



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্ব দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT:::LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

NOTIFICATION

The 19th October, 2020

No. LGL.57/2020/7.— The following Act of the Assam Legislative Assembly which received the assent of the Governor on 12th October, 2020 is hereby published for general information.

ASSAM ACT NO. XXV OF 2020

(Received the assent of the Governor on 12th October, 2020)

THE KAMATAPUR AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL ACT, 2020

AN ACT

to provide for the establishment of an administrative authority in the name and style of the Kamatapur Autonomous Council and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

Preamble

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the establishment of a Kamatapur Autonomous Council within the State of Assam within the framework of the Constitution of India, comprising of Koch Rajbongshi Community dominated villages of Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon and South Salmara District excluding the Bodoland Territorial Council and Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council areas for social, economic, educational, ethnic and cultural advancement of the Koch Rajbongshi Community residing therein:

It is hereby enacted in the Seventy- first Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

CHAPTER - I PRELIMINARY

Short title, extent and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be called the Kamatapur Autonomous Council Act, 2020.
- (2) It extends to the Koch Rajbongshi community dominated villages of the districts of Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon and South Salmara District excluding the Bodoland Territorial Council and Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council areas.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act or different areas.

Definition

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
 - (a) "bye-laws" means the bye-law framed by the General Council;
 - (b) "Constitution" means the Constitution of India;
 - (c) "Constituency" means the constituency referred to in section 30;
 - (d) "Council Area" means the Kamatapur Autonomous Council Area;
 - (e) "Executive Council" means the executive body of the General Council of the Kamatapur Autonomous Council Constituted under section 5 (3);
 - (f) "Elector" in relation to a constituency means a person whose name is entered in the electoral roll of that constituency;
 - (g) "General Council Fund" means the fund constituted under section 43;
 - (h) "Government" means the State Government of Assam;

- (i) "Governor" means the Governor of Assam;
- (j) "General Council" means the General Council of the Kamatapur Autonomous Council referred to in section 3;
- (k) "Member" means a member of the General Council or the Executive Council, as the case may be;
- (l) "Notification" means the notification issued under this Act;
- (m) "Official Gazette" means the Official Gazette of Assam;
- (n) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (o) "Council Areas" means the area or areas consisting of villages with 50% or more population therein belonging to Koch Rajbongshi Community notified by the State Government as Council area under this Act;
- (p) "Village" means a census village or not falling within any notified urban or town area, predominantly inhabited by Koch Rajbongshi Community comprising 50% and above and notified as village under this Act;
- (q) "Commission" means the Assam State Election Commission.

**Kamatapur
Autonomous
Council**

3. (1) There shall be an Autonomous Council to be called the Kamatapur Autonomous Council within the State of Assam comprising of the Koch Rajbongshi community dominated areas of the villages of Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon and South Salmara District excluding the Bodoland Territorial Council and Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council areas as may be notified by the Government in the Official Gazette.
- (2) The Kamatapur Autonomous Council shall have a General Council and an Executive Council as provided hereinafter.

**CHAPTER -II
THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**Incorporation of
the General
Council**

4. The General Council shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with powers to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to contract and shall sue or be sued by its corporate name.

**Constitution of
the General
Council**

5. (1) The General Council shall consist of 30 (thirty) members out of which 26 (twenty-six) shall be directly elected and 4 (four) shall be nominated by the Government of Assam with the concurrence of the Kamatapur Autonomous Council from amongst the group of communities residing in the Council area and not otherwise represented in it. Out of 26 seats, 20 shall be reserved for Koch Rajbongshi community, 5 seats shall be reserved for women and 1 for General category.
- (2) Every member of the General Council shall be entitled to such allowances as may be fixed by the General Council and approved by the Government.
- (3) The elected members of the General Council shall, at the first meeting to be convened by an officer authorized by the

Government after the election for the purpose of constitution of the Executive Council, elect from amongst themselves by a secret ballot one of the members to be Chairman of the meeting to conduct the proceeding where he shall also cast his vote and elect from amongst themselves in the manner prescribed:-

- (a) One member to be the Chairman ;
- (b) One member to be the Deputy Chairman;
- (c) One Chief Executive Councilor of the Executive Council;
- (d) As many Executive Councilor as may be decided by the General Council, but not exceeding one third of the total number of members of the General Council.

Term of Office

6. (1) The term of office of the General Council shall be five years from the date of the first meeting after the election of members in accordance with provisions of section 5 (3), unless dissolved earlier under section 49.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) above, the Chief Executive Councilor or the Executive Councilors shall cease to hold office as such forthwith if he, for any reason, ceases to be a member.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) the Governor may, if he is satisfied that circumstances so exist which render the holding of the election, as provided, impracticable, extend the term for a period not exceeding one year.

Resignation of Members of the General Council

7. (1) Any member of the General Council may, at any time, by giving notice in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Councilor, resign his office:

Provided that in case of the Chief Executive Councilor, the notice shall be addressed to any of the Executive Councilors.

- (2) Such resignation shall take effect from such date as specified in the notice or if no such date is specified, from the date of its receipt by the office bearer addressed.

Removal of Members of the General Council

8. (1) The Chief Executive Councilor or the Executive Councilors or any one of them or all of them may be removed from office by a resolution carried by a majority of the total number of the elected members at a special meeting of the General Council called for the purpose upon a requisition made in writing by not less than one third of the members of the General Council.

- (2) The Government, after giving an opportunity to an elected member of the General Council to show cause against the action proposed to be taken against him and after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard, may by order, remove him from the office, if he,-

- (a) after his election, is convicted by a criminal court of an offence involving moral turpitude punishable with imprisonment for any period exceeding six months, or

- (b) incurs any of the disqualifications mentioned in section 36 after his election as member of the General Council, or
- (c) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the General Council.
- (3) Any member of the General Council who is removed from the office under sub-section (2) above, may within thirty days from the date of the order, appeal to such Judicial Authority as the Government may prescribe and the authority so prescribed after admitting an appeal may, after complying with the normal and fundamental principles of judicial proceedings, pass such order or orders either confirming or modifying or setting aside the order appealed against and pending the final disposal of the appeal may pass such other interlocutory order or orders including stay of operation of the order appealed against.
- (4) The order, passed, by the Judicial Authority referred to in sub-section (3) above, on such appeal shall be final.
- Salaries, allowances and other emoluments**
9. (1) The Chief Executive Councilor and the Executive Councilors shall be whole time functionaries and shall be paid honorarium and other allowances out of the General Council Fund as may be prescribed.
- (2) The other term and conditions of service of the Chief Executive Councilor and the Executive Councilors shall be such as may be prescribed.
- Filling up of vacancies**
10. (1) Where the office of any member falls vacant by reason of his death, resignation, removal or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled up by election in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules framed thereunder:
- Provided that any vacancy in the office of the Chief Executive Councilor or the Executive Councilors shall be filled up by the General Council by electing a member thereof in the manner prescribed for the election of the Chief Executive Councilor or the Executive Councilors, as the case may be.
- (2) Any member elected in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) above, shall hold such office only for the remainder of the term of the General Council or the period extended under sub-section (3) of section 6.
- Powers, functions and duties of the Chief Executive Councilor**
11. The Chief Executive Councilor shall --
- (a) be responsible for the maintenance of the records of the General Council;
- (b) have general responsibility for the financial and executive administration of the General Council;
- (c) exercise administrative supervision and control over the officers and employees of the General Council and the officers and employees whose services may be placed at the disposal of the General Council by the Government;

- (d) for transaction of business under this Act or for the purpose of making any order under this Act, exercise such powers, perform such functions and discharge such duties as may be exercised, performed or discharged by the General Council under this Act or the rules made thereunder:

Provided that the Chief Executive Councilor 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 General Council at a meeting;

- (e) exercise such other powers, perform such other duties as the General Council may, by general or special resolution, direct or as the Government may, by rules made in this behalf, prescribe.

**Meeting of the
General Council**

12. (1) The General Council shall meet at least once in every three months for transaction of its business.

- (2) The meeting of the General Council shall be held at the headquarter of the Kamatapur Autonomous Council at such time as may be notified by the Chief Executive Councilor:

Provided that the first meeting of the General Council after the election shall be held on such date as may be appointed by the Government.

**Oath of
affirmation by
members**

13. Every member of the General Council shall before taking his seat, make and subscribe before such person as may be appointed by the Governor in this behalf an oath or affirmation in the manner and forms as may be prescribed.

Quorum

14. The quorum necessary for transaction of business at a meeting of the General Council shall be one third of the members and the decision of the General Council shall be by a single majority of votes of the members present.

**Head Quarter of
the General
Council**

15. The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare any place within the Council Area to be the head quarter of the General Council.

**Secretariat of
the Kamatapur
Autonomous
Council**

16. (1) There shall be a Secretariat for the Kamatapur Autonomous Council at the head-quarter of the General Council headed by a Principal Secretary to be appointed by the Government in consultation with the Chief Executive Councilor.

- (2) The Principal Secretary shall be the Principal Executive Officer of the General Council and all other officers of the General Council shall be subordinate to him.

- (3) The Principal Secretary shall be present and take part in the discussion of all the meeting of the General Council or the Executive Council or any committee of the General Council and may, with the consent of the Chief Executive Councilor or any other person presiding over such meeting for the time being, as the case may be, at any time make a statement or give explanation of the facts and circumstances but shall not be entitled to vote in any such meeting.

- (4) The Principal Secretary and the other officers of the Secretariat shall be paid out of the General Council Fund.
- (5) The term of appointment of the Principal Secretary shall be for a period of three years but may be extended by the Government in consultation with the Chief Executive Councilor.
- (6) The Government may appoint such officers for the General Council on such terms and conditions as the Government may, in consultation with the Chief Executive Councilor, determine.
- (7) The Government may, in consultation with the Chief Executive Councilor, depute such other officers or experts, as may be required to assist the General Council on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Government.
- (8) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5) above, the Government may, at any time in consultation with the Chief Executive Councilor, withdraw the Principal Secretary or any other officer posted or appointed by it in the secretariat.

CHAPTER - III

Subjects to be under control and administration of the General Council

17. Subject to any Central and State law for the time being in force, the General Council shall have executive powers in relation to the Council Area over the following subjects:-

- (1) Cottage Industry ;
- (2) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary;
- (3) Agriculture ;
- (4) Rural Roads and Bridges other than those taken up under PMGSY ;
- (5) Sericulture;
- (6) Education;
- (a) Adult Education ,
- (b) Primary Education,
- (c) Up to Higher Secondary including vocational training;
- (7) Cultural Affairs;
- (8) Soil conservation ;
- (9) Co-operation;
- (10) Fisheries ;
- (11) Handloom and Textile;
- (12) Minor Irrigation;
- (13) Social Welfare;
- (14) Sports and Youth Welfare;
- (15) Museum and Archaeology;
- (16) Tourism;
- (17) Market and Fair;
- (18) Any other matters connected with development as may be entrusted from time to time.

Other matters to be under the control of administration of the General Council

18. Subject to the general policy of the Government, the General Council shall--
 - (1) formulate integrated development plans for the Council Area;
 - (2) implement schemes and programmes for the development of the Council Area;

**Powers to
impose, levy and
collect taxes**

- (3) have powers to regulate trade and commerce within the council area in accordance with the existing laws.
19. (1) Subject to such maximum rates as the Government may prescribe, the General Council shall,-
- (a) levy tolls on persons, vehicles or animals of any class, for the use of any bridge or road other than kacha road, or ferry constructed or established and managed by it;
 - (b) levy the following fees and rates, namely:-
 - (i) fees on the registration of boats or vehicles;
 - (ii) fees for providing sanitary arrangements at such places of worship, pilgrimage, fairs, melas, other public places within the Council Area as may be specified by the Government by notification in the Official Gazette;
 - (iii) fees, for Licenses;
 - (iv) water rates, where arrangements for irrigation or drinking water is made by it within the Council Area;
 - (v) lighting rate where arrangements for lighting of public street or places are made by it within the Council Area.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of sub-section (1), the General Council shall not undertake registration of any vehicle or levy any fee in respect thereof and shall not provide sanitary arrangements at places of worship, pilgrimage, fairs, melas or other public places within the Council Area or levy any fees in respect thereof, if such vehicle has already been registered by any other authority under the law for the time being in force, or if such provisions for sanitary arrangements has already been made by the Government or any other local authority.
- (3) The collection of tolls, fees or rates and the terms and conditions for the imposition thereof shall be such as may be prescribed by-laws. Such by-laws may, inter-alia, provide for exemption from all or any class of cases.

**Power to entrust
functions**

20. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Government may, in consultation with the General Council, entrust either conditionally or without any condition, to the General Council or their officers any function in relation to any matter not enumerated in section 17 to which the executive power of the Government extends.

**Power to
acquire, hold
and dispose of
property**

21. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 4, the General Council, subject to the previous approval of the Government and subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the Government, shall have the power to acquire, hold or dispose of any immovable property or movable property the value of which exceeds rupees one lakh and to enter into any contract or agreement with any party or authority.

**Power to make
Bye-laws**

22. (1) The General Council may, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder and subject to the approval of the Government, make bye-laws to be applicable within the council area with respect to all or any

of the matters enumerated in sections 17 and 18 for the regulation, control and administration thereof.

- (2) All bye-laws made under sub-section (1) above, shall have effect upon their publication in the Official Gazette.

CHAPTER - IV THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Executive Council

23. (a) The Executive Council shall consist of the Chief Executive Councilor and Executive Councilors elected in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 5.

- (b) The Chief Executive Councilor shall be the Chairman of the Executive Council and shall preside over the meetings thereof.

- (c) Any casual vacancy among the members of the Executive Council occurring by reasons of death, resignation removal or otherwise shall be filled through election by the members of the General Council in the same manner as provided in sub section (3) of section 5:

Provided that no Act or proceeding of the Executive Council shall be called in question or shall become invalid merely by reason of any vacancy among its members.

- (d) The manner of transaction of business of the Executive Council shall be such as may be determined by the General Council by bye-laws made by it with the approval of the Government.

- (e) The Executive Council shall be collectively responsible to the General Council.

Term of Office of the Executive Council

24. A member of the Executive Council shall hold office until he—

- (1) ceases to be a member of the General Council, or
(2) resigns his office in writing under his hand addressed to the Chief Executive Councilor in which case the resignation shall take effect from the date of acceptance thereof:

Provided that in case of the Chief Executive Councilor, the resignation shall be addressed to any one of the Executive Councilors.

Powers and Functions of the Executive Council

25. (1) The executive powers of the General Council shall vest in the Executive Council.

- (2) All orders or instructions made or executed by the Executive Council shall be deemed to have been made or executed by or under the authority of the General Council.

- (3) Every order made or instruction issued or resolution passed by the General Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chief Executive Councilor, or in his absence, by any one of the Executive Councilors.

General Powers of the Chief Executive Councilor

26. (1) The Chief Executive Councilor shall be the Chief of the Kamatapur Autonomous Council and shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are conferred on him by or under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

- (2) The Chief Executive Councilor shall, for the smooth and convenient transaction of business of the Executive Council, allocate among the Executive Councilors such business in such manner as he may deem fit.

**Special Power of
the Chief
Executive
Councilor**

27. (1) The Executive Council may, in cases where the Chief Councilor is required to take in accordance with the provisions of this Act or Rules made thereunder, or any other law for the time being in force, any action subject to the approval of the Executive Council by a general or special resolution, authorize the Chief Executive Councilor to take such action subject to such condition, if any, as may be specified therein, in anticipation of such approval.

- (2) Whenever the Chief Executive Councilor takes any action under sub-section (1) above, he shall inform the Executive Council forthwith and shall obtain the approval thereof.

**Meeting of the
Executive
Council**

28. (1) The Executive Council shall meet at least once in every three months for transaction of its business at such place and time as the Chief Executive Councilor may direct.

- (2) The meeting shall be convened by the Chief Executive Councilor by giving seven clear days notice in writing to each member of the Executive Council.

Quorum

29. The quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of the Executive Council shall be one-third of the total strength of the Executive Councilors. The meeting shall be conducted by the Chief Executive Councilors by giving 7 (seven) days clear notice in writing to each member of the Executive Council.

**CHAPTER-V
ELECTION**

Delimitation

30. (1) There shall be 26 (twenty six) constituencies in the Council Area for electing members to the General Council. Each constituency shall be a single member constituency.

- (2) The Government shall, by order published in the Official Gazette, determine the territorial limits of the constituencies into which the council area shall be delimited for the purpose of election of members to the General Council.

**Power to amend
or alter
delimitation**

31. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 30 above, the Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, alter or amend the order made under section 30:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the commencement of the election process.

Electoral Rolls

32. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, so much of the electoral roll for the assembly constituency in force on the last date of nomination, as is relatable to a General Council constituency, as defined in clause (b) of section 2, shall be the electoral roll for that General Council constituency.

(2) Persons, whose names are included in the electoral roll as aforesaid in sub-section (1), shall be the electorate for the election of members of the General Council.

(3) The Commission shall, at the time and in the manner prescribed, cause to be published the electoral roll in respect of a constituency.

Right to Vote

33. (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act every person whose name is entered in the electoral roll for the time being in force, of any constituency, shall be entitled to vote in that constituency;

(2) No person shall vote at an election in any constituency, if he is subject to any of the disqualification referred to in section 10 of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951;

(3) No person shall vote in more than one constituency;

(4) No person shall vote in the same constituency more than once;

(5) No person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or otherwise or in the lawful custody of police:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to a person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time going in force.

Election of Members

34. Election of members for the purpose of constituting the General Council shall be held on such date or dates as may be notified by the Commission in consultation with the Government.

Qualification for membership of Village Council or General Council

35. A person shall be qualified to be elected to the General Council if he is an elector as defined in clause (e) of section 2.

Disqualification for membership of General Council

36. A person shall not be qualified for being elected to the General Council, if—

- (a) he is not a citizen of India;
- (b) he is less than 18 years of age on such date as may be fixed by the Government;
- (c) he has been elected to any Municipality or Panchayat within the State of Assam;
- (d) he is in service of the Central or State Government, Municipality or other authority; or

(e) he has either directly or indirectly by himself or by the person or employer or employee, any share or interest in any contract with, by or on behalf of the village council, General Council or a Municipality or Panchayat within the Council Area:

Provided that no person shall be deemed to be so disqualified by reason only of his having a share or interest in a public company, as defined in the Companies Act, 2013, which contracts with or is employed by a Municipal Authority or Panchayat within the Council Area; or

Central Act
43 of 1951

Central Act
18 of 2013

(f) he has been dismissed from the services of the Central or State Government or a local authority or a Co-operative Society or a Government company as defined in the Companies Act, 2013 or a Corporation owned or controlled by the Central or the State Government for misconduct involving moral turpitude and five years have not elapsed from the date of such dismissal ;

Central Act
18 of 2013

(g) he has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or

(h) he has been convicted by a court of an offence involving moral turpitude punishable with imprisonment for a period of more than six months or an offence under Chapter IX-A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 or Chapter-III, Part III or Part VII or the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 and five years have not elapsed from the date of expiration of the sentence:

Central Act
45 of 1860
Central Act
No. 43 of
1951

Provided that a person shall not be disqualified under this section, by reason only of his being a Member, Chief Executive Councilor or Executive Councilor of the General Council.

Filling up of vacancies

37. Where the office of any member becomes vacant by reason of his death, resignation, removal or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled up by election in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

Validation

38. Where the members elected at an election are restrained from functioning on account of the election as a whole being set aside by order of a court, anything done or any Action taken by such members before they are so restrained or before the election is so set aside, as the case may be, shall be deemed to have been validly done or taken.

Publication of results of elections

39. The names of all persons elected to the General Council shall be published by the Commission in the Official Gazette and upon such publication, the General Council shall be deemed to have been duly constituted.

Vacation of post

40. If an elected member is chosen to be a Member of Parliament or the State Legislature, then at the expiration of fourteen days from the date of publication in the Gazette of India or the Official Gazette, as the case may be, of the declaration that he has been so chosen the seat of such member in the General Council, shall become vacant unless he has previously resigned his seat in the Parliament or the State Legislature.

Disputes regarding elections

41. (1) No election shall be called in question except by an election petition presented in such manner as may be prescribed and before such authority as may be appointed by the Government, from time to time by notification in the Official Gazette:

Provided that no person below the rank of District Judge, within the meaning of Article 236 of the Constitution, shall be appointed for the purpose.

(2) No election shall be called into question except on any one or more of the following grounds, namely:—

(a) That on the date of his election, the returned candidate was not qualified or disqualified, to be chosen to fill the seat in the General Council, as the case may be.

(b) That corrupt practice has been committed by a returned candidate or his election agent or by any other person with the consent of the returned candidate or his election agent.

Explanation :- For the purposes of this clause, corrupt practice shall mean any of the corrupt practices specified in section 123 of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951.

Central Act
43 of 1951

(c) That any nomination has been improperly rejected.

(d) That the result of the election in so far as it concerns the returned candidate has been materially affected,—

(i) by the improper acceptance of any nomination, or

(ii) by any corrupt practice committed in the interest of the returned candidate by an agent other than his election agent, or

(iii) by improper reception, refusal or rejection of any vote, or

(iv) by reception of any vote which is void, or

(v) by any non-compliance with the provisions of this Act, or of any rules or order made thereunder.

(3) At the conclusion of trial of any election petition, the authority appointed under sub-section (1) shall make an order,—

(a) dismissing the election petition, or

(b) declaring the election of all or any of the returned candidates to be void, or

(c) declaring the election of all or any of the returned candidates to be void and the petitioner or any other candidate to have been duly elected.

(4) If a petitioner, in addition to calling in question the election of a returned candidate, make a declaration that he himself or any other candidate has been duly elected and the authority under sub-section (1) is of the opinion that,—

(a) in fact the petitioner or such other candidate has received the majority votes, or

(b) but for the votes obtained by the returned candidate by corrupt practice, the petitioner or such other candidate would have obtained the majority of the valid votes the authority as aforesaid shall, after declaring the election of the returned candidate to be void, declare the petitioner or such other candidate, as the case may be, to have been duly elected.

**Powers to make
rules regulating
the election of
the members**

42. The Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to regulate all or any of the following matters for the purpose of holding election to the General Council under this Act,—

(a) The designation of the officer or authority to whom the power to determine the territorial limits of the constituencies under section 30 may be delegated, and maintain the electoral roll under section 32;

- (b) The appointment of returning officers, presiding officers and Polling Officers for Election;
- (c) The drawing up of programme for election;
- (d) The nomination of candidates and security of nominations;
- (e) The deposits to be made by the candidates and the time and manner of making such deposits;
- (f) Withdrawal of Candidature;
- (g) Appointment of agents of candidates;
- (h) The filling up of casual vacancies;
- (i) The general procedure at the election including the time, place and hours of poll and the methods by which votes shall be cast;
- (j) The fee to be paid on election petition;
- (k) Any other matter relating to election or election disputes in respect of which the Government deems it necessary to make rules under this section or in respect of which there is no provision in this Act or the provision is insufficient and in the opinion of the Government, adequate provision is necessary.

CHAPTER - VI FUNDS, AUDIT AND BUDGET

General Council fund

43. (1) There shall be a fund called General Council Fund.
- (2) The fund as aforesaid shall be under separate sub-head within the state budget to be held for the purpose of this Act and all moneys realized or realizable under this Act and all moneys otherwise received by the General Council, as the case may be shall be credited to its fund.
- (3) The accounts of the General Council shall be kept in such form and manner as may be prescribed in consultation with the Accountant General, Assam.

Audit

44. Subject to the provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Power and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 and the rules and the orders made thereunder, the audit of the accounts of the General Council shall be entrusted by the Government to the Comptroller and Auditor general of India who may submit to Governor such report therein as it may deem fit. The Government shall transmit the report to the General Council for discussion and consideration. The General Council shall return the report to the Government with comments, if any. The Government shall lay such report along with the comments of the General Council and the Village Councils before the state legislature.

Central Act
56 of 1971

Budget

45. (1) The General Council shall at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed prepare in each financial year a budget of its estimated receipts and disbursements for the following financial year and submit it to the Government by 1st November of the current financial year.
- (3) The Government may within such time as may be prescribed, either approve the budget or return it to General

Council concerned, as the case may be, for reconsideration on the observations of the Government, if any. The General Council concerned, shall thereupon resubmit the budget along with its comments on the observation and if the approval of the Government upon such submission or resubmission as the case may be, is not received by the General Council, the budget shall be deemed to have been approved by the Government.

(4) No expenditure shall be incurred unless the budget of the General Council are either approved or deemed to have been approved by the Government.

(5) The General Council may prepare in each financial year a supplementary estimate providing for any modification of its budget for the year and may submit to the Government for approval.

CHAPTER- VII MISCELLANEOUS

Power to issue instructions

46. The Government shall have the general power to issue instructions from time to time for the purpose of implementation of this Act.

Protection of the right of the non-tribal and other ethnic groups

47. All rights and interests of ethnic groups other than Koch Rajbongshi Community within the council area existing at the commencement of this Act, in matters pertaining to their language, literature, culture, religion, customs and traditions and on matters pertaining to sections 18 to 29 shall be protected.

Properties situated in the Council area

48. (1) Subject to such restriction as the Government may impose, all properties specified below and situated in the council area shall vest in and belong to General Council namely:-
(a) All public buildings constructed or maintained out of the General Council Fund;
(b) All public roads which have been constructed and maintained out of the General Council Fund and stones and other materials thereof and also trees, erections, materials implements and things provided for such roads.

Dissolution of the General Council and Executive Council

49. (1) The Governor may, if he is satisfied, on receipt of a report or other wise and in consultation with the Judicial Department of the Government that a situation has arisen in which the administration of the Council Area cannot be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the law for the time being in force or the general or the special instructions issued by the Government from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette, dissolve the General Council, the Executive Council before the expiry of the term and assume to himself all or any of the powers and

- functions of the General Council, the Executive Council and declare that such powers and functions shall be exercised by such persons or authority as he may specify in this behalf for a period not exceeding six months at a time.
- (2) Every order made under sub-section (1) above shall be laid before the State Legislature for approval and unless approved by the State Legislature shall cease to operate on the expiry of thirty days from the date on which the Assam Legislative Assembly first sits after the issue of the orders.
- Effect of dissolution** 50. When an order of dissolution is made under section 49, with effect from the date of the orders,-
- (a) all the members of the General Council and the Executive Council shall vacate their offices, and
- (b) all powers, duties, functions of the General Council and the Executive Council shall be exercised, discharged and performed by such authorities as may be appointed by the Governor in this behalf.
- Special provision for Council areas** 51. (1) The Government shall consult and give due regard to the views of the General Council before any law is made and implemented in the Council Area on the following subjects, namely:-
- (a) The religions and social practice of the Koch Rajbongshi Community.
- (b) The customary laws and procedures of the Koch Rajbongshi Community.
- Members, Officers and employees to be public servants** 52. The Chief Executive Councilor and the Executive Councilors shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- Validation** 53. No Act or proceedings of the General Council or the Executive Council as the case may be, shall be deemed to be invalid merely by reason of existence of any vacancy therein or any defect or irregularity in the constitution thereof.
- Immunity** 54. No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the General Council or the Executive Council or any member, or officer or employee thereof for anything done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules or bye-law made thereunder.
- Interpretation** 55. If any question arises as to the interpretation of this Act or the rules made thereunder, the same shall be referred to the Government whose decision therein shall be final.
- Removal of difficulties** 56. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any provision of this Act, the Government may, by order, do anything not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty.
- Special status** 57. The General Council shall, within the laws for the time being in force, take steps to protect the demographic complexion of the areas falling within its jurisdiction.

Central Act
No. 45 of
1860

Power to make rules

58. (1) The Government may make rules providing for any matter which with any provision of this Act is required to be prescribed or to be provided for by rules.
- (2) Every rule made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made before the State Legislature, while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if before the expiry of the sessions immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, the State Legislature agrees in making any modification in the rule or the State Legislature agrees that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be:

Provided however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rule.

Saving

59. Nothing in this Act shall affect the application of any law, whether made before or after this Act, to the council area unless such law specifically provides for exclusion of the Council area of such application.

Explanation :- For the purpose of this section 'Law' shall, include any enactment, ordinance, regulation, order, bye-law, rule, scheme, notification or other instrument having the force of law.

S. M. BUZAR BARUAH,

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