

Village Panchayats -
Splitting up of group Village
Panchayats and establishment of
separate-

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Government of Maharashtra,
Rural Development Department,
Circular No.VPM 1168/C-290-E,
Sachivalaya,
Bombay-32. 18th July 1968.

Read:- Government Confidential letter No.VPS 1267/33450-E,
dated the 19th December 1967.

Circular:- Instructions were issued in the Government letter mentioned in the preamble that the proposals regarding establishment of separate Village Panchayats for hamlets and tandas should not be entertained by the Commissioners and no separate Village Panchayats should be established for them till those hamlets and tandas are declared as separate revenue villages by the Revenue Department. The hamlets and tandas are to be declared as separate revenue villages by the Revenue Department in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966. One of the requirements for the declaration of a hamlet as a separate revenue village is that its population should not be less than 300 souls. The word population as defined under section 2(27) of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966 is as follows:-

"population in relation to any area means population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published." The Superintendent of Census Operation had informed the Revenue and Forests Department that at the 1961 census separate figures of population were not compiled for hamlets but only for entire revenue villages (including hamlets). He has assured Government that the Census Organisation may be in a position to assist by providing separate figures of population for each Wadi (hamlet) at the 1971 census. As per provisions of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, the population data obtained from any other source would have no legal validity. It would not, therefore, be possible for the Revenue Department to resort to the proviso appended to section 4(1) of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966 for conversion of hamlets into separate revenue villages till the population figures of 1971 census, showing the population of each hamlet separately, are published. The population data collected at 1971 census may be published at the end of that year and only thereafter on the basis of that data the Revenue Department may be in a position to declare the hamlets as separate revenue villages. According to the orders contained in Government Letter No.VPS 1267/33450-E, dated the 19th December 1967, no separate Village Panchayat can be established for any hamlet till it is declared as a separate revenue village. But the hamlets are not being declared as separate revenue villages in the near future and hence it is not considered necessary to keep the proposals for formation of separate Village Panchayats for hamlets pending till they are declared as separate revenue villages under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966,

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR,
RATNAGIRI.

Date 22 JUL 1968
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Government has, therefore, now decided that the proposals regarding formation of separate Village Panchayats for hamlets and tandas should not be kept in abeyance till they acquire the status of separate revenue villages. All Commissioners of Divisions are hereby requested to finalise such proposals in accordance with the instructions contained in

Government letter No.VPS 1263/(4)/1831-E, dated the 25th April 1966. The proposals regarding establishment of separate Village Panchayats for villages (whole revenue villages) forming part of the group Village Panchayats where any wadi or tanda under such group Village Panchayats are likely to be formed into separate revenue villages should also be finalised by them. But it must be ensured that no group Village Panchayat is split up for the purpose of establishment of separate Village Panchayats where the existing members of such group Village Panchayat have not completed at least two years of their terms of office.

As per instructions contained in Government Letter No.VPS 1263/(4)/1831-E, dated the 25th April 1966, a separate Village Panchayat could be established for a hamlet and if the area of such Village Panchayat differed from the area of the revenue Village declared for that hamlet, there would be difficulty in the distribution of land revenue grants etc. to the Village Panchayat. With a view to overcoming this difficulty orders were issued in Government letter No.VPS 1267/33450-E, dated the 19th December 1967 that no separate Village Panchayat should be established for a hamlet till it is declared as a separate revenue village by the ~~Revenue~~ Revenue Department. If the area of the Village Panchayat established for a hamlet coincides with the area of the proposed revenue village, there would no difficulty in the distribution of land revenue grants etc. Separate Village Panchayats for hamlets and tandas are to be established by the Commissioner under section 4 of the Bombay Village Panchayat Act, 1958 and in accordance with the instructions contained in Government Letter No.VPS 1263/(4)/1831-E dated the 25th April 1966 and he will mention in the notification the survey numbers of hamlet/tandas for which a separate Village Panchayat is established and these survey numbers are to be furnished by the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad concerned. The proposals regarding declaration of hamlets as separate revenue villages will be formulated by the Collector of District concerned and will be submitted to Government in the Revenue and Forests Department for taking action under section 4 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code 1966. While submitting the proposal the Collector will have to mention the survey numbers of hamlet/tanda for which a separate revenue village is to be declared. All Collectors, are, therefore, requested that before formulating the proposals they should invariably consult the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad of their respective Districts and enquire with them whether a separate Village Panchayat has been established for the hamlet/tanda in question and if so request the Chief Executive Officer to state the survey numbers of that hamlet/tanda for which a separate Village Panchayat has been established. The Collector should thereafter submit proposals to Revenue and Forests Department for the declaration of a separate revenue village for the hamlet/tanda comprising of the survey numbers furnished to him by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad concerned. A separate revenue village will be declared by Government for those survey numbers which have been mentioned by the Commissioner in his notification issued under section 4 of the Bombay Village Panchayat Act 1958. Thus, the area of the Village Panchayat established for a hamlet/tanda will coincide with the area of the revenue village declared for that hamlet and

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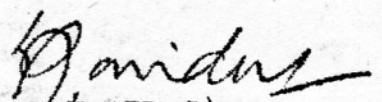
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there will be no difficulty in distribution of land revenue grants etc. to such Village Panchayat.

This issues in consultation with Revenue and Forests Department.

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



(L.R. HARIDAS)

Under Secretary to Government.

To

- All Commissioners of Divisions.
- All Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Parishads.
- All Collectors (except the Collector of Bombay and Bombay Suburban Districts).
- The Revenue and Forests Department (C Special Br.)