716/Panch/IZ-14/64, daled the 3.10.64. for the

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter II.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Section 4.)

Composi-

4. Subject to the provisions of sections 11 and 12, the following persons shall be members and associate members of the *Zilla Parishad*, namely:

(1) Members

(a) Presidents of *Anchalik Parishads* of the blocks within the district *ex-officio*:

- Provided that if any President of an *Anchalik Parishad* communicates to the Chairman of the *Zilla Parishad*, in writing, his unwillingness to act as a member of the *Zilla Parishad*, he shall, with effect from the date of such communication, cease to be a member of the *Zilla Parishad*,

and the vacancy so caused shall be filled by election from among the members of that *Anchalik Parishad* in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed: . Provided further that if there be no *Anchalik Parishad* in any block the State Government may appoint a person residing in the block as a member, -

(b) two *Adhyakshas*, one from each of two such constituencies comprised in a sub-division of the district as may be specified by notification, elected by the *Adhyakshas* in each constituency from among themselves at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that if a district has only one sub-division, four *Adhyakshas*, one from each of four such constituencies comprised in the district as may be specified by notification, shall be elected by the *Adhyakshas* in each constituency from among themselves at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided further that if within the time fixed for the election, the *Adhyakshas* in a constituency fail to elect the member, another election shall be held on such date as may be appointed by the State Government by notification to fill the vacancy and in case the *Adhyakshas* in the constituency still fail to elect the member at such second election, the State Government may appoint a member from among the *Adhyakshas* in that constituency and any person so appointed .

shall be deemed to be a duly elected member,

(c) members of

(i) the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, elected thereto from a constituency comprising the district or any part thereof, not being

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter U.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Sections 5, 6.)

- (ii) the Council of State^{***}, not being a Minister, having a place of residence in the district, (d) a Chairman of a municipality or a Mayor of a municipal corporation in the district appointed by the State Government,
- (c) President of the District School Board *ex-officio*,
- (f) two women having a place of residence in the district appointed by the State Government;

Provided that

- (i) no such appointment shall be made if two or more women have become members under the provisions of other sub-clauses of this clause, and
 - (ii) one such appointment shall be made if only one woman has become member under the provisions of any other sub-clause of this clause;
- (2) Associate members
- (a) the Sub-divisional Magistrate of each sub-division of the district, and
 - (b) the District Panchayat Officer.

5. (1) A member referred to in sub-clause (c) of clause (1) of section 4 shall not be elected a member under the provisions of subclause (b) of clause (1) of that section.

Prohibition of simultaneous membership.

(2) If a member referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of section 4 is subsequently elected a member of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State or subsequently becomes a member of the Council of States^{****}, he shall cease to be a member of the *Zilla Parishad* under the provisions of sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of that section.

6. (1) A member elected under the first proviso to sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of section 4 shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be a member of the *Anchalik Parishad* or until a new President of the *Anchalik Parishad* is elected, whichever is earlier.

Tenure of office.

(2) A member appointed under the second proviso to sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of section 4 shall vacate office immediately on the establishment of an *Anchalik Parishad* for the block and the election of a President thereof.

^{****}The words "or the Legislative Council of the State" were omitted by the order No. 1504-L, dated the 31.7.70, published in the *Calcutta Gazette. Extraordinary*, dated 1st 1970 in no. 170S

[West Ben. Act

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter II.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Section 7J

(3) A member elected under sub-clause (b) or clause (1) of section 4 shall, subject to the provisions of section 5, hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be the *Adhyaksha*, whichever is earlier.

(4) A Chairman or a Mayor appointed under sub-clause (d) of clause (1) of section 4 shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be such Chairman or Mayor, whichever is earlier.

(5) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), a member appointed under the second proviso to sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of section 4, and a member appointed under sub-clause (f) of clause (1) of that section shall hold office for a period of four years:

Provided that such a member shall continue to hold office on the expiry of the said term until another member is appointed by the State Government in his place.

(6) If any President of an *Anchalik Parishad* or if any person referred to in sub-clauses (d) and (f) of clause (1) of section 4 be disqualified to be a member, the State Government may fill the vacancy in such manner and for such period as may be prescribed.

Chairman 7. (J) There shall be a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for a *Zilla*

Owimian Parishad elected by the members thereof from among the members referred to in sub-clauses (a), (b), (c) and (f) of clause (1) of section 4.

(2) The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall, subject to the provisions of section 9 and to his continuing as a member, hold office for a period of four years:

Provided that a Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall continue in office after expiry of the said period until a new Chairman or Vice-Chairman is elected and assumes office,

(3) (a) When the office of the Chairman falls vacant by reason of death, resignation or removal or is otherwise vacant, or

(b) when the Chairman is, by reason of leave, illness or other cause, temporarily unable to exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of his office,

the Vice-Chairman shall exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of the Chairman until a new Chairman is elected and assumes office or until the Chairman resumes his duties, as the case may be.

(4) (a) When the office of the Vice-Chairman falls vacant by reason

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(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter II.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Sections 7A, 8.)

(b) when the Vice-Chairman is, by reason of leave, illness or other cause, temporarily unable to exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of his office, the Chairman shall exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of the Vice-Chairman until a new Vice-Chairman is elected and assumes office or until the Vice-Chairman resumes his duties, as the case may be.

(5) When the offices of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are both vacant, the State Government may appoint a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among the members to act as such until a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman are elected and assume office.

(6) If a President of an Anchaik Parishad or an Adhyaksha is elected the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of a Zilla Parishad, he shall cease to be the President of the Anchaik Parishad or the Adhyaksha.

as the case may be, but shall, notwithstanding anything in section 4 or in sub-section (1) of this section, continue to be a member of the Zilla Parishad for the full term of his office as such Chairman or Vice-Chairman thereof under sub-section (2) of section 7 or sub-section (2) of section 10, as the case may be.

7A. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of a Zilla Parishad shall be paid out of the Zilla Parishad Fund such honoraria and allowances and shall be entitled to leave of absence for such period or periods and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

Honoraria, allowance, leave, etc., of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

8. (1) The Chairman shall

Powers, Functions and duties of Chairman

(a) have full access to all records of the Zilla Parishad;

(b) have general responsibility for the financial and executive administration of the Zilla Parishad;

(c) exercise administrative supervision and control over the work of the Executive Officer and the Secretary for securing implementation of resolutions or decisions of the Zilla Parishad or of any Committee thereof;

Sub-section (6) was substituted for the original sub-section by s. 3(1) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVU of 1965).

Section 7A was inserted by s. 3(2). *ibid.*

(Part 11.6 Zilla Parishad.6 Chapter 11.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad.6 Section 9.)

(d) for the transaction of business connected with this Act or for the purpose of making any order authorised thereby, exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge such duties as may be exercised, performed or discharged by the *Zilla Parishad* under this Act or the rules made thereunder:

Provided that the Chairman shall not exercise such powers, perform such functions or discharge such duties as may be required by the rules made under this Act to be exercised, performed or discharged by the *Zilla Parishad* at a meeting;

(c) exercise such other powers, perform such other functions and discharge such other duties as the *Zilla Parishad* may, by general or special resolution, direct or as the State Government may, by rules made in this behalf, prescribe.

(2) The Vice-Chairman shall

(a) exercise such of the powers, perform such of the functions and discharge such of the duties of the Chairman as the Chairman may, from time to time, subject to rules made in this behalf by the State Government, delegate to him by order in writing;

(b) during the absence of the Chairman, exercise all the powers, - perform all the functions and discharge all the duties of the Chairman.

Removal or 9. (1) If the State Government is of opinion that the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of a *Zilla Parishad*—

- (a) is incapable of exercising his powers, performing his functions or discharging his duties, or
- (b) wilfully neglects or refuses to carry out the directions of the State Government given under the provisions of this Act, or
- (c) abuses his powers, or
- (d) is liable to be removed on any of the grounds mentioned in section 12,

the State Government may, after giving the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, as the case may be, an opportunity of being heard, by order,

remove him from office and he shall thereupon cease to be a member of the *Zilla Parishad* and also cease to be a member or, or to hold

the
Chairman
and the
Vice-Chairman.

any, l, ~ i - - - - l : ~ - - . > . i _ _ * i _ : _ «

(2) If a motion of no-confidence against the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman is carried by the votes of more than one-half of the total number of members of the *Zilla Parishad* holding office for the time being, the State Government shall remove the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, as the case may be, from

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office.

10. (1) When the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman is removed under section 9, the vacancy so caused shall be filled by election in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A Chairman or a Vice-Chairman elected under sub-section (1) shall hold office for the remainder of the term of his predecessor in office.

(3) A Chairman or a Vice-Chairman removed from office under subsection (1) of section 9 on any of the grounds enumerated in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of that sub-section and clauses (a) and (c) of sub-section (4) of section 12 shall not be eligible for election or appointment as a member of, or for election or appointment to any office in, any of the bodies constituted under this Act for a period of four years from the date of such removal.

II. A person shall not be qualified to be a member of a *Zilla Parishad*, if

- (a) he is under twenty-five years of age; or
- (b) he is an officer or employee of the *Zilla Parishad*, an *Anchalik Parishad* within the district or any Standing Committee thereof; or
- (c) he has been dismissed from the service of the Central or a State Government or a local authority for misconduct; or
- (d) he has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or
- (e) he is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (f) he being a discharged insolvent has not obtained from the court a certificate that his insolvency was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part; or
- (g) he is in arrears for more than a year in respect of any tax, rate or fee payable under this Act or the West Bengal *Panchayat Act*, 1957; or
- (h) he has been convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment by a court for an offence involving moral turpitude punishable with imprisonment for a period of

Filling of vacancies caused by action taken under section Disqualifications of members of *Zilla Parishad*.

"Sub-section (2) was substituted for the original sub-section by s. 2 of the West Bengal

West Ben. Act

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter II.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Section 12.)

more than six months, and five years have not elapsed from the date of the expiration of the sentence unless the State Government on sufficient cause having been shown shall have removed the disqualification by an order made in this behalf.

12. (1) A member or associate member of the *Zilla Parishad* shall, directly or indirectly by himself, partner, employer or employee, have any share or interest in any contract other than a share or interest in any company as defined in the Companies Act, 1956, or in any Co-operative Society registered under the Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940, which is a party to any such contract, with, by or on behalf of, the *Zilla Parishad*.

(2) If any member or associate member acquires any such share or interest he shall cease to be a member of the *Zilla Parishad* with effect from such date as the State Government may specify.

(3) If a member acts as a lawyer against the *Zilla Parishad* in any legal proceedings to which the *Zilla Parishad* is a party he shall cease to be a member of the *Zilla Parishad* with effect from such date as the State Government may specify.

(4) The State Government may, after giving an opportunity to a member or an associate member to show cause against the action proposed to be taken against him, by an order in writing, remove him from office

removal of a
number of (lit:
Zilla
Parishad.

- (a) on the grounds of misconduct in the discharge of his duties; or
- (b) if he refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting as such member; or
- (c) if after he becomes a member he is convicted by a court of an offence involving moral turpitude punishable with imprisonment for a period of more than six months; or
- (d) if he is absent from six consecutive meetings of the *Zilla Parishad* without sufficient cause; or
- (e) if he is in arrears from more than one year in respect of any tax, rate or fee payable under this Act or the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957; or
- (f) if he was disqualified to be a member of the *Zilla Parishad* at the time when he became a member; or
- (g) if he incurs any of the disqualifications mentioned in clauses (c), (d), (e) and (f) of section 11 after becoming a member of the *Zilla Parishad*.

Act of 1956.
Ben. Act
XXI of
1940.

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter II.—Establishment and constitution of Zilla Parishad. Section 13.—Chapter III.—Transaction of Business.— Sections 14,15.)

13. The Chairman or [he Vice-Chairman or a member referred to in clause (1) of section 4 may resign his office by notifying in writing his intention to do so to [he prescribed authority and shall vacate his office on such resignation being accepted [by the said authority] and the vacancy so caused shall be filled in such manner as may be proscribed.

Resignation
of
Chairman,
Vice-
Chairman or
a member.

CHAPTER III. Transaction of Business.

14. (1) A member of a *Zilla Parishad* other than a member referred to in sub-clauses (c) and (d) of clause (1) of section 4 shall before taking his seat, make and subscribe in the presence of the other members or such of them as would be sufficient to form a quorum at a meeting, assembled for a meeting of which notice has been given, an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to [the Constitution of India in [the form set out for the purpose in the First Schedule.

Oath or
affirmation
by members-

(2) A member who fails to make and subscribe, "without sufficient cause, within three months from the date on which his term of office commences, [the oath or **Affirmation** referred to in sub-section (1) shall cease to hold his office and his seat shall be deemed to have become vacant and [the vacancy so caused shall be filled in such manner as may be proscribed.

15. (1) A *Zilla Parishad* shall hold a meeting at least once -[in every three months] at its office on such date and at [such time as the Chairman may fix after giving at least ten clear days' notice [to the members and [the associate members of the *Zilla Parishad*:

Provided that the Chairman may, in case of emergency, call a special meeting after giving at least three clear days' notice to the members and the associate members of the *Zilla Parishad*:

Meetings.

Provided further that, when so requested by a requisition in writing by not less than one-third of the members of the *Zilla Parishad*, [the Chairman shall, within seven days of the receipt by him of such requisition, give ten clear days' notice of a meeting of the *Zilla Parishad* to be held within fifteen days of the date of such notice failing which the signatories to the requisition may, after sending intimation to the prescribed authority, call such meeting after giving at least ten clear days' notice to the Chairman, other members and the associate members of the *Zilla Parishad*.

The words within the square brackets were inserted by s. 3(4) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Multi Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965.) The words within the square brackets; were substituted for the words "a month" by

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter III.—Transaction of Business. —Section 16.—Chapter IV.—Powers, Functions and Duties of Zilla Parishad. Section 17.)

(2) The Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at a meeting of the Zilla Parishad, and, in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, the members present shall elect one from among themselves to be the president of the meeting:

Provided that when a meeting is held to consider a motion of non-confidence against the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman or, as the case may be, the Vice-Chairman shall not preside at such meeting and the provisions of this sub-section shall apply as if the Chairman or, as the case may be, the Vice-Chairman was absent from such meeting.

(3) Not less than one-third of the total number of members shall form a quorum for a meeting.

(4) All questions coming before a meeting shall be decided by the votes of the majority of members:

Provided that an associate member shall have no right to vote:

Provided further that in case of equality of votes the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

16. [(Delegations of functions of Zilla Parishad to its Chairman).—Omitted by s. 3(6) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965).]

CHAPTER IV.

Powers, Functions and Duties of Zilla Parishad.

17. (1) A Zilla Parishad shall have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to enter into contracts.

Power to acquire, hold and dispose of property

(2) A Zilla Parishad may, with the previous sanction of the State Government, acquire land under the provisions of any law for the time being in force for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

The proviso was added by s. 3 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act 1967 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1967).

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter IV.—Powers, Functions and Duties of Zilla Parishad. Section 18, J)

18. (I) Subject to any general or special directions of the State Government, a Zilla Parishad shall have power to

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- (a) (i) undertake schemes or adopt measures, including [the giving of financial assistance, relating to the development of agriculture, livestock, industries, cooperative movement, rural credit, water-supply, irrigation, public health and sanitation including establishment of dispensaries and hospitals, communications, [primary, secondary or adult education] including welfare of students, social welfare and other objects or general public utility;
- (ii) undertake execution of any scheme, performance of any act, or management of any institution or organisation entrusted to it by the State Government or any other authority;
- (iii) manage or maintain any work of public utility or any institution vested in it or under its control and management;
- (iv) make grants in aid of any school, public library, public institution or public welfare organisation within the district;
- (v) contribute such sums as may be agreed upon towards cost of maintenance of any institutions, situated outside the district, which are beneficial to, and habitually used by, the inhabitants of the district;
- (vi) establish scholarships or award stipends within the State for the furtherance of technical or other special forms of education;
- (vii) acquire and maintain village *hats* and markets;
- (b) make grants to the *Anchalik Parishads*,
- (c) contribute, with the approval of the State Government, such sum or sums as it may decide, towards the cost of water-supply or anti-epidemic measures undertaken by the commissioners of a municipality within the district;
- (d) adopt measures for the relief of distress;
- (e) co-ordinate and integrate the development plans and schemes prepared by *Anchalik Parishads* in the district; and

The words within the square brackets were substituted for the words "primary or adult education" by section 7 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1964.

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter IV.—Powers, Functions and Duties of Zilla Parishad. Sections 19, 20.)

(0 examine and sanction the budget estimates of *Anchaitik Parishads* in the district:

Provided that any general or special directions of the State Government to a *Zilla Parishad* in matters relating to Primary Education shall be issued by the Education Department.

(2) A *Zilla Parishad* shall have the power to advise the State Government on all matters relating to the development of the district including the allocation of development work among *Gram Panchayats*, *Anchat Panchayats* and *Anchaitik Parishads*.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (1), a *Zilla Parishad* shall not undertake or execute any scheme confined to a block unless the implementation of such a scheme is beyond the competence of the *Anchaitik Parishad* concerned financially or otherwise. In the latter case the *Zilla Parishad* may execute the scheme itself or entrust its execution to the *Anchaitik Parishad* and give it such assistance as may be required.

(4) A *Zilla Parishad* may undertake or execute any scheme if it extends to more than one block.

Zilla Parishad to have powers of Magistrate in district to which the Vaccination Act extends.

19. In a district to which the Bengal Vaccination Act, 1880, has been, or may hereafter be, extended, the *Zilla Parishad* shall exercise all or any of the powers exercisable by the Magistrate of the district under section 25 of the said Act.

Ben. Act V of 1380.

State Government may place other property under *Zilla Parishad*.

20. (1) The State Government may, from time to time, with the consent of the *Zilla Parishad*, place any road, bridge, ferry, channel, building or other property vested in the State Government and situated within the district under the control and management of the *Zilla Parishad* subject to such conditions as it may specify.

(2) The State Government may, notwithstanding anything contained in the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, direct, after consultation with the commissioners of a municipality, that the control and maintenance of any road part of which runs through a municipality and is vested in the commissioners of such municipality shall be taken over by the *Zilla Parishad* and that the commissioners or such municipality shall make such contribution for the maintenance of the road as may be agreed upon

Ben. Act XV of 1932.

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter IV.—Powers, Functions and Duties of Zilla Parishad. Sections 21-26.)

On such direction being given the commissioners of the municipality shall cease to control and maintain such portion of the road as lies within such municipality.

21. A *Zilla Parishad* may take over the maintenance, and control of any road, bridge, tank, *ghat*, well, channel or drain belonging to a private owner or any other authority on such terms as may be agreed upon.

Zilla Parishad may take over works.

22. A *Zilla Parishad* may divert, discontinue or close temporarily any road which is under its control and management or is vested in it, and may, with the approval of the State Government, close any such road permanently.

Power of *Zilla Parishad* to divert, discontinue or close road.

Power of *Zilla Parishad* to transfer roads to the State Government or *Anchalik Parishad*.

Vesting of *Zilla Parishad* with certain powers.

t of 1871.

23. A *Zilla Parishad* may transfer to the State Government or to an *Anchalik Parishad* any road or part of a road or any other property which is under its control or management, or which is vested in it, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon.

24. (1) A *Zilla Parishad* may be vested by the State Government with such powers under any local or special Acts as the State Government may think fit.

(2) A *Zilla Parishad* shall perform such functions as may be transferred to

it by notification under section 31 of the Cattle-ires pass Act, 1871.

(3) A *Zilla Parishad* shall exercise such other powers, perform such other functions or discharge such other duties as the State Government may, by general or special order, direct.

25. The *Zilla Parishads* of two or more adjacent districts may jointly undertake and execute at common cost any development scheme or project or may jointly establish a common ferry on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, and in case of any difference as to the interpretation of such terms and conditions the matter shall be referred to the State Government whose decision shall be final.

Joint
execution of
schemes by
two or more
*Zilla
Parishads.*

26. A *Zilla Parishad* may require the owner or the lessee of a fair or *mela* or an owner or a lessee of land intending to hold a fair or *mela* thereon to obtain a licence in this behalf from the *Zilla Parishad* on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and on payment of a fee for

Power of
*Zilla
Parishad* to
grant licence
for fair or

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter IV.—Powers, Functions and Duties of Zilla Parishad. Sections 27. 27A.—Chapter V.—Establishment of the Zilla Parishad, Section 23.)

27. A Zilla Parishad shall exercise general powers of supervision over Anchaik Parishads, Anchal Panchayats and Gram Panchayats in the district and it shall be the duty of these authorities to give effect to any directions or the Zilla Parishad on matters of policy or planning for development,

Power of supervision by 7-Hhi yoisiiiii Overihc Anclttulik Pitrislmrfj, eiL-

27A. Notwithstanding any thing contained in the Indian Registration Act, 1908 or any rules made thereunder, the registering officer shall, on the requisition of the Chairman made in writing and under the common seal of the Zilla Parishad, register a document executed by the Chairman or a member of a Zilla Parishad on behalf of the Zilla Parishad without requiring the presence of the Chairman or the member concerned at the registration office.

Exemption of Chairman and members of Zilla Parishad from attending registration office.

CHAPTER V.

16 of 1908.

Establishment of the Zilla Parishad.

28. (1) There shall be an Executive Officer for a Zilla Parishad appointed by the State Government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed:

Provided that any person so appointed shall be recalled by the State Government if a resolution to that effect is passed by the Zilla Parishad, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members holding office for the time being.

Staff of the Zilla Parishad.

(2) There shall be a Secretary of the Zilla Parishad to be appointed by the Zilla Parishad:

Provided that the District Panchayat Officer shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary for a period of four years from the date of the establishment of the Zilla Parishad under sub-section (1) of section 3 and for such further period as the Zilla Parishad may, by a resolution passed to that effect and with the approval of the State Government, determine.

(3) A Zilla Parishad may appoint such other officers and employees as may be required by it and may fix the salaries to be paid to the persons so appointed:

Provided that no post carrying a monthly salary of rupees three hundred and one or more shall be created or abolished by the Zilla Parishad without the approval of the State Government.

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XXXV of 1963.]

(Part II.—Zilla Parishads. Chapter V.—Establishment of the Zilla Parishads Sections 29-32.)

29. The State Government may place at the disposal of the *Zilla Parishad* the services of such officers or other employees serving under it as it may think fit:

Placing (the services of State Government Officers at the disposal of *Zilla Parishad*.)

Provided that any such officer or employee shall be recalled by the State Government if a resolution to that effect is passed by the *Zilla Parishad*, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members holding office for the time being:

Provided further that the State Government shall have disciplinary control over such officers and employees.

30. (1) The Executive Officer shall exercise general control over all officers and other employees of the *Zilla Parishad*.

Control and punishment of the staff of the *Zilla Parishad*.

(2) The Executive Officer may award any punishment other than dismissal, removal or reduction in rank to an officer or employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of less than rupees three hundred but shall not award any punishment to an officer or employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of rupees three hundred or more.

(3) The Executive Officer may recommend the dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of an officer or employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of less than rupees three hundred to the Finance and Establishment Committee and such Committee shall forward the case to the *Zilla Parishad* with its own recommendation. The *Zilla Parishad* may, if it is satisfied with such recommendation of the Finance and Establishment Committee, dismiss, remove or reduce in rank any such officer or employee.

(4) No officer or other employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of rupees three hundred or more shall be punished by the *Zilla Parishad* except by a resolution of the *Zilla Parishad* passed at a meeting.

31. (1) An appeal shall lie to the *Zilla Parishad* against an order of punishment awarded by the Executive Officer under sub-section (2) of section 30 within one month from the date of that order.

Appeal.

(2) An appeal shall lie to the State Government against an order of punishment awarded by the *Zilla Parishad* under sub-sections (3) and (4) of section 30 within one month from the date of the order.

32. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules framed thereunder and to any general or special directions given by the State Government in that behalf the officers and other employees employed and

Exercise of powers by State Government officers

by the *Zilla Parishad* and the officers and other employees whose services have been placed at the disposal of the *Zilla Parishad* shall exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge such duties

employees,

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter VI.—Standing Committees of the Zilla Parishad. Sections 33, 34.)

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CHAPTER VI.

Standing Committees of the the Zilla Parishad.

Standing
Committees. § .

33. (1) A Zilla Parishad shall have the following Standing Committees, namely:—

- (i) Finance and Establishment Committee,
- (ii) Public Health Committee,
- (iii) Public Works Committee,
- (iv) Agriculture and Irrigation Committee,
- (v) Industry and Co-operation Committee,
- (vi) Public and Social Welfare Committee,
- (vii) Primary Education Committee as provided under section 38, and
- (viii) such other Committee or Committees as it may constitute subject to the approval, or under any general or special direction, of the State Government.

(2) No person [except the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman] shall be a member of more than two Standing Committees.

(3) The provisions of sections 34, 35, 36 and 37 shall not apply to the Primary Education Committee.

34. (1) A Standing Committee shall consist of the following members:—

- (i) such number of persons not exceeding nine as may be prescribed for each Zilla Parishad, to be elected by the members of the Zilla Parishad from among themselves;

Constitution
of Standing
Committees.

- (ii) not more than two persons being officers of the State Government or of the Zilla Parishad appointed by the State Government:

Provided that such officers shall not be eligible for election as Chairman of the Standing Committee and shall not have any right to vote;

- (iii) not more than two persons having knowledge of, and experience in, the subjects assigned to the Standing Committee nominated by the Zilla Parishad:

Provided that no person who is disqualified to be a member of the Zilla Parishad under section 11 shall be so nominated;

The words within square brackets were inserted by s. 3(3) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965).

For notification relating to appointment of each Zilla Parishad (the Officers of the State Government and an Officer of the Zilla Parishad specified as members of the Standing Committees denoted, Notification No. 2275 PanchJA-17/64 dated 15.6.64. published in the Calcutta Gazette of 19M, Part I, page 1935.

The proviso was added by s. 5 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965.

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(Part 11. Zilla Parishad. Chapter VI.—Standing Committees of the Zilla Parishad. Sections 35-38.)

(iv) the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Zilla Parishad (ex-officio).

(2) The members of a Standing Committee shall elect a Chairman thereof from among themselves:

^Provided that the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Finance and Establishment Standing Committee.

35. (1) An elected member or a Standing Committee shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be a member of the Zilla Parishad, whichever is earlier.

(2) An officer appointed as a member under clause (ii) of subsection (1) of section 34 shall hold office until another officer is appointed to replace him.

(3) A nominated member shall hold office for a period of four years:

Provided that a nominated member shall continue in office after the expiry of the said period until a new member is nominated in his place:

Provided further that a nominated member may be removed from office by the State Government at any time before the expiry of the said period on any of the grounds mentioned in subsection (4) of section 12 in the manner provided in that sub-section.

36. A Chairman shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be a member of the Standing Committee, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the Chairman shall continue to hold office until a new Chairman is elected and assumes office.

37. A Standing Committee shall exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge such duties as may be prescribed or as may be assigned to it by the Zilla Parishad.

38. (1) The District School Board, constituted under the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, shall, subject to the provisions of subsections (3), (4) and (5), function as the Primary Education Committee of the Zilla Parishad and shall, subject to any general or special directions of the Education Department of the State Government, give effect to any instructions of the Zilla Parishad in so far as such instructions are not inconsistent with the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

Ben. Act VI of 1930,

^Clause (iv) was added by s. 3(9)(La) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVI of 1965).

^The Proviso was substituted for the original proviso by s. 3(9)(b). *ibid.*

^The Proviso was substituted for the original proviso by s. 3(9)(b). *ibid.*

Term of office of members of Standing Committees.

Term of office of Chairman.

Powers of Standing Committees.

District School Board to function as Primary Education Committee.

(Part 11. Zilla Parishad. Chapter VII.—Property, Finance and Taxation.—Section 39.)

(2) The instructions which may be given by the *Zilla Parishad* may include instructions regarding

- (n) the transfer of management of schools under the management of the District School Board to *Anchaitik Parishads, Anchal Panchayats* or *Gram Panchayats*,
- (b) the inspection of schools under the management of the District School Board, and of other schools the management whereof has been transferred to *Anchaitik Parishads, Anchal Panchayats*, or *Gram Panchayats*, and the submission of reports of such inspection to the *Zilla Parishad*,
- (c) the making of payments by way of contribution or otherwise to *Anchaitik Parishads, Anchal Panchayats* or *Gram Panchayats* for meeting the cost of management of the schools so transferred or for giving grants-in-aid to primary schools within their jurisdictions.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, the State Government may appoint two ^{or 1930} persons interested in education to be members of the District School Board.

(4) An appointed member, unless sooner replaced, shall hold office for a term of four years and may, on the expiry of the said term, be reappointed by the State Government:

Provided that an appointed member shall continue to hold office after the expiry of the said term until another member is appointed by the State Government in his place.

(5) The District Primary Education Fund shall not form part of the *Zilla Parishad* Fund but shall continue to be a separate Fund.

(6) Save as provided in sub-sections (1), (2), (3) and (4), the provisions of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930 shall govern the constitution, powers, functions and duties of the District School Board.

CHAPTER VII.

Property, Finance and Taxation.

39. All roads, buildings and other works constructed by a *Zilla Parishad* from its Fund shall vest in it.

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter VII.—Property, Finance and Taxation.—Sections 40, 41.)

40. (1) For every *Zilla Parishad* there shall be constituted a fund *Zilla* to be called the *Zilla Parishad Fund* and there shall be placed to the credit *fund* thereof

- (a) contributions and grants, if any, made by the Central or the State Government including such part of land revenue collected in the district as may be determined by the State Government;
- (b) contributions and grants, if any, made by an *Anchalik Parishad* or other local authority;
- (c) loans, if any, granted by the Central or the State Government or raised by the *Zilla Parishad* on security of its assets;
- (d) the proceeds of road cess levied in the district;
- (e) all receipts on account of tolls, rates and fees levied by the *Zilla Parishad*;
- (f) all receipts in respect of any schools, hospitals, dispensaries, buildings, institutions or works, vested in, constructed by or placed under the control and management of, the *Zilla Parishad*;
- (g) all sums received as gift or contribution and all income from any trust or endowment made in favour of the *Zilla Parishad*;
- (h) such fines or penalties imposed and realised under the provisions of this Act or of the bye-laws made thereunder, as may be prescribed;
- (i) all other sums received by or on behalf of the *Zilla Parishad*.

(2) The *Zilla Parishad Fund* shall be vested in *Zilla Parishad* and the amount standing to the credit of the fund shall be kept in such custody or invested in such manner as the State Government may, from time to time, direct.

(3) All orders and cheques for payments from the *Zilla Parishad Fund* shall be signed by the Chairman of the *Zilla Parishad* or by any other member authorised by him in writing in this behalf.

Proceeds of road cess to be credited to the *Zilla Parishad*

Ben. Act IX 41. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Cess Act, 1880 the proceeds of road cess, if any, levied and realised in a district shall be credited to the *Zilla Parishad Fund* after payment of the expenses

in

the

544 *The West Bengal Zilla Parishads Act, 1963.*

[West Ben. Act

(Part 11. Zilla Parishad. Chapter VII.—Property, Finance and Taxation.—Sections 42-44.)

Levy of tolls. 42. (1) Subject to such maximum rates as the State Government may prescribe, a *Zilla Parishad* may

- (a) levy tolls on persons, vehicles or animals or any class of them at any toll-bar established by it on any road other than a *kutchra* road or any bridge vested in it or under its management,
- (b) levy tolls in respect of any Ferry established by it or under its management,
- (c) levy the following Fees and rates, namely:
 - (i) fees on the registration of vehicles or boats;
 - (ii) a Fee for providing sanitary arrangements at such places of worship or pilgrimage, Fairs and *metas* within its jurisdiction as may be specified by the State Government by notification;
 - (iii) a Fee for licence referred to in section 26;
 - (iv) a water rate, where arrangement for the supply of water for drinking, irrigation or any other purpose is made by the *Zilla Parishad* within its jurisdiction;
 - (v) a lighting rate, where arrangement for lighting of public streets and places is made by the *Zilla Parishad* within its jurisdiction.

(2) The *Zilla Parishad* shall not undertake registration of any vehicle or boat or levy Fee therefor and shall not provide sanitary arrangements at places of worship or pilgrimages, Fairs and *metas* within its jurisdiction or levy Fee therefor if such vehicle has already been registered by any other authority under any law for the time being in force or if such provision for sanitary arrangement has already been made by any other local authority.

43. (1) The scales of tolls, fees or rates and the terms and conditions thereof provided in or by the imposition thereof shall be such as may be provided by bye-laws. (2) Such bye-laws may provide for exemption from all or any of the tolls, Fees or rates in any class of cases.

44. A *Zilla Parishad* shall have power to spend such sums out of its Fund as it thinks fit

- (a) for carrying out the purposes of this Act;
- (b) for providing amenities for its officers and employees; and
- (c) for any special purpose approved by the State Government.

¹Subclause (iii) was inserted by s. 7 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1964.

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(Part II. Zilla Parishad. Chapter VII.—Property, Finance and Taxation.—Sections 45-49.)

45. A Zilla Parishad may, subject to the provisions of any law relating to the raising of loans by local authorities for the time being in force, raise from time to time, with the approval of the State Government,

loans for the purposes of this Act, and create a sinking fund for the repayment of such loans.

46. (1) [The Executive Officer] shall in each year, before such date as may be prescribed, place before the Zilla Parishad the budget which shall be prepared by the Finance and Establishment Committee showing the probable receipts and expenditure during the following year. The Zilla Parishad shall adopt the budget with such modifications as it may think fit.

(2) The budget so adopted shall be submitted to the State Government by such date as may be prescribed.

(3) The State Government may, within such time as may be prescribed, either approve of the budget or return it to the Zilla Parishad for such modifications as it may direct. On such modifications being made, the budget shall be resubmitted within such time as may be prescribed for approval to the State Government. If the approval of the State Government is not received by the Zilla Parishad by the last date of the year, the budget shall be deemed to have been approved by the State Government.

47. The Finance and Establishment Committee may, if it finds it necessary to do so, prepare a supplementary or revised budget and if such a budget is prepared the provisions of section 46 shall apply thereto.

48. A Zilla Parishad shall keep an account of all receipts and expenditure in such form as may be prescribed.

49. (1) The accounts shall be audited as soon as may be after the end of each year by such agency and in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A Zilla Parishad shall pay out of the Zilla Parishad Fund such sum as may be determined by the State Government by way of fees for such audit.

¹ The words within square brackets were substituted for the words "The Secretary" by s. 17 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1967 (West Bengal Act XII).

(Part III. Anchaik Parishad. Chapter VIII—Constitution of the Anchaik Parishad. Sections 50-52.)

PART m.

Anchaik Parishad.

CHAPTER VIII.

Constitution of the *Anchaik Parishad.*

50. The State Government shall, by notification, divide a district into blocks each comprising such *Anchals* as may be specified in the notification.

51. (1) The State Government shall, by notification, establish for each block, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, an *Anchaik Parishad* bearing the name of the block.

(2) An *Anchaik Parishad* shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and may by its corporate name sue and be sued.

52. Subject to the provisions of sections 59 and 60, the following persons shall be members and associate member of the *Anchaik Parishad*, namely:

(1) Members

(a) *Pradhans*, and Presidents of the Union Boards within the block *ex-officio* :

Provided that if any *Pradhan* communicates to the President of the *Anchaik Parishad*, in writing, his unwillingness to act as a member of the *Anchaik Parishad*, he shall with effect from the date of such communication, cease to be a member of the *Anchaik Parishad*, and the vacancy so caused shall be filled by election from among the members of the *Anchal Panchayat* of which he is the *Pradhan* in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed,

(b) one *Adhyaksha* from the territorial limits of each *Anchal Panchayat* elected by the *Adhyakshas* of that area from among themselves at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that if within the time fixed for the election, the *Adhyakshas* within the territorial limits of an *Anchal Panchayat* fail to elect the member, another election shall

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(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter VIII.—Constitution of the Anchalik Parishad. Section 53.)

Government by notification to fill the vacancy and in case the *Adhyakshas* of such territorial limits still fail to elect the member at such second election, the State Government may appoint a member from among the *Adhyakshas* of such territorial limits and the person so appointed shall be deemed to be a duly elected member:

Provided further that if there be no *Anchal Panchayat* within the territorial limits of a Union Board the State Government may appoint a person residing within such territorial limits as a member,

(c) members of

- (i) the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, elected thereto from a constituency comprising the block or any part thereof, not being a Minister,
- (ii) the Council of States⁴ * * *, not being a Minister, having a place of residence in the block,

(d) (i) two women, and

(ii) two persons belonging to a backward community,

having a place of residence in the block, appointed by the State Government,

(e) two persons who have knowledge of, or experience in, social work or rural development, having a place of residence within the block, co-opted by the members in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Associate member
[the Block Development Officer.

53. (1) A member referred to in sub-clause (c) of clause (1) of Prohibition section 52 shall not be elected a member under the provisions of sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of that section. .

neous
membership.

(2) If a member referred to in any of the sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (c) of clause (1) of section 52 is subsequently elected a member of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State or subsequently becomes a member of the Council of States * * *, he shall cease to be a member of the *Anchalik Parishad* under the provisions of any such sub-clause.

⁴The words "or the Legislative Council of the State" were omitted by Order No. 1504-L, dated 31.7.70, published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*.

(Part III.—Anchalik Parishads. Chapter VIII.—Constitution of the Anchalik Parishad. Sections 54, 55.)

Tenure of office."

54. (1) A member elected under the proviso to sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of section 52 shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be a member of the *Anchal Panchayat* or until a new *Panchayat* of the *Anchal Panchayat* is elected, whichever is earlier.

(2) A member elected under sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of section 52 shall, subject to the provisions of section 53, hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be the *Adhyaksha*, whichever is earlier.

(3) A member appointed under the second proviso to sub-clause (b) of clause (1) of section 52 shall vacate office immediately on the establishment of an *Anchal Panchayat* for the area and the election of a *Pradhani* thereof.

(4) A member appointed under the first proviso to sub-clause (b) or clause (1) of section 52 and a member appointed under sub-clause (d) of clause (1) of that section shall hold office for a period of four years:

Provided that such a member shall continue to hold office on the expiry of the said term until another member is appointed by the State Government in his place.

(5) A member co-opted under sub-clause (e) of clause (1) of section 52 shall hold office for a period of four years.

(6) If any *Pradhani* or if any person referred to in sub-clauses (d) and (c) of clause (1) of section 52 be disqualified to be a member, the vacancy shall be filled in such manner and for such period as may be prescribed.

55. (1) There shall be a President and a Vice-President for an *Anchalik Parishad* elected by the members thereof from among the members referred to in clause (1) of section 52.

(2) The President and the Vice-President shall, subject to the provisions of section 57 and to his continuing as a member, hold office for a period of four years:

President
and Vice-
President.

Provided that a President or Vice-President shall continue in office after expiry of the said period until a new President or Vice-President is elected and assumes office.

(3) (a) when the office of the President falls vacant by reason of death, resignation or removal or is otherwise vacant, or (b) when the President is, by reason of leave, illness or other cause, temporarily unable to exercise his powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of his office, the Vice-President shall exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of the President until a new President is elected and

The West Bengal Zilla Parishads Act, 1963.

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part III. Anchaik Parishad. Chapter VIII.—Constitution of the Anchaik Parishad. Sections 55A, 56.)

- (4) (a) When the office of the Vice-President is vacant by reason of death, resignation or removal or is otherwise vacant, or
- (b) when the Vice-President is by reason of leave, illness or other cause, temporarily unable to exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of his office,

the President shall exercise the powers, perform the functions and discharge the duties of the Vice-President until a new Vice-President is elected and assumes office or until the Vice-President resumes his duties, as the case may be.

(5) When the offices of the President and the Vice-President are both vacant, the State Government may appoint a President and a Vice-President from among the members to act as such until a President and a Vice-President are elected and assume office.

(6) If a Pradhan or an Adhyaksha is elected as the President or the Vice-President of an Anchaik Parishad, he shall cease to be the Pradhan or the Adhyaksha, as the case may be, but shall, notwithstanding anything in section 52 or in sub-section (1) of this section, continue to be a member of the Anchaik Parishad for the full term of his office as such President or Vice-President thereof under sub-section (2) of section 55 or sub-section (2) of section 58, as the case may be.

55A. The President and the Vice-President of an Anchaik Parishad shall be paid out of the Anchaik Parishad Fund such honoraria and allowances and shall be entitled to leave of absence for such period or periods and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

Honoraria, allowances, leave, etc., of the President and Vice-President.

56. (1) The President shall

- (a) have full access to all records of the Anchaik Parishad,
- (b) have general responsibility for the financial and executive administration of the Anchaik Parishad;
- (c) exercise administrative supervision and control over the work of the Chief Executive Officer for securing implementation of resolutions or decisions of the Anchaik Parishad or of any Committee thereof;

Powers, functions and duties of President and Vice-President.

'Sub-section (G) was substituted for the original sub-section by s. 3(10) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Bengal Act XXVII of 1965).'

'Section 55A was inserted by s 3(11), *ibid.*

(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter VII.—Constitution of the Anchalik Parishad. Section 57.)

- (d) for the transaction of business connected with this Act or
 For the purpose of making any order authorised thereby,
 exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge
 such duties as may be exercised, performed or discharged by
 the *Anchalik Parishad* under this Act or the rules made
 thereunder:

Provided that the President shall not exercise such powers,
**perform such functions or discharge such duties as may be required by the rules
 made under this Act to be exercised,
 performed or discharged by the *Anchalik Parishad* at a meeting;**

- (e) exercise such other powers, perform such other functions and
 discharge such other duties as the *Anchalik Parishad* may, by
 general or special resolution, direct or as the State Government
 may, by rules made in this behalf,
 prescribe.
- (2) The Vice-President shall—
- (a) exercise such of the powers, perform such of the functions and
 discharge such of the duties of the President as the President
 may, from time to time, subject to rules made in this behalf by
 the State Government, delegate to him by order in writing;
- (b) during the absence of the President, exercise all the powers,
 perform all the functions and discharge all the duties of the President.

Removal of 57. (i) if State Government is of opinion that the President or the
 Vice-President of an *Anchalik Parishad*—

- (a) is incapable of exercising his powers, performing his
 functions or discharging his duties, or
- (b) wilfully neglects or refuses to carry out the directions of the
 State Government given under the provisions of this Act,
 or
- (c) abuses his powers, or
- (d) is liable to be removed on any of the grounds mentioned in
 section 60,

the State Government may, after giving the President or the Vice-President,
 as the case may be, an opportunity of being heard, by order, remove him from
 office and he shall [hereupon cease to be a member of the *Anchalik Parishad*
 and also cease to be a member of, or to hold any office in,
 in accordance with the provisions of the Act

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part III. Anchaik Parishad. Chapter VIII.—Constitution of the Anchaik Parishad. Sections 58, 59.)

(2) IF a motion of no-confidence against the President or the Vice-President is earned by the votes of more than one-half of the total number or members of the *Anchaik Parishad* holding office for the time being, the State Government shall remove the President or the Vice-President, as the case may be, from office.

58. (1) When the President or the Vice-President is removed under section 57, the vacancy so caused shall be filled by election in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A President or a Vice-President elected under sub-section (1) shall hold office for the remainder of the term of his predecessor in office,

Filling of vacancies caused by action taken under section 57.

(3) A President or a Vice-President removed from office under sub-section (1) of section 57 on any of the grounds enumerated in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of that sub-section and clauses (a) and (c) of subsection (4) of section 60 shall not be eligible for election or appointment as a member of, or for election or appointment to any office in, any of the bodies constituted under this Act for a period of four years from the date of such removal.

59. A person shall not be qualified to be a member of an *Anchaik Parishad*, if

- (a) he is under twenty-five years of age; or
- (b) he is an officer or employee of the *Zilla Parishad*, an *Anchaik Parishad* within the district or any Standing Committee thereof; or
- (c) he has been dismissed from the service of the Central or a State Government or a local authority for misconduct; or
- (d) he has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or
- (e) he is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (f) he being a discharged insolvent has not obtained from the court a certificate that his insolvency was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part; or
- (g) he is in arrears for more than a year in respect of any tax, rate or fee payable under this Act or the West Bengal *Panchayat Act*, 1957; or

Disqualifications or members of *Anchaik Parishad*.

"sub-section 121 was added by s. 9 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment)

(Part III.ô Anchalik Parishad.ô Chapter VIII.—Constitution of the Anchalik Parishad.ô Section 60.)

.. (h) he has been convicted And sentenced to undergo imprisonment by a court for an offence involving moral turpitude punishable with imprisonment for a period of more than six months, and five years have not elapsed from the date of the expiration of the sentence unless the State Government on sufficient cause having been shown shall have removed the disqualification by an order made in this behalf.

Section 60. (1) No member or associate member of the Anchalik Parishad shall, directly or indirectly by himself, partner, employer or employee,

have any share or interest in any contract other than a share or interest

in any company as defined in the Companies Act, 1956, or in a Co-operative Society registered under the Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1940, which is a party to any such contract, with, by or on behalf of the Anchalik Parishad.

(2) If any member or associate member acquires any such share or interest he shall cease to be a member of the Anchalik Parishad with effect from such date as the State Government may specify.

(3) If a member acts as a lawyer against the Anchalik Parishad in any legal proceedings to which the Anchalik Parishad is a party he shall cease to be a member of the Anchalik Parishad with effect from such date as the State Government may specify.

(4) The State Government may, after giving an opportunity to a member or an associate member to show cause against the action proposed to be taken against him, by an order in writing, remove him from office

- (a) on the grounds of misconduct in the discharge of his duties; or
- (b) if he refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting as such member; or
- (c) if after he becomes a member he is convicted by a court of an offence involving moral turpitude punishable with imprisonment for a period of more than six months; or
- (d) if he is absent from six consecutive meetings of the Anchalik Parishad without sufficient cause; or
- (e) if he is in arrears for more than one year in respect of any tax, rate or fee payable under this Act or the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957; or
- (f) if he was disqualified to be a member of the Anchalik Parishad at the time when he became a member; or
- (g) if he incurs any of the disqualifications mentioned in clauses (c), (d), (e) and (f) of section 59 after becoming a member

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(Part III. Anchaik Parishad. Chapter VIII.—Constitution of
the Anchaik Parishad. Section 61. Chapter IX.—Transaction of Business.—Section 62.)

61. The President or [the Vice-President or a member referred to in clause (I) of section 52 may resign his office by notifying in writing his intention to do so to the prescribed authority and shall vacate his office on such resignation being accepted [by the said authority]

Resignation
of President,
Vice-
President or
a member.

and the vacancy so caused shall be filled in such manner as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER IX Transaction of Business.

62. (1) An *Anchaik Parishad* shall hold a meeting at least once [in Meetings, every three months] at its office on such date and at such time as the President may fix after giving at least ten clear days' notice to the members and [the associate member of the *Anchaik Parishad*]:

Provided that the President may, in case of emergency, call a special meeting after giving at least three clear days' notice to the members and the associate member of the *Anchaik Parishad*:

Provided further that, when so requested by a requisition in writing by not less than one-third of the members of the *Anchaik Parishad*, the President shall, within seven days of the receipt by him of such requisition, give ten clear days' notice of a meeting of the *Anchaik Parishad* to be held within fifteen days of the date of such notice failing which the signatories to the requisition may, after sending intimation to the prescribed authority, call such meeting after giving at least ten clear days' notice to the President, other members and the associate member of the *Anchaik Parishad*.

(2) The President or, in his absence, the Vice-President shall preside at a meeting of the *Anchaik Parishad*, and, in the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the members present shall elect one from among themselves to be the president of the meeting:

"Provided that when a meeting is held to consider a motion or no-confidence against the President or the Vice-President, the President or, as the case may be, the Vice-President shall not preside at such meeting and the provisions of this sub-section shall apply as if the President or, as the case may be, the Vice-President was absent from such meeting.

(3) Not less than one-third of the total number of members shall form a quorum for a meeting.

The words within the square brackets were inserted by s. 3(13) of the West Bengal Panchayats and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965).

The words within the square brackets were substituted for the words "a month" by s. 3(H), *ibid*.

The proviso was added by s. 10 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment)

(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter IX.—Transaction of Business.—
Section 63.—Chapter X.—Powers, Duties and Functions of Anchalik Parishad. Sections 64, 65.)

(4) All questions coming before a meeting shall be decided by the votes of the majority of members:

Provided that the associate member shall have no right to vote: Provided further that in case of equality of votes the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

63. [(Delegation of functions of Anchalik Parishad to the President).—
Omitted by s. 3(15) of the West Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishads
(Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965)].

CHAPTER X Powers, Duties and Functions of Anchalik Parishad.

64. (1) An *Anchalik Parishad* shall have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to enter into contracts.

(2) An *Anchalik Parishad* may, with the previous sanction of the State Government, acquire land under the provisions of any law for the time being in force for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

65. (1) An *Anchalik Parishad* shall have power to

- PttrislKid. (a) (i) undertake schemes or adopt measures, including the giving of financial assistance relating to the development of agriculture, livestock, cottage industries, co-operative movement, rural credit, water-supply, irrigation, public health and sanitation including establishment of dispensaries and hospitals, communications, primary or adult education including welfare of students, social welfare and other objects of general public utility; (ii) undertake execution of any scheme, performance of any act, or management of any institution or organisation entrusted to it by the State Government or any other authority;
- (iii) manage or maintain any work of public utility or any institution vested in it or under its control and management;
- (iv) make grants in aid of any school, public library, public institution or public welfare organisation within the block;

- (b) make grants to the *Zilla Parishad* or *Anchal Panchayats*,
 - (c) contribute with the approval of the State Government such sum or sums it may decide, towards the cost of water-supply or anti-epidemic measures undertaken by a municipality
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(Part III. Anchaik Parishad. Chapter X.—Powers, Duties and Functions of Anchaik Parishad, Sections 66-69.)

- (d) adopt measures for the relief of distress;
- (c) co-ordinate and integrate the development plans and schemes prepared by *Anchal Panchayats* in the blocks, in and when necessary.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (1), an *Anchaik Parishad* shall not undertake or execute any scheme confined to an area over which a *Gram Panchayat* has jurisdiction unless the implementation of such a scheme is beyond the competence of the *Gram Panchayat* concerned financially or otherwise. In the latter case the *Anchaik Parishad* may execute the scheme itself or entrust its execution to the *Gram Panchayat* or the *Anchal Panchayat* and give it such assistance as may be required.

(3) An *Anchaik Parishad* may undertake or execute any scheme if it extends to more than one *Anchal*.

66. The State Government may, from time to time, with the consent of the *Anchaik Parishad*, place any road, bridge, ferry, channel, building or other property vested in the State Government and situated within the block under the control and management of an *Anchaik Parishad* subject to such conditions as it may specify:

State Government may place a [her properly under Anchaik Parishad.

Provided that the State Government may, after considering the views of the *Anchaik Parishad*, withdraw such control and management to itself subject to such conditions as it may specify.

67. An *Anchaik Parishad* may transfer to the State Government or the *Zilla Parishad* any road or part of a road or any other property which is under its control or management, or which is vested in it, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon.

Power of Anchaik Parishad to transfer roads or properties to the State Government or the Zilla Parishad.

68. An *Anchaik Parishad* may take over the maintenance and control of any road, bridge, tank, *ghat*, well, channel or drain belonging to a private owner or any other authority on such terms as may be agreed upon.

Anchaik Parishad may take over works.

69. An *Anchaik Parishad* may divert, discontinue or close temporarily any road which is under its control and management or is vested in it, and may, with the approval of the State Government, close any such road permanently.

Power of Anchaik Parishad to divert, discontinue or close road.

(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter X.—Powers, Duties and Functions of Anchalik Parishad. Sections 70-73.)

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70. (1) An *Anchalik Parishad* may be vested by the State Government with such powers under any local or special Act as the State Government may think fit.

(2) An *Anchalik Parishad* shall perform such functions as may be transferred to it by notification under section 31 or the Cattle-trespass Act, 1871.

(3) An *Anchalik Parishad* shall exercise such other powers, perform such other functions or discharge such other duties as the State Government may, by general or special order, direct. t ori87i.

71. An *Anchalik Parishad* shall exercise general powers of supervision over *Anchal Panchayats* and *Gram Panchayats* in the block and it shall be the duty of the authorities to give effect to the directions of the *Anchalik Parishad* on matters of policy or planning for development.

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72. (1) No place within a block shall be used without a licence, which shall be renewable annually, granted by the *Anchalik Parishad* for any trade or business declared by the State Government, by notification, to be offensive or dangerous.

(2) The *Anchalik Parishad* may levy in respect of any licence granted by it under sub-section (1) a fee subject to the maximum rate prescribed by the State Government under sub-section (1) or section 86, and may impose such conditions in respect of such licence as may be considered necessary.

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(3) Whoever uses without a licence any place for the purpose of any trade or business declared under sub-section (1) to be offensive or dangerous, or fails to comply with any condition in respect of such licence, shall be punished with a fine which may extend to rupees one hundred, and to a further fine which may extend to rupees twenty-five for each day after conviction during which he continues to do so.

(4) The *Anchalik Parishad*, upon the conviction of any person for failing to comply with any condition of a licence granted under sub-section (1), may suspend or cancel such licence.

73. An *Anchalik Parishad* may require the owner or the lessee of a *hat* or market or an owner or a lessee of land intending to hold a *hat* or market thereon, to obtain a licence in his behalf from the *Anchalik Parishad* on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and on payment of a fee for such licence.

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XXXV of 1963.]

(Part III. of Anchaik Parishad. Chapter XI.—Establishment of the Anchaik Parishad. Sections 74-76.)

CHAPTER XI Establishment

of the Anchaik Parishad.

74. (1) There shall be a Chief Executive Officer for an Anchaik Parishad and the Block Development Officer shall be the *ex officio* Chief Executive Officer:

Staff of the Anchaik Parishad.

Provided that such Block Development Officer shall be recalled by the State Government if a resolution to that effect is passed by the Anchaik Parishad, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members holding office for the time being.

(2) An Anchaik Parishad may appoint such other officers and employees as may be required by it and may fix the salaries to be paid to the persons so appointed:

Provided that no post carrying a monthly salary of rupees two hundred or more shall be created or abolished by the Anchaik Parishad without the approval of the Commissioner.

75. The State Government may place at the disposal of the Anchaik Parishad the services of such officers or other employees serving under it as it may think fit:

Placing the service of State Government officers at the disposal of Anchaik Parishad.

Provided that any such officer or employee shall be recalled by the State Government if a resolution to that effect is passed by the Anchaik Parishad, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members holding office for the time being:

Provided further that the State Government shall have disciplinary control over such officers and employees.

76. (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall exercise general control over all officers and employees of the Anchaik Parishad.

Control and punishment of officials of the Anchaik Parishad.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer may award any punishment other than dismissal, removal or reduction in rank to an officer or employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of less than rupees two hundred but shall not award any punishment to an officer or employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of rupees two hundred or more.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer may recommend the dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of an officer or employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of less than rupees two hundred to the Finance and Establishment Committee and such Committee shall forward the case to the Anchaik Parishad with its own recommendation. The Anchaik Parishad may, if it is satisfied with such recommendation of the Finance and Establishment Committee, dismiss, remove or reduce

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(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter XL—Establishment of the Anchalik Parishad. Sections 77, 78.—Chapter XI f.—Standing Committees of the Anchalik Parishad. Sections 79, SO.)

(4) No officer or other employee holding a post carrying a monthly salary of rupees two hundred or more shall be punished by the *Anchalik Parishad* except by a resolution of the *Anchalik Parishad* passed at a meeting.

Apprtl. 77. (1) An appeal shall lie to the *Anchalik Parishad* against an order of punishment awarded by the Chief Executive Officer under subsection (2) of section 76 within one month from the date of that order.

(2) An appeal shall lie to the Commissioner against an order of punishment awarded by the *Anchalik Parishad* under subsections (3) and (4) of section 76 within one month from the date of that order.

Exercise of powers, etc., by the officers and employees . 78. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules framed thereunder and to any general or special directions given by the State Government in that behalf (the officers and other employees employed by the *Anchalik Parishad* and the officers and other employees whose services have been placed at the disposal of the *Anchalik Parishad* shall exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge such duties as the *Anchalik Parishad* may determine.

CHAPTER XII Standing Committees of

the *Anchalik Parishad*.

Standing Committee of the *Anchalik Parishad*. 79. (1) An *Anchalik Parishad* shall have the following Standing Committees, namely:—

- (i) Finance and Establishment Committee,
- (ii) Public Health Committee,
- (iii) Public Works Committee,
- (iv) Agriculture and Irrigation Committee,
- (v) Industry and Co-operation Committee,
- (vi) Public and Social Welfare Committee,
- (vii) Primary Education Committee, and
- (viii) such other Committee or Committees as it may constitute subject to the approval, or under any general or special directions, of the State Government.

(2) No person [except the President or the Vice-President] shall be a member of more than two Standing Committees.

Consolidation or Standing Committees. 80. (1) A Standing Committee shall consist of the following members:—
(i) five persons to be elected by the members of the *Anchalik Parishad* from among themselves;

These words within the square brackets were inserted by s. 3(16) of the West Bengal

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part III. Anchaik Parishad. Chapter XII.—Standing Committees of the Anchaik Parishad. Sections 81, 82.)

- (ii) not more than two persons being officers of the State Government or of the Anchaik Parishad appointed by the State Government;
Provided that such officers shall not be eligible for election as Chairman of the Standing Committee and shall not have any right to vote;
- (iii) not more than two persons having knowledge of, and experience in, the subjects assigned to a Standing Committee not in a led by the Anchaik Parishad.¹
¹Provided that no person who is disqualified to be a member of the Anchaik Parishad under section 59 shall be so nominated;
- (iv) the President and the Vice-President of the Anchaik Parishad (ex officio).

(2) The members of a Standing Committee shall elect a Chairman [hereof from among themselves:

"Provided that a President of the Anchaik Parishad shall be the ex officio Chairman of the Finance and Establishment Standing Committee.

81. (1) An elected member of a Standing Committee shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be a member of the Anchaik Parishad, whichever is earlier.

(2) An officer appointed as a member under clause (ii) of subsection (1) of section 80 shall hold office until another officer is appointed to replace him.

(3) A nominated member shall hold office for a period of four years:

Provided that a nominated member shall continue in office after the expiry of the said period until a new member is nominated in his place:

Provided further that a nominated member may be removed from office by the State Government at any time before the expiry of the said period on any of the grounds mentioned in sub-section (4) of section 60 in [the manner provided in that sub-section.

82. A Chairman shall hold office for a period of four years or for so long as he continues to be a member of the Standing Committee, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the Chairman shall continue to hold office until a new Chairman is elected and assumes office.

¹For notification relating to appointment for each Anchaik Parishad the officers of the State Government specified as members of the Standing Committees denoted. see notification No. 227/Panch/A6 17/64, dated the 5th June, 1964, published in the Calcutta Gazette of 1964-1, Part I, page 1935.

The proviso was amended by s. 11 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1967 (West Ben. Act XII of 1967).

Clause (in) was added by 3(17)(i) of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads and Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965).

The proviso was substituted for the original proviso by s. 1(17)(k) of the

The proviso was inserted by s. 12 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment) Act.

Term of office of members of Standing Committees,

Term of office of Chairman.

(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter XII.—Standing Committees of the Anchalik Parishad. Section 83.—
Chapter XIII.—
Property, Finance and Taxation.—Sections 84, 85.)

Committees functions and discharge such duties as may be prescribed or as may be

83. A Standing Committee shall exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge such duties as may be assigned to it by the *Anchalik Parishad*.

CHAPTER XIII.

Property, Finance and Taxation.

Works
constructed
by Anchalik
Parishad
shall

84. All roads, buildings or other works constructed by an *Anchalik Parishad* from its Fund shall vest in it.

Works
Fund.

85. (1) For every *Anchalik Parishad* there shall be constituted a fund to be called the *Anchalik Parishad* Fund and there shall be placed to the credit thereof

- (a) contributions and grants, if any, made by the Central or the State Government
- (b) contributions and grants, if any, made by the *Zilla Parishad* or other local authority;
- (c) loans, if any, granted by the Central or the State Government or raised by the *Anchalik Parishad* on security of its assets;
- (d) all receipts on account of tolls, rates and fees levied by it;
- (e) all receipts in respect of any schools, hospitals, dispensaries, buildings, institutions or works, vested in, constructed by or placed under the control and management of, the *Anchalik Parishad*;
- (f) all sums received as gift or contribution and all income from any trust or endowment made in favour of the *Anchalik Parishad*;
- (g) such fines or penalties imposed and realised under the provisions of this Act or of the bye-laws made thereunder, as may be prescribed; and
- (h) all other sums received by or on behalf of the *Anchalik Parishad*.

(2) The *Anchalik Parishad* Fund shall be vested in the *Anchalik Parishad* and the balance standing to the credit of the fund shall be kept in such custody as the State Government may, from time to time, direct.

(3) All orders and cheques for payments from the *Anchalik Parishad* Fund shall be signed by the President of the *Anchalik Parishad* or by any

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(Part III. Anchalik Parishad. Chapter XIII.—Property, Finance and Taxation.—Sections 86-88.)

86. (1) Subject to such maximum rates as the State Government may prescribe, an *Anchalik Parishad* may

Levy or tolls, rates and fees.

- (a) levy tolls on persons, vehicles or animals or any class of them at any toll-bar established by it on any road other than a *hatta* road or any bridge vested in it or under its management;
- (b) levy tolls in respect of any ferry established by it or under its management;
- (c) levy the following fees and rates, namely:—
 - (i) fees on the registration of vehicles;
 - (ii) a fee for providing sanitary arrangements at such places of worship or pilgrimage, fairs and *meas* within its jurisdiction as may be specified by the State Government by notification;
 - (iii) a fee for licence for a *hat* or market held within its jurisdiction;
 - (iv) a fee for licence referred to in sub-section (2) of section 72;
 - (v) a water rate, where arrangement for the supply of water for drinking, irrigation or any other purpose is made by the *Anchalik Parishad* within its jurisdiction;
 - (vi) a lighting rate, where arrangement for lighting of public streets and places is made by the *Anchalik Parishad* within its jurisdiction.

(2) An *Anchalik Parishad* shall not undertake registration of any vehicle or levy fee therefor and shall not provide sanitary arrangements at places of worship or pilgrimages, fairs and *meas* within its jurisdiction or levy fee therefor if such vehicle has already been registered by any other authority under any law for the time being in force or if such provision for sanitary arrangement has already been made by any other local authority.

87. (1) The scales of tolls, fees or rates and the terms and conditions for the imposition thereof shall be such as may be provided by bye-laws.

Scales of tolls, fees or rates may be provided by bye-laws.

(2) Such bye-laws may provide for exemption from all or any of the tolls, fees or rates in any class of cases.

88. An *Anchalik Parishad* shall have power to spend such sums out of its Fund as it thinks fit

- (a) for carrying out the purposes of this Act;
- (b) for providing amenities for its officers and employees; and

Expenditure from the *Anchalik Parishad* Fund.

89. An *Anchaik Parishad* may, subject to the provisions of any law relating to the raising of loans by local authorities, for the time being in force, raise from time to time, with the approval of the State Government, loans for the purposes of this Act, and to create a sinking fund for the repayment of such loans.

Anchaik Parishad may raise loans.

Budget. 90. (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall in each year, before such date as may be prescribed, place before *[his Anchaik Parishad his budget*, which shall be prepared by the Finance and Establishment Committee, showing the probable receipts and expenditure of the following year and the *Anchaik Parishad* shall adopt the budget with such modifications as it may think fit.

(2) The budget so adopted shall be submitted to the *Zilla Parishad* by such date as may be prescribed.

(3) The *Zilla Parishad* may, within such time as may be prescribed, either approve of the budget or return it to the *Anchaik Parishad* for such modifications as it may direct. On such modifications being made the budget shall be resubmitted within such time as may be prescribed for approval to the *Zilla Parishad*. If the approval of the *Zilla Parishad* is not received by the *Anchaik Parishad* by the last date of the year, the budget shall be deemed to be approved by the *Zilla Parishad*.

Supplementary budget. 91. The Finance and Establishment Committee may, if it finds it necessary to do so, prepare a supplementary or revised budget and if such a budget is prepared the provisions of section 90 shall apply.

Accounts unit Audit. 92. (1) An *Anchaik Parishad* shall keep such accounts and submit such statements relating to accounts to the State Government and the *Zilla Parishad* as may be prescribed.

(2) Accounts of receipts and expenditure of every *Anchaik Parishad* shall be maintained in such forms as may be prescribed.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall submit quarterly statements, in such form as may be prescribed, of income and expenditure of the *Anchaik Parishad* to the *Zilla Parishad* with his comments.

(4) The accounts shall be audited as soon as may be after the end of each year by such agency and in such manner as may be prescribed.

(5) An *Anchaik Parishad* shall pay out of the *Anchaik Parishad* Fund such sum as may be determined by the State Government by way of

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(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.— Sections 93-97.)

PART IV

CHAPTER XIV Miscellaneous.

93. No act or proceeding of a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad or of any Standing Committee thereof shall be deemed to be invalid merely by reason of the existence of any vacancy in the Zilla Parishad or Anchalik Parishad or in any Standing Committee thereof, or any defect or irregularity in the constitution of the Zilla Parishad or Anchalik Parishad or any Standing Committee thereof.

Validation.

94. The State Government may, by notification, specify for the purposes of this Act, the community which is in its opinion socially, economically or educationally backward.

95. All members, associate members, officers and employees of the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of the discharge of their duties, or in the exercise of their powers under this Act or under the rules, regulations or bye-laws made thereunder, to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

backward community.

96. No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad or against any member or associate member of such Parishad or of any Standing Committee thereof or any officer or employee of such Parishad for anything in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or of any rules, regulations or bye-laws made thereunder.

Members, officers and employees to be public servant.

Act XLV of 1860.

97. (1) No suit shall be brought against the Zilla Parishad, or Anchalik Parishad or any of its member or associate member or any officer or employee for anything done under this Act or under the rules, regulations or bye-laws made thereunder, until the expiration of one month next after notice in writing, stating the cause of action and the name and place of residence of the person who intends to bring the suit, has been delivered or left at the office of such Parishad and also if the suit is intended to be brought against any officer or employee of such Parishad at the place of residence of such officer or employee.

Indemnity.

(2) Every such suit shall be commenced within three months from the date of service of the notice under sub-section (1) and not afterwards.

(3) No such suit shall lie if any such person to whom notice is given shall, before the suit is commenced, tender sufficient amends to the

No suit to be brought against members of the Zilla Parishad or Anchalik Parishad or their officers or employees until after notice.

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The West Bengal Zilla Parishads Act, 1963.

(West BCD. Act

(Part IV. Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.— Sections 9S-J02.)

Power to
make
compensa-
tion out of
Zilla
Parishad or
Anchalik Pari-
shad Fund.
Reference of
dispute:to
Anchalik
Parishad.

98. The Zilla Parishad or [he Anchalik Parishad may pay compensation out of the Zilla Parishad Fund or Llie Anchalik Parishad Fund, as the case may be, lo any person sustaining any damage by reason of llie exercisc of any of lhc powers conferred by this Act or the rules, regulations or byc-laws made thereunder.

Reference of
disputes to
Zilht
Panshail.

Reference of
disputes lo
Slaic Gove
nunc n l.

99. If any dispute arises between two or more *Anchal Panchayats* or between an *Anchal Panchayat* and any of its constituent *Gram Panchayat* within the jurisdiction of the same *Anchalik Parishad*, it shall be referred to the *Anchalik Parishad* by any party to the dispute. The decision of the *Anchalik Parishad* on such dispute shall be final.

100. If any dispute arises between an *Anchal Panchayat* and an *Anchalik Parishad* or between two or more *Anchalik Parishads* within the jurisdiction of the same *Zilla Parishad*, it shall be referred to the *Zilla Parishad* by any party to the dispute. The decision of the *Zilla Parishad* on such dispute shall be final.

101. If any dispute arises between two or more *Zilla Parishads* or between a *Zilla Parishad* and an *Anchalik Parishad* within its jurisdiction, it shall be referred to the State Government by any party to the dispute. The decision of the State Government on such dispute shall be final.

Disputes at 102. (1) If any dispute arises as to the validity of an election under Section 102, E. E.

this Act, any person entitled to vote at such election may, within thirty days after the date of the declaration of the result of such election, file a petition, calling in question such election, before the District Judge of the district within which the election has been held and shall at the same time deposit rupees two hundred in court as security for the costs likely to be incurred:

Provided that the District Judge may transfer such petition to any judicial officer subordinate to him and not below the rank of Subordinate Judge, and the District Judge or such judicial officer (hereinafter referred to as the Judge) may hold such inquiry as he deems necessary.

(2) The procedure to be followed by the Judge including all matters relating to the filing of such petition shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The Judge shall have all the powers of a Civil Court for the purposes of receiving evidence, administering oath, enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the discovery and production of

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.—Sections 103-106.)

(4) The decision of the Judge shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court.

103. Any officer of the State Government authorised by the State Government in this behalf, shall be entitled to attend meetings of the *Zilla Parishad* or the *Anchaliik Parishad*, as the case may be, and of any Standing Committee thereof, for the purpose of furnishing facts, information, and technical advice but shall not be entitled to vote at any such meeting.

Power of State Government Officers to attend meetings.

104. (1) The Commissioner or any other officer not below the rank of a Deputy Collector, authorised by the State Government in this behalf, may at any time

- (a) call for and inspect any document which may be in the possession of a *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaliik Parishad*;
- (b) require a *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaliik Parishad* to furnish such information as he may think necessary;
- (c) inspect the office of a *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaliik Parishad* or any institution maintained by or under the control of a *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaliik Parishad*, and also inspect any records, registers or any other document maintained by such institution.

Inspection by the Commissioner.

(2) When an inspection is undertaken under clause (c) of subsection (1), a report of such inspection shall be submitted to the State Government.

105. The State Government may, by notification, delegate subject to such conditions as it may specify all or any of its powers under this Act except the powers mentioned in sections 9, 12, 57, 60, 107, 108, 112, 116 and 117 to any person or authority subordinate to it.

106. (1) The State Government may transfer any institution or work under its management or control to a *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaliik Parishad*, and a *Zilla Parishad* may transfer any institution or work under its management or control to any *Anchaliik Parishad*, *Anchal Panchayat* or *Gram Panchayat*, subject to such conditions, limitations and restrictions as may be agreed upon.

Delegation.

(2) When any institution is transferred under subsection (1)

- (a) by the State Government to a *Zilla Parishad* or to an *Anchaliik Parishad*, or
 - (b) by a *Zilla Parishad* to any *Anchaliik Parishad*, *Anchal Panchayat* or *Gram Panchayat*,
- persons employed by the State Government, or the *Zilla Parishad* in

Transfer of institution and works.

(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.— Sections 107-109.)

deemed to be employed by the Zilla Parishad or Anchalik Parishad or Anchal Panchayat or Grain Panchayat. In which such institution is transferred, on terms and conditions, not less advantageous than what they were entitled to immediately before such transfer.

107. (1) The State Government may by order in writing rescind any resolution passed by a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad or any Standing Committee thereof, if in its opinion such resolution—

- Power of State Government to rescind resolutions of Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad or any Standing Committee.
- (a) has not been legally passed, or
 - (b) is in excess or abuse of the powers conferred by or under this Act or any rules made thereunder, or
 - (c) is likely to cause, if executed, danger to human life, health, or safety or is likely to lead to a breach of the peace.

(2) The State Government shall, before taking any action under subsection (1), give the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad, as the case may be, an opportunity of making any representation against the proposed order.

108. (1) If, in the opinion of the State Government, a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad—

- Power of State Government to supersede Zilla Parishad or Anchalik Parishad.
- (a) has shown its incompetence to perform or has persistently made default in the performance of the duties or exercise of the functions imposed on it by or under this Act or by any other law, or
 - (b) has exceeded or abused its powers,

the State Government may by an order to be published in the *Official Gazette* stating the reasons therefor, supersede the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad, as the case may be, for such period, not exceeding the maximum period of two years, as may be specified in the order:

Provided that the State Government shall before taking any action under sub-section (1) give the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad, as the case may be, an opportunity of making any representation against the proposed order.

(2) The State Government may, by order to be published in the *Official Gazette*, subject to the maximum period of two years mentioned in sub-section (1), extend or modify the period of supersession if it considers it necessary so to do,

109. (1) When an order of supersession has been passed under section 108 then with effect from the date of the order—

- (a) all the members and associate members of the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad, as the case may be, and all the members of the Standing Committee thereof shall vacate their

Consequence of supersession.

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.—
Section 109A.)

(b) all the powers, duties and functions which, under the provisions of this Act or any rule, bye-law or regulation made thereunder or any law for the time being in force, may be exercised, discharged or performed by the Zilla Parishad or the Anchaiik Parishad or any Standing Committee thereof, shall be exercised, discharged or performed by such person, to be called the Administrator, as may be appointed by the State Government in this behalf:

Provided that such Administrator may delegate any of his powers, duties or functions to any officer or other employee of the Zilla Parishad or the Anchaiik Parishad, as the case may be,

(2) The State Government shall fix the remuneration of the Administrator and may direct that such remuneration shall be paid from the Zilla Parishad Fund or the Anchaiik Parishad Fund, as the case may be.

(3) All property vested in such Zilla Parishad or Anchaiik Parishad, as the case may be, shall vest in the State Government during the period of supersession.

(4) The State Government may by order to be published in the Official Gazette re-establish the Zilla Parishad or the Anchaiik Parishad, as the case may be.

(5) On the expiry of the period of supersession the Administrator shall cease to exercise his functions.

(6) Nothing contained in the foregoing provisions of this section shall affect the provisions of section 38 and the District School Board shall continue to function as the Primary Education Committee of the Zilla Parishad.

¹109 A. (1) Where by reason of any judgment, decree or order of a competent Court holding the constitution of a Zilla Parishad or an Anchaiik Parishad to have become defective or for any other reason a Zilla Parishad or an Anchaiik Parishad is unable to function until it is reconstituted in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, appoint a person to act as the Administrator for the Zilla Parishad or the Anchaiik Parishad, as the case may be.

¹Section 109A was inserted by s. 2 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Amendment)

Appointment
of an
Administrator
where Zilla
Parishad or
Anchaiik
Parishad
is unable to
function for
defect of
constitution,
etc.

(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.— Sections 110, III.)

(2) When an order has been made under sub-section (1) appointing an Administrator in respect of a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad, then with effect from the date of the order

- (a) all members and associate members of the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad and members of the Standing Committees thereof shall vacate their respective offices;
- (b) all the powers, duties and functions which may by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, be exercised and performed by the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad or any Standing Committee thereof or by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Zilla Parishad or the President or Vice-President of the Anchalik Parishad shall be exercised and performed by the Administrator in such manner and under such conditions as the State Government may direct.

(3) The appointment of an Administrator under sub-section (1) in respect of a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad shall be final on the completion of the reconstitution of the Zilla Parishad or the Anchalik Parishad, as the case may be.

(4) The State Government may fix a remuneration for the Administrator appointed under sub-section (1) and direct that such remuneration shall be paid from the Zilla Parishad Fund or the Anchalik Parishad Fund, as the case may be.

110. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, the period of limitation for the institution of any suit by or on behalf of a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad for the possession of any immovable property vested in such Parishad from which it has been dispossessed or of which it has ceased to have possession shall be sixty years from the date of dispossession or discontinuance.

Period of limitation suits by Zilla Parishad or Anchalik Parishad.

IX of 1908.

111. With effect from the date specified in the notification issued under sub-section (1) of section 3, in the district referred to in the said notification

Repealed and amended.

- (a) the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 shall stand repealed;
- (b) all properties, movable or immovable, and all assets of the District Board, shall vest in the Zilla Parishad of the district;
- (c) **all rights acquired, all debts and obligations incurred, all matters and things engaged to be done, before the establishment of the Zilla Parishad, by the District Board shall be deemed to have been acquired, incurred or engaged**

Ben. Act 1 of 1963.

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XXXV OF 1963.]

(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.—Section 112.)

- (d) all suits or other legal proceedings instituted or which might but for the establishment of the *Zilla Parishad* have been instituted by or against the District Board may be continued or instituted by or against the *Zilla Parishad* of the district and in all such suits or other legal proceedings pending immediately before such establishment, the *Zilla Parishad* shall stand substituted in place of the District Board;
- (e) any scheme prepared by or anything done or any action taken by or in favour of the District Board shall be deemed to have been prepared by or done or taken by or in favour of the *Zilla Parishad* of the district;
- (f) persons employed by the District Board and continuing in office immediately before the establishment of the *Zilla Parishad* shall be deemed to be employed by the *Zilla Parishad* of the district on such terms and conditions, not being less advantageous than what they were entitled to immediately before such establishment, as may be determined by the *Zilla Parishad*;
- (g) all rules, orders, bye-laws and notifications made or issued before the commencement of this Act from time to time under the provisions of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885, applicable to the District Board and continuing in force immediately before the establishment of the *Zilla Parishad* shall, after such establishment, continue in force in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act until they are repealed or amended.

112. (1) The State Government may, after previous publication, make Rules, rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(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:

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- (a) any matter for which power to make provision is conferred expressly or by implication on the State Government by this Act;
- (b) the establishment of the *Zilla Parishad* and the *Anchaliik Parishad*;
- (c) the manner of giving notice of resignation by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or a member of the *Zilla Parishad* and the President, Vice-President or a member of the *Anchaliik Parishad*;
- (d) qualifications, recruitment, scales of pay, conditions of service of all or any of the categories of officers or other employees of the *Zilla Parishad* or the *Anchaliik Parishad*.

*(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.—
Section 113.)*

- (c) the framing of budget of [the *Zilla Parishad* and of the *Anchaitik Parishad*;
- (1) the keeping of accounts of the *Zilla Parishad* and of the *Anchaitik Parishad*;
- (g) the raising of loans;
- (h) the calling and holding of meetings of the *Zilla Parishad* or the *Anchaitik Parishad* and the conduct of business at such meetings; and
- (i) the payment of allowances, if any, to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the *Zilla Parishad* and to the President, Vice-President and members of the *Anchaitik Parishad*;
- (j) any other matter which may be, or is required to be, prescribed.
- (3) All rules made under this Act shall be published in the *Official Gazette* and shall, unless some later date is appointed by the State Government, come into force on the date of such publication.
- (4) All rules made under this Act shall be laid for not less than fourteen days before the State Legislature as soon as possible after they are made and shall be subject to such modification as the State Legislature may make during the session in which they are so laid. Any modification of the said rules made by the State Legislature shall be published in the *Official Gazette*, and shall, unless some later date is appointed by the State Government, come into force on the date of such publication.

Regulations 113. (1) A *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaitik Parishad* may, with the bye-laws, previous approval of the State Government, make regulations which may provide for

- (a) the calling and holding of meetings of the *Zilla Parishad* or the *Anchaitik Parishad*, the procedure to be followed in the meetings and the conduct of business at meetings;
- (b) qualifications of officers and employees and the methods of recruitment, conditions of service and discipline of such officers and employees including provisions for Provident Fund, gratuity and advances to the employees.

(2) A *Zilla Parishad* or an *Anchaitik Parishad* may, with the previous approval of the State Government, make bye-laws for carrying out the purposes of this Act other than those mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) or **subsection (1)**.

(3) The State Government may, by notification, rescind any regulation or bye-law and thereupon such regulation or bye-law shall cease to have effect.

¹Clause (j) was inserted by s. 3(18) of the Vital Bengal Panchayat and Zilla Parishad (Amendment) Act, 1965 (West Ben. Act XXVII of 1965).

XXXV of 1963.]

(Part IV.—Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.—Sections 114-118 and First Schedule.)

(4) In making a bye-law under sub-section (2), a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad may provide that a breach of the same shall be punished with fine which may extend to rupees one hundred, and in the case of a continuing breach with a further fine which may extend to rupees ten for every day during which the breach is continued after the offender has been convicted of such breach.

114. Prosecutions under this Act for breach of bye-laws may be instituted by a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad or by any person authorised by such Parishad in this behalf.

Prosecution.

115. All arrears of taxes, and rates leviable by a Zilla Parishad or an Anchalik Parishad under this Act shall, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery, be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

Recovery of arrears of land revenue.

116. In the discharge of their functions the Zilla Parishad and the Anchalik Parishad shall be guided by such instructions or directions as may be given to them by the State Government from time to time.

Directions by State Government.

117. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may take such steps or issue such orders, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing such difficulty.

Provision for removing difficulty.

118. On the establishment of a Zilla Parishad in any district the enactments specified in column 3 of the Second Schedule shall stand amended within the territorial limits of the said district to the extent and in the manner specified in column 4 (hereof)

Amendment of the Cess Act, 1880 and the Benami (Rural) Primary Election Act, 1930.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

(See section 14.)

Form of oath or affirmation to be made by a member of a Zilla Parishad.

I, A. B., being an ex-officio member or having been elected member of the Zilla Parishad 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

(Second Schedule.)

SECOND

SCHEDULE, I

Enactments amended.
(Section 118.)

Year. No.	Short title.	Extent of amendment.
12	3	4
1880 IX	The Cess Act, 1880.	1. In section 4,— (a) the definitions of "District Board" and "District Fund" shall be omitted, (b) after the definition of "Year", the following definitions shall be added, namely:— "Zilla Parishad" means a Zilla Parishad established under section 3 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads Act, 1963. "Zilla Parishad Fund" means the fund constituted under section 40 of the West Bengal Zilla Parishads Act, 1963. 2. For the words "District Board", wherever they occur, the words "Zilla Parishad" shall be substituted. 3. For the second paragraph of clause secondly of section 109, the following paragraph shall be substituted, namely:— "And the balance, after payment of such expenses, shall be credited to the Zilla Parishad Fund of the district."
1930 VII	The Bengal (Rural) Act, 1930.	1. For the words "District Primary Education Board", wherever they occur, the words "Zilla Parishad" shall be substituted. 2. Section 20 shall be omitted.

For the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill and the Financial Memorandum accompanying it, see the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of the 13th December, 1962, Part IVA, page 3862; the report of the Joint Committee of the West Bengal Legislature was published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of the 17th July, 1963, Part IVA, pages 10-19-2104; for proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, see the proceedings or the meetings of the Assembly held on the 7th January, 24th, 25th, 26th.

29th, 30th and the 31st July and the 1st and 2nd August, 1963; and for proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Council, see the proceedings of the meetings of that Council held on the 9th January and the 5th, 9th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd August, 1961.

The 25th March, 1964 was appointed as the date on which all the provisions of the Act came into force in the whole of West Bengal. *Vide* notification No. 940/Panch/B-4/63, dated the 21st March, 1964, published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, dated the 23rd