CHAPTER-II
DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION IN MANIPUR
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Since early times, the village has been the pivot of administration in India. It was very important when communications were slow and industrialisation was unknown. There is no doubt that villages were the real centers of social life and important units in the country’s economy. The form of democratic decentralisation could be seen from the early time in India. In Manipur also, the same system of democratic decentralisation could be seen in the form of “Lallup” and “Yumnak Mashin” systems.

Local Government is that part of the State Government dealing mainly with local affairs administered by authorities subordinate to the State Government but elected independently of the state authority by qualified residents. From this we know that “Local Government/ Panchayati Raj System” is the lowest/ grass-root level of democratic decentralisation.

The modern democratic decentralisation started in Manipur on 14th Hiyanjai (October-November) 1892 A. D., Village Panchayats were established. On 30th Hiyanjai 1903 A. D. Panchayats were set up in the villages of Kakching Khullen, Sekmai, Khumbi, Shikhong and Ningen. In each of the village Panchayat, 5 (five) members were elected by open ballot.

71 Rao, V. V.: A Hundred Years of Local Self-Government in Assam (1963), p-1.
73 Ibid., p.531.
2 (two) of the members were to retire every two years by rotation. Subsequently they after election sat permanently.

But the functions were mainly adjudicatory rather than administrator.

Development of the villages was the immediate problem faced by our country after independence. Hence, the community development programme was launched in 1952. With a view to carrying out the integrated rural development work. Under this programme the administration at the district and the lower levels was reorganized. The main objective under the community development programme was to facilitate the rapid all round development of the villages.

The idea of democratic decentralisation in India's developmental administration traces its genesis in the report of "The committees on Plan Projects" under the chairmanship of Balwantri Mehta (1957). The committee suggested a suitable structure of local government to obtain the best possible results. A three-tier structure consisting of Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samities and Panchayats was suggested by it. The Zilla Parishad at the District level, the Panchayat Samiti at the block level and the Panchayat at the village level was the three-tier structure. For the first two it suggested indirect election, whereas for the Panchayat it suggested direct election. Among these three levels, which the Mehta Committee outlined, the Samiti was supposed to be the most important body. The functions of this body were also defined by the committee, which included agriculture, animal husbandry and local industries, public health, welfare work, administration

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74 ibid, p-531.
of primary schools etc. The Zilla Parishad was mostly a coordinating body as envisaged by the committee. 76

The Article 40 of the Indian Constitution signifies the influence of the Gandhian ideals: 77

"That the State should take steps to organise village Panchayats and endow them with such power and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government."

Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan were the first two States to establish Panchayati Raj institutions. Later many other States followed suit. Though the Panchayati Raj set-up in different States was based on the suggestions of Mehta Committee, yet there is very little uniformity in all the States. Most of the States followed the three-tier pattern established by Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan with minor changes but a few States like Maharashtra introduced drastic changes. Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir have only one tier (the village Panchayat). Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Haryana have a two-tier system which exclude the Zilla Parishad. 78

Practically speaking, local self-government was introduced in Manipur only in 1947. From this year, the responsibility for administration in the Hills was vested in the Maharaja in Council and exercised in

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77 ibid. p-207.
78 ibid.
accordance with Manipur State Constitution and the provisions of the
Manipur State Hill peoples (Administration) Regulation 1947.\textsuperscript{79}

Under this regulation, the Minister of the State Council for the Hill
Administration was responsible for the administration of the Hill People.\textsuperscript{80}
Under his control and supervision the concerned Su-Divisional Officer was
the administrator on the spot.\textsuperscript{81}

For the purpose of administration all villages to which this regulation
was applied was grouped into circles and Sub-Divisions.\textsuperscript{82}

In the valley of Manipur the United Provinces Panchayati Raj Act,
1947\textsuperscript{83} was applied. The Act was extended to Manipur in the year 1960.
Under that Act, Gram Sabhas and Nyaya Panchayats were established in the
villages of Manipur. The size of population was 1500 to 3000 in 1960 and in
1964, it was 2000 to 4000 in 1970.\textsuperscript{84}

Generally, we may, however, observe that no uniform policy has been
observed in determining the administrative area of Gaon Panchayat. Some of
the Gaon Panchayat consists of three or four villages inhabited by
heterogeneous communities. As a consequence, there is inter-village
conflict. It appears that local people’s opinion was not consulted before

\textsuperscript{79} The Manipur State Hill People (Administration) Regulation. 1947. sec.- 3
\textsuperscript{80} ibid. sec.-10
\textsuperscript{81} ibid. sec8
\textsuperscript{82} ibid. sec5.
\textsuperscript{83} The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act. 1975. Sec.249
\textsuperscript{84} Literature from Directorate of Panchayats and Government of Manipur.
formation of Panchayats. If consulted earlier inter-village conflict could have been avoided.\textsuperscript{85}

Under that Act, Gram Sabhas and Nyaya Pachayats were established in the villages of Manipur. The powers of Gram Sabhas were the administrative works such as construction and repair; maintenance of public streets; clearing and lightening, sanitation and health; improvement of schools and hospitals establishment of hospitals and dispensary and assistance to Government Servants etc.\textsuperscript{86}

This Act could not cover many important aspects. For the convenience of the State Government and people, the Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975 was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Manipur on 9\textsuperscript{th} May, 1976.

2.1. **The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975**

The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975 envisages a three-tier system at the village level Gram Sabha, at the block level Panchayat Samiti and at the District level Zilla Parishad.*

But the Act shall not operate in areas where the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act 1971 or the Manipur (Village Authorities in Hill Areas) Act 1956 is in force or in areas which are or may be comprised in a municipality, town area notified area or a cantonment. But the Act shall

\textsuperscript{85} Rao, V. V. & Hazarica, Niren: Local Self-Government of India, p-96.
* This follows All India Pattern of Panchayati Raj introduced in 1959.
extend to the areas where the U. P. Panchayati Raj Act, 1947 had been in force and to the Hill villages where there had been Panchayat system under order of the Government.\textsuperscript{87}

Under this Act, the size and population of Gram Sabha was 4000 to 8000 in 1978. But maximum population may sometimes reach 10000 due to local condition.\textsuperscript{88} According to 5\textsuperscript{th} general election of Panchayati Raj and 1981 census it was 3000 to 6000.\textsuperscript{89}

2.2. Gram Sabha

Gram Sabha is established in a rural area having a population of at least 4000 but not exceeding 8000. But the maximum population may, sometimes, reach 10,000 due to local conditions. The State Government specifies the name of a Gram Sabha and its local limits.\textsuperscript{90} A Gram Sabha is a body corporate having perpetual succession and common seal it can hold acquire and a dispose of property and enters into contracts. It can sue and be sued in its name.\textsuperscript{91} All persons within its local limits are its members if-

(a) they are citizens of India,
(b) they are of sound mind,
(c) they are qualified for voting.

A person disqualified for being a member of Gram Sabha if-
(a) he ceases to be citizen of India

\textsuperscript{87} The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975, Sec.1.
\textsuperscript{88} The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975, Government of Manipur Secretariat, Law Department, (Act No.12 of 1976). Sec.3.
\textsuperscript{89} Literature from the Directorate of Panchayat Office.
\textsuperscript{90} The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975, sec.3.
\textsuperscript{91} ibid., Sec.4
(b) he is of unsound mind,
(c) he is disqualified for voting under law,
(d) the area of his residence has been excluded from the Gram Sabha,
(e) he ceases to be ordinary resident within his Gram Sabha area.⁹²

A Gram Sabha has its own Pradhan and Upa Pradhan who are elected by direct election by secret ballot from amongst its members. The term of office is co-terminus with the term of the Gram Panchayat (five years). The State Government can appoint a member as Pradhan if the Gram Sabha fails to elect the Pradhan.⁹³

A gram Sabha shall hold meeting at least once, every year. But the Pradhan call a meeting on his own motion or on requisition in writing of not less than one-fifth of the members of his Gram Sabha or if required by the Panchayati Samiti or the Deputy commissioner on the direction of Panchayat within 30 days from the receipt of such requisition or within the period as directed by the Panchayati Samiti or the Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be. For any meeting of the Gram Sabha, one hundred members of the Gram Sabha shall form the quorum. If there is no quorum, meeting is to be adjourned not latter than 15 days from the date of its meeting. But the quorum is necessary for such an adjourned meeting. Any officer authorised by he Deputy commissioner or the Director of Panchayats has the right to participate in the meeting of Gram Sabha, but without right to vote. The Pradhan in his absence the Upa Pradhan shall preside over the meetings, in

⁹² Literature from the Directorate of Panchayat Office.
⁹³ ibid. sec.10&11.
the absence of both of them, the members present shall choose from amongst themselves, a member to preside over the meeting.\textsuperscript{94}

2.3. Gram Panchayat

Every Gram Sabha has an executive committee called the Gram Panchayat.\textsuperscript{95} The Gram Panchayat consists of the Pradhan and other elected members not exceeding 13 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Schedule tribes and the reservation is made in such a way that the numbers of seats so reserved bears, as nearly as may be, the same proportion, to the total member of their seats in the Gram Panchayat. The State Government may appoint any Government officer as ex-officio member of Gram Panchayat.\textsuperscript{96}

Each ward elects its own members. The Pradhan and other members are elected simultaneously by direct election and secret ballot, by the local people who are entitled to vote at the election to the Manipur Legislative Assembly.\textsuperscript{97}

The term of Gram Panchayat is five years from the date of its constitution, and the expiry of the said period of five years shall operate as dissolution of the Gram Panchayat. The State Government may extend the term for a total of not more than one year in the aggregate.\textsuperscript{98}

\textsuperscript{94} ibid, sec.12
\textsuperscript{95} ibid, sec.14.
\textsuperscript{96} ibid, secs.- 15.
\textsuperscript{97} ibid, secs.-7 & 17
\textsuperscript{98} ibid, sec.-22.
The State Government has also the powers to supersede a Gram Panchayat for a period not exceeding one year on any of these grounds -

(a) incompetency to perform its duty,
(b) persistent default in the performance of its duty, and
(c) abuse of its powers.

If a Gram Panchayat is superseded, the Pradhan, the Upa Pradhan and all members shall vacate forth with their offices. Its powers and functions shall be exercised by a person appointed by the State Government.\textsuperscript{99}

A Gram Panchayat shall meet for transaction of business at least once in every month at the office of the Gram Panchayat. The Pradhan may also call a meeting if he thinks that the meeting is necessary in the public interest. He may also call a meeting upon a written requisition of not less than one half of the total membership of the Gram Panchayat, or if he is directed to do so by the Panchayat Samiti or the Director of Panchayats.\textsuperscript{100}

Gram Panchayat has also its own Secretary appointed by the Director of Panchayats. The Secretary is the ex-officio Secretary to the Gram Sabha. With the previous sanction of the Panchayat Samiti, Gram Panchayat can also appoint such members of officers and employees as are necessary for due and efficient discharge of its duties. The State Government may put at

\textsuperscript{99} ibid. sec.-23.
\textsuperscript{100} ibid. sec.-30.
the disposal of Gram Panchayat, Government employees for the use of the latter.\footnote{ibid, sec.-40}

2.3.1. Powers And Functions of Gram Panchayat\footnote{ibid, sec.-34}

A Gram Panchayat has the power to do works in respect of the following matters:

i) in the sphere of Sanitation and Health, Cleaning and lighting of street;

ii) sanitation and conservation of the Gram Panchayat area;

iii) prevention of public nuisance;

iv) burial and cremation grounds, places for disposal of dead animals and other offensive matters.

II. In the sphere of public works:

i) regulation and development of grazing grounds, village common and other community vested in it;

ii) control and maintenance of buildings, institutions and property belonging to it;

iii) planting trees along roads and public places;

iv) establishment and maintenance of cattle pounds and performance of connected functions;

v) destruction of strong and ownerless dog;

vi) maintenance and regulation of bus stands, carriage or cart stands;
vii) construction, maintenance and repair of buildings, waterways, public roads, drains, embankments, bunds, bridges and culverts;
viii) excavation, cleaning and maintenance of tanks and ponds for pisciculture or supply of water to animals;

Maintenance and regulation of the use of public buildings, grazing lands, forestlands, tanks, wells and fisheries vested in it or under its control.

III. In the sphere of Education, Sports & Culture:
   i) maintenance of public radio sets for the benefit of its local people, running of community centers and reading rooms;
   ii) popularisation of sports and games and establishment of clubs, gymnasiums, playgrounds, parks etc;
   iii) observance of National weeks or days.

IV. In the sphere of self-defence & village defence:
   i) Assistance in the organisation of the village volunteer force and village defence parties.
   ii) Assistance in extinguishing and protecting life and properties when fire occurs.

V. In the sphere of Administration:
   i) survey and maintenance of statistics and doing census;
   ii) distribution of relief;
iii) supplying local information when required by the Government or by any other statutory authority;
iv) execution of works assigned to it for execution by the Panchayat Samiti or by the Zila Parishad.
v) Preparation, organisation and implementation of production plans for the villages both for agricultural and non-agricultural procedure;
vi) The control of cattle stands threshing grounds and community wastelands;
vii) Registering births, deaths and marriages.

VI. In the sphere of welfare of people:
i) organisation of welfare activities for women, children and backward classes;
ii) assistance in relief of distress caused by flood, draught, earthquake, scarcity condition and other calamities;
iii) organisation of youth organisations, co-operative societies, village volunteer force, fields management communities, village production committees and any other associated voluntary organisation for public welfare activities.
iv) construction and maintenance of village markets, public places of worship;
VII. In the sphere of agriculture, forest and animal husbandry:

a) development of agriculture, horticulture and pisciculture;

b) construction and maintenance of places for storage of cow-dung;

c) proper use of it for agricultural purpose;

d) arrangement of agricultural finance to the cultivators with the assistance of Government, co-operative societies and banks;

e) bringing under cultivation waste and fallow lands vested in Gram Panchayat;

f) encouragement of improved methods of cultivation;

g) conservation of manual resources; preparing of compose and selling of manures;

h) establishment and maintenance of nurseries for supply of improved seeds and supply of improved tools and implements assigned by the Government;

i) encouraging soil conservation, land reclamation and tree plantation and maintenance of village forests;

j) to encourage improvement of cattle and improved methods of poultry keeping, piggery etc.;

k) crop protection and crop experiments;

l) to encourage for consolidation of land holding to promote co-operative farming and agricultural farming corporations establishment of granaries.
VIII. In the sphere of Village Industries:

a) promotion, improvement and an arrangement of cottage and village industries;

b) carrying out of any measure likely promote the health, safety education, comfort, convenience, social or economic, or cultural well being of the local people;

c) making of provision for any public reception ceremony, entertainment within its area if a resolution for the purpose is passed by a majority of the two-thirds of the total number of its members, or making contribution towards an annual gathering or other gathering of the Gram Panchayats in the District or the State.

A Gram Panchayat has also the power to carry out the duties and functions assigned to it by the Panchayat Samiti, the Zila Parishad or by State Government. It has also had power to receive, invest money or enter into contract with any person, on behalf of the Gram Sabha.

But the aforesaid functions must not exceed the limit of the funds and resources at the disposal of the Gram Panchayat.

With the previous sanction of the Panchayat Samiti and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, a Gram Panchayat may borrow money from the Government or any local authority to carry out powers and functions assigned to it by this Act.\(^{103}\) It can also enter into a contract with the State Government or any local authority to collect, within its local area taxes or dues payable to the Government or the local authority upon

\(^{103}\) ibid. sec.38
payment of collection charges or to carry out any work on such terms as may be agreed.\textsuperscript{104}

2.3.2. Financial Powers \textsuperscript{105}

For the purpose of this Act and with the previous sanction of the State Government, a Gram Panchayat may impose and levy within its local areas all or any of the following taxes, fees, rates, namely -

(a) House tax;

(b) Tax on daily, bi-weekly or weekly markets whether located on private land or authorities;

(c) Tax on carriage carts, bicycles, rickshaws, boats and packs of animals;

(d) Octroi or terminal tax

(e) Conservancy tax

(f) Water rate where drinking water is supplied by it;

(g) Lighting rate where lighting arrangement is made by it;

(h) Fees from cattle ponds maintained by it;

(i) Fees to be charged for registration of animals sold within its area;

(j) Fees for use of dharmasala or slaughter house; and

(k) Fees for use of grazing grounds vested in it.

\textsuperscript{104} ibid. sec.-36.

\textsuperscript{105} ibid. sec.-50
Any arrear of tax and other dues payable to the gram Sabha under this Act shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue if the concerned Gram Panchayat passes a resolution in that affect.\textsuperscript{106}

\textbf{2.3.3. Gram Fund}\textsuperscript{107}

A Gram Sabha has its own fund called the Gram Fund. The following shall form part of and be paid into the Gram Fund namely:

(a) The proceeds of any tax, cess, fees toll etc. imposed by the Gram Panchayat;
(b) The amount allotted by the State Government;
(c) All sums ordered by a court to be placed to the credit of the Gram Fund.
(d) The sale proceeds of all dust, dirt, dungs or refuse including the dead bodies of animals collected by Gram Panchayat;
(e) Income from cattle ponds;
(f) Such portion of the rent or other proceeds of the property of the State Government as may be placed at the credit of the Gram Fund.
(g) Sums contributed to the Gram Fund by the Panchayat Samiti;
(h) All sums received by way of loans from the State Government or the Panchayat Samiti or by way of gift.
(i) The income from or sale proceeds of any property vesting in the Gram Sabha;
(j) Such other sums as may be assigned to the Gram Fund by special or general orders of the State Government; and
(k) All sums payable to the Gram Fund under this Act.

\textsuperscript{106} ibid. sec.-51
\textsuperscript{107} ibid. sec.44.
The Gram Fund is vested in the Gram Sabha and held by the concerned Gram Panchayat. The administration of this fund shall, subject to the general control of the Panchayati Samiti, be in the hands of the Gram Panchayat.\textsuperscript{108} Accounts of receipt and expenditure of the Gram Panchayat are kept in the prescribed forms. An officer appointed by the Director of Panchayats shall audit the accounts at the end of each financial years.\textsuperscript{109} A Gram Panchayat shall also prepare a budget statement of Receipt and Expenditure for the next financial year and submit the same to the Panchayati Samiti for approval. The Panchayati Samiti shall approve the budget within a period of one month of its receipt. No expenditure, not provided for in the budget so approved shall be incurred without the previous sanction of the Panchayati Samiti.\textsuperscript{110}

2.3.4. Annual Administrative Report

A Gram Panchayat shall prepare its annual administration report and place the same for approval before the Gram Sabha as its meeting. The report thus approved together with the audit, if any, shall be put to the Panchayat Samiti.\textsuperscript{111}

2.3.5. Powers and Duties of Pradhan\textsuperscript{112}

The Pradhan is directly responsible for carrying out the resolution of the Gram Panchayat, passed by it in accordance with the provisions of this Act (The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975).

\textsuperscript{108} ibid. sec.-45
\textsuperscript{109} ibid. sec.-47
\textsuperscript{110} ibid. sec.-48
\textsuperscript{111} ibid. sec.-49.
\textsuperscript{112} ibid. sec.-32
He shall

(a) regulate the meetings of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat;

(b) Keep the records and registers of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat in his custody;

(c) Exercise supervision and control over the acts done and action taken by all the employees of the Gram Panchayat;

(d) Operate jointly with the Gram Panchayat Secretary the fund of the Gram Sabha including authorisation of payment, issue of cheques and refunds;

(e) Issue receipts under his signature for sums of money received by him on behalf of the Gram Panchayat;

(f) cause preparation of all statements and reports required by or under this Act;

(g) exercise all such other powers and discharge such other functions as may be conferred or assigned to him by this Act or rules made thereunder.

The Upa Pradhan of a Gram Panchayat shall:

(a) In the absence of the Pradhan, regulate the meetings of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat;

(b) He shall exercise such of the powers and perform such of the duties of the Pradhan as the Pradhan may, from time to time delegate in writing to him;

(c) Pending the election of the Pradhan in the case of a vacancy under section 28, or whenever the Pradhan has
been continuously absent from the village or more than fifteen days or is incapacitated or elected as the Pramukh of the Panchayati Samiti exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Pradhan.\textsuperscript{113}

2.3.6. Panchayati Samiti

It is established for each block area. It bears the name of the Block. It is a body corporate by the name of its Block having perpetual succession and a common seal. It can sue and be sued in its name.\textsuperscript{114}

2.3.7. Composition\textsuperscript{115}

A Panchayati Samiti consists of the following members:

If the office of Pradhan of any Gram Sabha is vacant, the Upa Pradhan of the Gram Sabha, shall until the vacancy is filled in, be a member of the Panchayati Samiti. If the offices of both the Pradhan and the Upa Pradhan are vacant any person elected by the members of the Gram Panchayat from amongst themselves shall until either of the two vacancies is filled in, be member of the Panchayati Samiti.

All members of the Legislative Assembly whose respective constituencies wholly or partly fall within the block have the right to attend the meeting of the Panchayat Samiti or of any Standing Committee thereof. But he has no right to vote or to be elected as Pramukh or Upa Pramukh of

\textsuperscript{113} ibid. sec.33
\textsuperscript{114} ibid. sec.-52&53
\textsuperscript{115} ibid. sec.-54
such Panchayat Samiti or as member or chairman of any standing committee thereof.

The members stated in clause (a) and (b) above, seen after the constitution or reconstitution of the Panchayat Samiti shall co-opt these additional members of the Panchayat Samiti, who shall have the right to vote:

i) Not more than two women members if there is women member or only one women member;

ii) One from the scheduled caste if there is no member from such caste;

iii) One from the schedule tribe if there is no member from such tribe and their population in the blood exceeds five percent of the total population of the block;

iv) One member to be nominated, as representative of the co-operative society with the block, by the Register Co-operative Societies.

The term of a Panchayat Samiti is five years with effect from such dated as may be notified by the State Government in this behalf.\textsuperscript{116}

Every Panchayat Samiti has Pramukh and Upa Pramukh elected from amongst its members.\textsuperscript{117} The term of their office is co-terminus with that of

\textsuperscript{116} ibid. sec.56.
\textsuperscript{117} ibid. sec.57
the Panchayati Samiti. The Pramukh and the Upa Pramukh are in charge of the general administration of the Panchayati Samiti. The former in his absence, the latter presides over the meetings of the Panchayat Samiti held for its general administrative works. For due and efficient discharge of its functions, a Panchayati Samiti constitutes, from amongst its members, Standing Committees such as Standing Committee for production; Standing Committees for works; Standing Committees for finance; Standing Committee for corporation and industries; Standing Committees for Education and Social Welfare.

2.3.8. Powers and Functions of Panchayati Samiti

A Panchayati Samiti has the power to do welfare works in respect of the following matters:

I. Regarding Sanitation and Health:

a. Sanitation and health; curative and preventive measures in respect of an epidemic;

b. Medical relief including establishment and maintenance of dispensaries;

c. Establishment and maintenance of maternity and child welfare, family planning centers;

d. Encouragement of human and animal vaccination;

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118 ibid. sec.60
119 ibid. sec.66
120 ibid. sec.67.
121 ibid. sec.-68
122
e. Organization and maintenance of School Health Services;

f. Facilities for Health Education;

g. Establishment and maintenance of Ayurvedic, Unani and homeopathic dispensaries in villages and giving aids to such institution:

h. Opening medical relief centers;

i. Water Supply Schemes.

II. Regarding public works:

i. Construction and maintenance of buildings, roads, bridges, embankments, drains, waterways or any other works or schemes.

ii. Establishment, improvement and regulation of bazaars, meals, construction of stalls on the bazaar lands or on lands of the Gram Panchayat and Panchayati Samiti.

iii. Control and maintenance of buildings, institutions, properties vested in it;

iv. Establishment and maintenance of institution, farm, or industries, schemes for rural employment;

v. Establishment and maintenance of warehouse, trading

vi. Management of community lands.
III. Regarding Education and Culture:

(i) Management and administrative control of primary schools;
(ii) Establishment and maintenance of theatres or centers for promotion of art and culture;
(iii) Construction and improvement of school building and play grounds for school;
(iv) School feeding programme and establishment of horticultural and vegetable gardens in the school compounds;
(v) Observance of National weeks and days;
(vi) Other educational objects including exhibition, educational tours, seminars etc.

IV. Regarding Administration:

(i) Scrutinising and approving budget of the Gram Panchayat;
   issuing instructions to the Gram Panchayat;
(ii) To supervise, guide and co-ordinate the activities of the Gram Panchayats;
(iii) To settle bazaars and public ferries;
(iv) To regulate, maintain and improve bazaars and public ferries;
(v) To settle, control, improve, and sell the fisheries vested in it;
(vi) Administration of the employee of both Gram Panchayat and Panchayati Samiti;
(vii) Preparation and implementation of plans entrusted to it by the State Government and the Zila Parishad in respect of the block and the Gram Panchayats.
(viii) To distribute to the Gram Panchayats funds entrusted to it for distribution by the State Government and the Zila Parishad.
(ix) To scrutinize and approve the by laws prepared by the Gram Panchayats.
(x) To execute works of development scheme under taken by it or transferred to it by the Zila Parishad and the State Government.
(xi) Control and supervision over the works of the officers placed at its disposal by the State Government and to make recommendations to the State Government for appropriate disciplinary actions, where necessary.

V. Regarding Welfare of People:

(i) Special measures for welfare of backward areas and classes;
(ii) Mobilization and utilization of local resources for rural development;
(iii) Relief works in case of such natural calamities as floods,
draught, earthquake, scarcity conditions etc.

(iv) Organisation of welfare activities among youths, women
and children;

(v) Prevention of offensive and dangerous trades and
practices.

(vi) Construction and maintenance of Dharmasalas, rest
houses, camping grounds etc.

VI. Regarding agriculture and horticulture:

(i) Plans for development of agriculture and horticulture;

(ii) Construction and maintenance of minor irrigation works;

(iii) Agriculture extension programme;

(iv) Crop protection;

(v) Crop campaign, intensive paddy cultivation including
crop competition;

(vi) Distribution of agricultural implements, fertilizers and
other inputs;

(vii) Agricultural finance for the cultivators with assistance
from Government, co-operate institutions and banks;

(viii) Establishment and maintenance of agriculture and
horticulture farms;

(ix) Measures for soil conservation and land reclamation;

(x) Measures for pisciculture;

(xi) Establishment and maintenance of godowns.
VII. Regarding animal husbandry and veterinary:

(i) Establishment and maintenance of veterinary dispensaries and veterinary aids centers;

(ii) Improvement of breeds of cattle including artificial insemination centers and key village centers;

(iii) Distribution of improved poultry and poultry feeds, improved breeds of cattle or sheep.

(iv) Organization of cattle shows and rallies;

(v) Establishment and maintenance of cattle, poultry, goat and piggery farms.

IX. Regarding Small Scale and Village Industries:

(i) Promotion and development of small scale or cottage and village industries;

(ii) grants or subsidy or loan for such production centers;

(iii) Establishment and maintenance of small scale or cottage industries including training cum production centers;

(iv) Establishment and maintenance of sericulture farms

production of tsar, eri, muga and pat cocoons and to popularize cultivation of cotton.

(v) To organize and assist industrial cooperatives including cooperative weaving societies;

To provide marketing facilities for cottage industries and village industries products.
XI. Regarding Cooperatives:

(a) To organize and assist cooperative societies for credit consumers and marketing and to bring about a effective link between credit and marketing facilities;
(b) To organize cooperative farming societies.

X. Regarding Revenue and Forest:

(a) Propagation of land reform measures and under taking of land management;
(b) Organization and supervision of Gramdan villages;
(c) Development of village forests and village grazing reserved and control thereof;
(d) Undertaking measures for afforestation and roadside plantation;
(e) Grant of loans out of its funds to Gram Panchayats within its jurisdiction.

But the above enumerated powers and functions must not exceed the limits of the fund and resources at the disposal of the Panchayati Samiti.

2.3.9. Financial Powers ¹²³

With the previous sanction of the State Government a Panchayti Samities may impose and levy within the limits of its jurisdiction, all or any of the following taxes, fees, rates and tolls, namely:

¹²³ ibid. sec.91
(a) Tax on land not exceeding fifteen paise in a rupee payable as land revenue thereof;
(b) Tax on profession, trades or callings;
(c) Surcharge on duty on the transfer of immovable property;
(d) Tax on tolls for market constructed by the Panchayati Samiti;
(e) Tolls and roads and bridges constructed by the Panchayati Samiti;
(f) Fees for ferries maintained by the Panchayat Samiti;
(g) Toll from periodical fairs, exhibition and markets organized by the Panchayati Samiti;
(h) Fees from slaughterhouses;
(i) Tax from the occupiers of the buildings where the conservancy service is rendered by the Panchayati Samiti;
(j) Tax on entertainments including amusement;
(k) Any other tax, toll, rate or fees.

But the Panchayati Samiti shall have no power to impose a tax or fee, which a State Legislature has no power to impose under the Constitution of India.

2.3.10. Other Powers

A Panchayati Samiti can do all acts necessary for the due and efficient discharge of its powers and functions.\(^{124}\) It also exercise supervision over the

\(^{124}\) ibid. sec.72
Gram Panchayats within its jurisdiction. It can also call for records from any one of its Standing Committees and revise any decision adopted by any such committee. It has also the power to call for any record, return, statement of account or report from a Gram Panchayat for scrutiny.\textsuperscript{125} It has the power to require the attendance of any officer at any of its meetings if his presence threat is desirable for the purpose of obtaining his views or any information from him on any point in respect of the powers and functions of the Panchayati Samiti.\textsuperscript{126} It shall also execute those works entrusted to it by the State Government.\textsuperscript{127} It shall be also in charge of the property that belongs to it.\textsuperscript{128}

2.3.11. Panchayati Samiti Fund \textsuperscript{129}

A Panchayati Samiti has its own fund called the Panchayati Samiti Fund. The Fund is made up of the following sums:

a. All sums given for institutions and schemes transferred by the State Government;

b. All sums allotted by the State Government for implementation of the Community Development programmes in the block.

c. All donations to it by the State Government, Central Government and public institution or the public;

d. Such percentage of land revenue, other taxes or fees as may be payable by the State Government to the Panchayati Samiti.

\textsuperscript{125} ibid. sec.74&75
\textsuperscript{126} ibid. sec.76
\textsuperscript{127} ibid. sec.71.
\textsuperscript{128} ibid. sec.80
\textsuperscript{129} ibid. sec.83.
e. The proceeds of any tax, fee, rate etc., which it may levy;
f. Surcharge on duty of transfer of immovable property.
g. Rents and profits from property vested in it.
h. Proceeds from periodical fairs and exhibitions organized by Panchayati Samiti within the block;
i. Share of motor vehicle tax;
j. All sums ordered by the court to be credited to the Panchayati Samiti Fund; and
k. All sums payable to the Panchayati Samiti under this Act.

A Panchayati Samiti shall apply its powers and functions and for execution of such schemes are as entrusted to it by the State Government.\textsuperscript{130}

\subsection*{2.3.12. Control over Panchayati Samiti}

Financially, a Panchayati Samiti is under the control of the Zila Parishad, the Deputy Commissioner and the Director of Panchayats. Its budget for the next financial year is submitted to the above authorities for their approval. An officer deputed by the Director of Panchayats shall audit the accounts of the Panchayati Samiti at the end of each financial year.\textsuperscript{131}

The State Government or the Deputy Commissioner has the power to suspend the execution of any resolution or order of a Panchayti Samiti, or prohibit the doing of any act by it if the resolution or order or the act is likely to cause a serious breach of peace or obstruction, annoyance or injury to the

\textsuperscript{130} ibid. sec.84
\textsuperscript{131} ibid. sec.85&86.
public, or danger to human life, health or safety. The State Government has also the power to supersede it in case of incompetence or default in respect of the discharge of its power and functions or abuse of its powers. During the period of suspension a person appointed by the State Government shall discharge the powers and functions of the Panchayati Samiti and any of its standing Committee. The State Government can also dissolve Panchayati Samiti if all its members have failed to attend its meeting without reasonable cause or have tendered resignation or if some of them have tendered resignation while the rest fails to attend a meeting. If a Panchayati Samiti is so dissolved the State Government shall appoint a person of its choice to exercise powers and functions of the Panchayati Samiti.

2.3.13. Pramukh and Upa Pramukh

A Panchayati Samiti has its Pramukh and Upa Pramukh. They are elected from amongst its members at the first meeting held for the purpose after the constitution or reconstitution of the Panchayati Samiti. If a Panchayat Samiti fails to elect them, the State Government shall appoint them from among its members. Their term of office is co-terminus with that of the Panchayati Samiti. But they may be removed earlier from office. For their removal a no confidence motion shall be moved by a number of the Panchayati Samiti after giving to the Deputy Commissioner at least 15 days’ notice as to the purpose in writing and signed by not less than

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132 ibid. sec.87.
133 ibid. sec.88
134 ibid. sec.89
135 ibid. sec.57
136 ibid. sec.60
one-third of the total number of members of the Panchayati Samiti. On such a motion a meeting shall be held and if in such a meeting, a resolution for the removal of the Pramukh or the Upa Pramukh is passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the total members present and voting and such majority is more than one half of total number of members of the Panchayati Samiti for the time being, the Pramukh or the Upa Pramukh shall cease to hold office with effect from the date next after the date of such resolution.\textsuperscript{137} The Pramukh or the Upa Pramukh may tender resignation in writing before the expiry of their term of office; the former by writing to the Deputy Commissioner, the latter by writing to the former.\textsuperscript{138}

2.3.14. \textbf{Powers and Functions of Pramukh and Upa Pramukh} \textsuperscript{139}

The Pramukh of a Panchayati Samiti has the power:

(a) To convene, preside over and conduct the meetings of the Panchayati Samiti except the meeting held on a no-confidence motion moved for his removal.

(b) To exercise control over the financial and general administration of the Panchayati Samiti and general supervision and administrative control over the B.D.O. and other staff of his in relation to the implementation of the decision and observation of the Panchayati Samiti and the Standing Committee thereof;

(c) To submit to the Panchayati Samiti all cases which require decision and sanction;

\textsuperscript{137} ibid. sec.62
\textsuperscript{138} ibid. sec.61.
\textsuperscript{139} ibid. sec.66.
(d) To perform all such functions and exercise all such powers as are imposed on or delegated to him.

In case of emergency, the Pramukh, in consultation with the B.D.O.:

(a) Direct the execution of any work or act that required the sanction of the Panchayati Samiti or any Standing Committee thereof if such work or act is necessary for the maintenance of services and the safety of general public.

(b) Stay the execution of any such work or act for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(c) Subject to the approval for the Zila Parishad, change any programme of the Panchayati Samiti.

But the Pramukh shall not direct or stay the execution of the aforesaid work or act in violation of the orders of the State Government. He shall also report the action he has taken to the Panchayati Samiti or the Standing Committee, as the case may be, at its next meeting.

The Pramukh shall at the end of every year send a confidential report as to the working of the B. D. O., during the year to the Deputy Commissioner who shall send a copy of that report to the State Government along with his own confidential report.

The Upa Pramukh shall:

(a) In the absence of the Pramukh, preside over the meetings of the Panchayati Samiti;

(b) Exercise such powers and perform such duties of
Pramukh, pending the election of the Pramukh during the absence of the Zila Parishad or otherwise.

The Upa Pramukh has to take over the charge and hold the office of the Pramukh when Pramukh is elected or appointed as a President of the Zila Parishad.

2.3.15. Standing Committees\(^{140}\)

Every Panchayat Samiti shall constitute from amongst its members various committees. These committees have their own powers and functions. The committees given in this Act (The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1973) are

(a) Standing committee for production;
(b) Standing committee for works;
(c) standing committees for finance;
(d) Standing committee for corporations and industries.
(e) Standing committee for Education and Social Welfare.

Each Standing Committee shall consists of not less than there but not more than five members who shall be nominated by the Pramukh. No member shall be nominated for more than one committee. The members of each committee shall elect from amongst its members a chairman. When the

\(^{140}\)ibid. sec.68&69
Pramukh is a member of such a committee, he shall be ex-officio chairman thereof. The term of such standing committee be fixed in its meeting and selection shall be provided by the byelaws framed by the Panchayati Samiti and approved by the State Government.

2.4. Zila Parishad

The State Government shall constitute a Zila Parishad for a district bearing the name the District and having jurisdiction over it. For this purpose two or more districts may be grouped as a single district or a district may be divided into many districts.\textsuperscript{141} A Zila Parishad shall be a body corporate by the name of its district, having perpetual succession and common seal. It can sue and be sued in its name. It can acquire, hold and transfer property. It can also inter into contracts.\textsuperscript{142}

2.4.1. Composition\textsuperscript{143}

A Zila Parishad shall consists of these members:

(a) The Pramukh of each Panchayati Samiti in the District or the Upa Pramukh if the office of the Pramukh is vacant or a person elected by the Panchaayat Samiti from amongst its members if the offices of both the Pramukh and Upa Pramukh are vacant;

(b) Members of the House of People whose respective constituencies wholly or partly fall within the District and the members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly whose respective constituencies

\textsuperscript{141} ibid. sec.93
\textsuperscript{142} ibid. sec.94
\textsuperscript{143} ibid. sec.95
wholly or partly fall within the District. They shall have no right to hold any office of the Zila Parishad but shall have to the right to vote. They shall cease to be its members when they cease to be the members of the House of the People of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, as the case may be.

(c) The President of any Co-operative bank within the District to be nominated by the Register, Co-operative Societies, Manipur;

(d) One representative of the District o-operative Union, if any. He shall have no right to hold any office of the Zila Parishad but shall have the right to vote.

Those members, as soon as possible after the constitution or reconstitution of the Zilla Parishad shall co-opt the following members, who shall have the right to vote:

(a) Two women members if there are no such members;
(b) One women member if there is only one women member;
(c) One person belonging to the Scheduled Caste if there is no member from such caste;
(d) One person from the Schedule Tribe if there is no member from such tribe and their population in the district exceeds five percent of the total population of that district;
(e) Two persons having experience in administration and public life of rural development.
The Chairman of each Municipality and each notified area within the District shall be the ex-official member of the Zila Parishad. He has the right to attend its meeting and participate in the deliberations of such meetings but he has no right to vote.

The term of the Zila Parishad, unless otherwise terminated earlier, shall be five years with effect from the date notified by the State Government in its behalf.144

A Zila Parishad shall have a President and Vice President who shall be elected from amongst its members.145 The President shall convene, preside over and conduct the meetings of the Zila Parishad. He shall also exercise administrative control over its staff and provide guidance to the Panchayats in respect of their plans and production programme. In the absence of the President either on leave or otherwise, the Vice-President shall exercise the powers and functions of the former.146 For due and efficient discharge of its powers and functions, a Zila Parishad may continue such sub-committees as it may deem necessary.147

2.4.2. Powers and Functions of Zila Parishad 148

A Zila Parishad shall have the following powers and functions within its local jurisdiction:

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144 ibid. sec.97
145 ibid. sec.97
146 ibid. sec.107
147 ibid. sec.111
148 ibid. sec.112
(1) Examine and approve the budget of the Samities in the district according to rules and supervise their activities to such extent and in such manner as may be prescribed;

(2) Distribute among the Panchayati Samities Funds allotted to the district by the Government.

(3) Co-ordinate and consolidate the plans, prepared by the Panchayati Samities; in respect of the entire district.

(4) Co-ordinate the works of the Panchayats and the Panchayat Samities.

(5) General supervision over the activities of the Panchayati Samities.

(6) Management of trust, endowments and other institutions under any law or under orders of the government;

(7) Discharge of such powers and functions as are delegated to it by the Government, in respect of any development programme;

(8) Discharge of other powers and functions conferred on it by or under this Act;

(9) Advising the State Government on all matters concerning the activities of Panchayats and Panchayati Samiti;

(10) Advising the State Government on all matters concerning implementation of any statutory or execute order especially referred to it by the State Government;

(11) Advising the State government in respect of its development scheme;
(12) Supervision over agricultural and production programme construction programmes, employment, small saving etc. laid down for its district;

(13) Classification of fairs, festivals, markets, except those managed by the State Government as Panchayat and Panchayati Samiti Fairs, festivals, markets.

(14) Classification of roads, except national highways. State Highways and major district roads, as Panchayati Samiti roads and Village roads.

2.4.3. Other Powers and Functions

For purpose of efficiently performing its functions the Zila Parishad may, within the limits of its jurisdiction:

(a) Collect such data as it deems necessary;

(b) Publish statistics or any information relating to Gram Panchayats and Panchayati Samities to furnish information relating to any prescribed matter and activities;

(c) Organize camps, conferences and seminars of all Pradhans, Pramukhs and other members of Panchayats and Panchayat Samities.\textsuperscript{149}

It has also the powers to examine the record of any decision of any of its sub-committees and to confirm or revise such decision.\textsuperscript{150}

\textsuperscript{149} ibid. sec.114

\textsuperscript{150} ibid. sec.115
It has also the powers to call any officer of a Government Department serving in the District to attend any meeting of Zila Parishad and tender advise in respect of any matter which concerns the development to which such officer belongs. And every such officer must comply with such requisition.\textsuperscript{151}

2.4.4. Zila Parishad Fund and its Application \textsuperscript{152}

A Zila Parishad has its own fund. The sources of the income are:

(a) All sums allotted to it by the central and State Government;
(b) All sums received by it on account of endowment, trust, institutions, schemes etc. transferred by the State Government;
(c) Donations and contributions from the Samities, public institutions or the public in any form;
(d) Such percentage or share of land revenue, cess or local cess, State taxes or fees as may be payable by the State Government to Zila Parishad;
(e) The proceeds of any tax, fee, rate etc, which the Zila Parishad may levy;
(f) Rents and profits from property vested in the Zila Parishad.
(g) Grants from All India Bodies and Institutions for any development programme;
(h) Proceeds from periodical fairs; exhibitions organized by Zila Parishad within the District.

\textsuperscript{151} ibid. sec.109
\textsuperscript{152} ibid. sec.121, 122 & 123.
(i) All sums payable to the Zila Parishad Fund under this Act.

The fund is used for payment of the salaries and allowances of the officers and employees of the Zila Parishad, for payment of the allowances of its members, for implementation of any development scheme entrusted to it and for any purpose under this Act.

The budget of the Zila Parishad for the current as well as next financial years are prepared by its Chief Executive Officer. The Budget for the current year contains the actual receipts and expenditure while the budget for the next financial year shows estimates of the expected income, expenditure and other receipts of the Zila Parishad. After the budget estimates are finally passed by the Zila Parishad, the same are submitted to the State Government for approval. If, in the course of a year, the Zila Parishad finds it is necessary to make changes in the budget, then a supplementary budget should be prepared for the purpose. The Zila Parishad should pass the supplementary budget and then submit the same to the State Government for approval. 153

The Zila Parishad also maintains accounts for each financial year. An officer by the Director of Panchayats audits the accounts. 154

2.4.5. Control over Zila Parishad 155

The State Government and the Director of Panchayats and other officers appointed by the former exercise control over the proceedings of the

153 ibid. sec.124
154 ibid. sec. 125.
155 ibid. sec.126-131
Zila Parishad. The Deputy Commissioner or the Director of Panchayats and other officers appointed and empowered by the State Government for the purpose may at any time inspect any property and work under the control of the Zila Parishad, any school, hospital, dispensary, vaccination station, dharmsala, other institutions etc. under its management and its office and records. The Deputy Commissioner or the Director of Panchayats or any person empowered for the purpose may call for any record register or other documents in possession of the Zila Parishad for scrutiny, requires the Zila Parishad or its president to furnish any return, plan estimate, statement or any information on any matter connected with the Zila Parishad and record in writing for the consideration of the Zila Parishad or its President any observations connected with its powers and functions.

The State Government may also cancel any resolutions or order of the Zila Parishad on ground of illegality excess or abuse of powers or on the ground that the execution of the resolutions or order may lead to riot or affray.

The State Government has also the power to supersede or dissolve the Zila Parishad on any of these grounds.

(a) It has failed to exercise its powers and functions;
(b) It has exceeded or abused any of its powers.

But before passing the order for super session, the State Government must give the Zila Parishad a chance to remedy the failure, excess or abuse or to give a satisfactory explanation therefore. If the Zila Parishad fails to
comply with such directions, the State Government may supersede it for a period not exceeding for a period of one year from a specified date and during the period of super session a person appointed by the State Government shall exercise the powers and functions of the Zila Parishad.

In case of emergency the Deputy Commissioner, subject to the approval of the State Government may direct or provide for the execution of any work or the doing of any act which the Zila Parishad or its President has the power to execute or do, for the implementation of development plans or safely of the public.

2.4.6. President and Vice President of Zila Parishad

A Zila Parishad has its own President and Vice-President. They are elected from amongst its members at a meeting held for the purpose soon after the constitution or reconstitution of the Zila Parishad.\footnote{ibid, sec.98} The term of their office is co-terminus with that of the Zilla Parishad.\footnote{ibid, sec. 101} But the President and Vice President may tender resignations before the expiry of their term of office; the former by writing to the Deputy Commissioner, the letter to he former.\footnote{ibid, sec. 102} They can also be removed from their office on a no-confidence resolution of the Zila Parishad by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total members present and voting and such majority is more than one-half of the total members of the Zila Parishad at the relevant
time. The State Government may also remove the President or the Vice President on any of these grounds.

(a) Willful omission or refusal to carry out the orders of the State Government;

(b) Abuse of his powers, being guilty of misconduct in discharge of his duties. If the office of both the President and the Vice President are simultaneously vacant, the Deputy Commissioner or a person appointed by the State Government shall discharge the powers and functions of the President, without the right to vote in any proceedings of the Zila Parishad.

2.4.7. Powers and functions of President and Vice President

The President of the Zila Parishad has the powers to:

(a) Convene, preside over and conduct its meetings;

(b) Have full access to its records;

(c) Exercise administrative control over its Secretary and Staff;

(d) Encourage the growth of initiative and enthusing in the Panchayats and provide to them guidance in the plans and production programmes and the growth of co-operative and voluntary organization therein;

(e) Exercise other powers conferred on him under this Act;

(f) Assess the activities of the Panchayati Samities by spot visits to the Blocks in the district;

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159 ibid. sec. 103
160 ibid. sec. 105.
161 ibid. sec. 106.
162 ibid. sec. 107
(g) Inspect the works undertaken and the records maintained by the
Panchayati Samiti;

(h) Write at the end of the year a confidential report as to the work of
the Secretary to the Director of Panchayats.

When the office of the President is vacant, the Vice President shall
exercise the powers and functions of the President until a new President is
elected. When both their offices are vacant or both of them are absent on
leave or otherwise, a member elected from amongst the members of the Zila
Parishad shall exercise the powers and functions of the President.

2.5. Nyaya Panchayat Constitution

A Nyaya Panchayat is established for a circle for administration of
justice therein. Such a circle consists of Gram Sabha area or areas. It is
known by such name as is specified in the notification of the State
Government. A Nyaya Panchayat consists of such number of Panchas as the
State Government fixes but not exceeding five. Where a Nyaya Panchayat
circle consists of more than one Gram Sabha, each Gram Sabha within the
circle shall have proportional representation in the Nyaya Panchayat on the
basis of population. The Panchas are elected from amongst its members by
the Gram Panchayats within the circle. Their appointments are published in
the official Gazette by the Deputy Commissioner.

The term of the Nyaya Panchayat is co-terminus with that of the Gram
Panchayat.

\(^{163}\) ibid. sec. 132-138
A Nyaya Panchayat has also its own Sarpanch and Upa Serpanch who are appointed by the State Government in consultation with the District Judge from amongst the elected panchas. Their appointments also are published in the official Gazette.

No person shall be qualified for election in a panch unless he
(a) Has attained the age of 30 years;
(b) Is member of a Gram Sabha within the concerned circle;
(c) Is able to read and write Manipuri or Hindi in Devanagari Script.

A Pancha may tender resignation in writing to the Sarpanch, latter by writing to the Director of Panchayats. The Director of Panchayats may also remove a pancha from office on grounds of misconduct in the discharge of official duty or negligence or refusal or incapacity to discharge is duty.

The Business of the Nyaya Panchayat is conducted in accordance with the rules made in this behalf.\textsuperscript{164}

The Sarpanch, in his absence, the Upa Sarpanch presides over the meetings of the Nyaya Panchayat; in the absence of both of them, the Panchas elect from amongst themselves one to preside over the meeting.\textsuperscript{165} A Nyaya Panchayat also has a Secretary and staff of its own to assist it in the performance of its powers and functions. He is appointed by the Director of Panchayats.\textsuperscript{166}

\textsuperscript{164} The Manipur Panchayat and Nyaya Panchayat (General) Rules, 1978, Chapter IX.
\textsuperscript{165} ibid. sec.141
\textsuperscript{166} ibid. sec.-142.
The Manipur Panchayati Raj Act of 1975 gives enough scope for the process of democratic decentralization to be completed in itself. As done in other parts of the country, panchayati institutions are playing very important role in the process of democratization in the state of Manipur also.