

The Constitution (Seventythird Amendment) Act, 1992

Section 243 - Definition

-In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires:- a) "district" means a district in a State;b)"Gram Sabha" means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level;c) "Intermediate level" means a level between the village and district levels specified by the Governor of a State by public notification to be the intermediate level for the purposes of this Part;d)"Panchayat" means an institution (by whatever name called) of self-government constituted under article 243B, for the rural areas;e) "Panchayat area" means the territorial area of a Panchayat;f)"population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published;g) "village" means a village specified by the Governor by public notification to be a village for the purposes of this Part and includes a group of villages so specified.243-A.Grama Sabha - A Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.243-B.Constitution of Panchayats-(1) There shall be constituted in every State, Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels in accordance with the provisions of this Part.^Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), Panchayats at the intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding twenty lakhs.243-C.Composition of Panchayats - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the Legislature of a State may, by law, making provisions with respect to the composition of Panchayats : * Inserted vide Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 and came into force on 22.04.1993. Provided that the ratio between the population of the territorial area of a Panchayat at any level and the number of seats in such Panchayat to be filled by election shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State. (2) All the seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area and, for this purpose, each Panchayat area shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the Panchayat area.(3) The Legislature of a State may, by law, provide for the representation -a) of the Chairpersons of the Panchayats at the village level, in the Panchayats at the intermediate level or, in the case of a state not having Panchayats at the intermediate level, in the Panchayats at the district level;b) of the Chairpersons of the Panchayats at the intermediate level, in the Panchayats at the district level;c) of the members of the House of the People and the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly a Panchayat area at a level other than the village level, in such Panchayat;d) of the members of the Council of States and the members of the Legislative Council of the State, where they are registered as electors within - (i) a Panchayat area at the intermediate level, in Panchayat at the intermediate level; (ii) a Panchayat area at the district level, in Panchayat at the district level.(4) The Chairperson of a Panchayat and other members of a Panchayat whether or not chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area shall have the right to vote in the meetings of the Panchayats. (5) The Chairperson of - a) a Panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide; and b) a Panchayat at the intermediate level or district level shall be elected by, and from amongst, the elected members thereof.243-D. Reservation of seats- (1) Seats shall be reserved for-a) the Scheduled Castes; and b) the Scheduled Tribes, in every Panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that Panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.(2) Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.(3) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation

to different constituencies in a Panchayat.(4) The offices of the Chairpersons in the Panchayats at the village or any other level shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide:Provided that the number of offices of Chairpersons reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Panchayats at each level in any State shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of such offices in the Panchayats at each level as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State bears to the total population of the State 'Provided further that not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.Provided also that the number of offices reserved under this clause shall be allotted by rotation to different Panchayats at each level.(5)The reservation of seats under clauses (1) and (2) and the reservation of offices of Chairpersons (other than the reservation for women) under clause (4) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article

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