APPENDIXES

Statement sent on 20th August 1947 to the Editor of “The Statesman”, Calcutta by the Ashram Secretary:—

“Everybody in Pondicherry without exception supports the right of self-determination for the people of French India and Sri Aurobindo has always been a firm supporter of that right for all people everywhere. Nobody here is for the “continuation of French rule”, but the people were prepared to accept the French proposal of a free and complete autonomous French India within the French Union. It was only when it appeared that the reforms offered by the French Government would fall short of what was promised that the cry arose for the immediate transfer of power and the merging of French India in the Indian Union. Sri Aurobindo, not being a citizen of French India, made no public declaration of the views, but privately supported the views set forth in a manifesto of The French India Socialist Party demanding the end of the colonial rule and a complete autonomy within the French Union accompanied by a dual citizenship and a close association with the Indian Union which should control customs, communications and a common system of industry and commerce.”

IMMEDIATE MERGER, INDIANISATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES, PROHIBITON

Pondicherry, April 28, 1948.

Last night, Mr. Leon Saint Jean, Secretary – General of the Congress Group of the Representative Assembly of French India, submitted the following three motions to the vote of the Assembly:
I. The Representative Assembly of French India thinks necessary the immediate merger of the five French territories of India in the Indian nation; this merger being, obviously, followed by a transitory period.

II. The Representative Assembly of French India wishes that all the posts of gazette officers of metropolitan cadre should be given, wherever it is possible to native officers of the cadre, in the immediate future.

III. The Representative Assembly of French India thinks it necessary to introduce alcoholic prohibition in all the territory of Pondicherry, in October next, when it should become compulsory in the district of South Arcot.

The Assembly, after a short discussion, decided to debate on these proposals on Thursday morning, at 10 o’clock.

The Congress Group of the Representative Assembly of French India.

SELECTED WORKS OF JAWHARLAL NEHRU
1. French Enclaves

The Consul General should be informed that when I was in Paris, a representative of General de Gaulle called on the Secretary General to express the General’s regret that he could not see me. He was away then electioneering in the South of France. He sent a message, however, that he was eager to come to a friendly settlement with India and to have India’s friendship.

2. G.S. Bajpai.

2. Referendum in French Enclaves

I have seen the telegram you have sent to Indian Embassy, Paris, No. 157 dated 14th December.

I should like to point out that owing to recent developments, this whole business of elections and referendum has been thrown out of joint. We should not therefore commit ourselves to any move in this direction. We need not repudiate it, but we should point out that after our recent experiences, it is difficult for us to consider any elections or referendum seriously.


2. In this cable K.P.S. Menon had stated Daniel Levi, the French Ambassador had met him to complain about the arrests of French Indian citizens in Mahe and Pondicherry by Indian police and requested for their release.

3. At the meeting, Ambassador Levi had suggested the posting of neutral observers during the referendum in French India.

3. No Future for Foreign Footholds

We have a large number of intricate problems before us, but this particular problem of foreign possessions within our territory is probably one of the smallest. It is inevitable that it has to be solved in a particular
way. There might be a little delay or difficulty in its solution, but it is not in the larger context of India a really difficult problem.

What is the major issue before us? It is quite inevitable that these foreign possessions should cease to be foreign and should be incorporated politically within the Indian Union. That is a big thing. That is the policy, which India must necessarily adopt because we cannot admit any foreign foothold on international methods. We have to deal with foreign governments. As a Government, and as a great organization which is intimately connected with that Government, we cannot proceed in a non-governmental way. It is for the people of those territories to do what they like, but we cannot go about approaching this problem in a non-governmental way.

I ask you to consider the broad problem to which vague references have been made, namely, the ending of imperialism and colonialism everywhere more especially in Asia. I would hesitate indulging in talk to which effect cannot be given. Nevertheless, even from the point of view of India’s freedom and world peace, we are quite clear in our mind that the continuation of imperialism or colonialism in any part of the world, more especially in Asia, is dangerous.

The cultural aspect of the problem is an equally important matter. We should give the people of these areas an opportunity to live a full cultural life as they choose and any change that is brought about should not be upsetting factor in the personal life of the people there. While India had been under British domination for more than two hundred years, some of these possessions have been under alien political and cultural domination for 400 years and powerfully affected by it. Their
institutions political, educational, linguistic and cultural have been powerfully influenced. If we now tell the people of these possessions to become part of the Indian system and we uproot them completely from the kind of life they were leading for centuries, we would not be serving the interests of justice. It is up to the

1. Address to the Subjects Committee on the resolution opposing foreign possessions in India, Jaipur Congress, 17 December 1948.
From The Hindu, 18 December 1948.

4. Future Administration of French Possessions

Your telegram No. 163 dated 16th July. Government of India having agreed to the referendum do not wish to make any other proposal. They are prepared to consider other methods of settling the future of French possessions but these must be based on these possessions becoming parts of the Indian Union. We have already stated that the status and form of internal administration of these possessions is a matter which we wish to decide in consultation with the people there. We would be prepared for some kind of autonomy and for interim period adjustments, but this autonomy must be within the framework of the Indian Union. We cannot agree to any interregnum between cession of French authority over settlement and inauguration of new regime.

Any proposals regarding Pondicherry, etc. should not in any way affect transfer of sovereignty over Chandernagore in accordance with result of referendum there.

You will doubtless make it clear that these views, if you have to express them, are entirely your views.

2. In 19 June 1949, Chandernagore voted overwhelmingly for union with INDIA. The President of the Chandernagore Administrative Council stated on 7 July that Chandernagore could not wait ad infinitum for the transfer of sovereignty.

5. Take-over of Chandernagore

Reference our telegram No. 25447 July 7th about taking over of a Chandernagore.

1. French Ambassador has not so far intimated to us date and manner in which his Government would wish Government of India to assume de facto control of Chandernagore.

2. Meanwhile at a conference held in New Delhi, it was decided that Chandernagore should be administered by Government of India through Provincial Government as their agent. When de facto transfer of power takes place Government of India would appoint an Administrator with concurrence of French Government.

3. Steady deterioration of law and order had been reported by Chandernagore Administrative Council. Council have requested that immediate police assistance should be obtained from West Bengal and there should be collaboration between Chandernagore and West Bengal administrations in controlling law and order. We have telegraphed West Bengal Government for full report on Chandernagore situation.
4. A few days ago French Ambassador assured us: (a) that instructions had been given to Administration Chandernagore to seek cooperation of West Bengal police in case of emergency, term “emergency” being liberally interpreted, and (b) Ambassador suggested that pending receipt of instructions from French Government, which were shortly expected, cooperation in maintenance of law and order could be best secured by local consultations.

5. Denan Das, President of the Chandernagore Administrative Council, on 22 July 1949 asked for police assistance from West Bengal following violent incidents on 19 and 20 July when municipal sweepers were attacked by unknown persons. It was also reported that M. Taileur, Administrator of Chandernagore, had asked for extra military forces to be sent from Pondicherry.

6. Meeting with French India Delegation

The Prime Minister stated that he agreed that once French India joins the Indian Union there would be as little local rivalry as possible and to the extent that the good offices of himself and of the Government could be exercised to this end they.

7. To P.S. Kumaraswami Raja

New Delhi
August 5, 1949.

My dear Premier,

I am writing to you about the French Possessions in India, more especially Pondicherry. As you must know, we have recently had a deputation from the Socialist Party of Pondicherry, etc. That Party has in the past been rather an official party inclining towards the French Government and Union with France. The fact remains however that they are the dominant party in Pondicherry, etc. They have now realized that it is to the advantage of Pondicherry to join the Indian Union. We have had long talks with them and the position had been cleared up.

In view of this change in their attitude and their desire to join the Indian Union, it is desirable to avoid the internal conflicts that have been taking place between the Congress Party and the Socialist Party in Pondicherry. Your predecessor Premier2 in Madras made a number of statements in criticism of what was happening in Pondicherry. I suggest that no such statements be made by representatives and if anything has to be said, we should be informed of it and we shall take necessary action. For the present I would request you to exercise your influence to prevent conflicts in Pondicherry between rival groups, at any rate, between the Congress Party there and the Socialist Party. It is open of course to the Congress Party to express itself positively in favour of union.

The Communist Party of Pondicherry will probably give trouble. But that can be ignored in the present context, when the Socialist Party will stand for union with India.
I might also mention that our Consul General in Pondicherry, Shri Rashid Baig, has done good work for us there. Criticisms made about his work in the past have proceeded on some misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely,

Jawaharlal Nehru.

2. T. Prakasam.

8. Policy towards Portuguese and French Settlements

The Prime Minister began by saying that our attitude towards these foreign possessions could not be altered, though what action we should take to implement our policy would naturally have to vary from time to time. In matters affecting the prestige of India or the interests of Indian nationals, a soft policy should not be followed with the Portuguese, whatever might be the economic or political disadvantage that such an attitude might entail.

Regarding the steps to be taken at present to implement this policy, the Prime Minister stressed the necessity of making the maximum use of any incidents which may come to our notice regarding the ill-treatment of Portuguese and French Indians (they were, to use the Prime Minister's words, 'potential' Indians) by giving them publicity both in the Indian and the foreign press, and by making a strong protest to the Governments concerned. If necessary, we should also be prepared to withdraw our consular representative from Goa and Pondicherry.

Turning to the proposals made in the Ministry of External Affairs note, the Prime Minister said that no stress should be laid by us on the
holding of a referendum or the visit of the neutral observers to French India. We should offer the French a Customs Union in order to restore normal economic conditions between French India and India and to put a stop to smuggling. If the French did not agree to this, we should take such restrictive measures as were financially and administratively possible. In considering the value of such measures, it should be borne in mind that though the actual smuggling may not be reduced greatly thereby, the measures themselves may have a good effect on the morale of the pro-Indian elements in Pondicherry, and would also enhance the prestige of the Government of India.

The Prime Minister did not agree to the disbandment of the present Goa Committee.

If the Portuguese Consul in Bombay was found to be indulging in any anti-Indian activities, strong action should be taken against him, even to the extent of declaring him a persona non grata


2. The Goa Committee was set up in Bombay in 1950 to organize public opinion among Goans in Bombay in favour of merger and to assist the nationalist Goan cause.

Note, dated the 25th March 1954, from the French Embassy, New Delhi, to the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

The French Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of External Affairs and have the honour to refer to the Ministry’s note dated March 22nd 1954.
In compliance with the instructions that they have just received, the Embassy wish to bring again to the notice of the Ministry that immediately after India's accession to independence, the French Government committed themselves to give to the population of the Settlements the right to decide their fate and their future status through free and sincere consultations. The letter by which the French Ambassador in Delhi informed the Government of India of this decision and the latter's reply constituted the agreement of the 29th of June 1948, the application of which has made possible the merger of Chandernagore into the Indian Union.

As far as they are concerned, the French Government have always abidden (sic) by this agreement and they are prepared to accept any solution consistent with the democratic principles guaranteed by the provisions of the French Constitution which stipulates in article 27 Section, 2, that: "no cession, no exchange, no addition of territories is valid without the consent of the interested populations".

By their note dated October 21st 1952, the Government of India have informed the French Government that they did not consider themselves any more bound by the exchange of letters. They represented, in support of this decision, that the section of the Settlements population favourable to the merger with the Indian Union were prevented from expressing their opinion. The French Government have never considered this assertion as justified. The last events to which the Ministry's note dated March 22nd 1954 refers, are a proof that public expression of opinion.

On 26th March last the Embassy of India at Paris had remitted to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs a note protesting against the attitude of the French police in the French establishments in India. This document stated that the Government of India “consider that it is in the interest both of the police officials of the French establishments as well as of the inhabitants of the surrounding Indian territories that so long as the present tension lasts, all armed members of the police of the French establishments should be prohibited from entering Indian territories”.

Since then Indian Authorities have refused to the French Police Authorities and to Gendarmerie any transit over Indian territories and any access to the enclaves of Pondicherry. Taking advantage of this state of affairs, persons controlled by M. Goubert, Deputy of Pondicherry, have just attacked the public stations of Nettapacom and have proclaimed the merger of this commune with the Indian Union. It appears from information received at Paris that there are ground for apprehension of similar acts of violence in other Enclaves.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to draw the attention of the Embassy of India to the very grave consequences which could result from these facts.

In their Note of 26th March last, to which there has hitherto been no reply, the Government of France have stated their position with regard to the problem of these establishments. So long as no solution thereof has been reached the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in these establishments remains that of the French Authorities. The latter has been given most definite instructions to discharge this responsibility.
From

R.L. Purushothamma Reddiar,
President,
Representative Assembly
Pondicherry.

To

Shri Jawaharial Nehru,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

CONFIDENTIAL

My Dear Prime Minister,

It is my sad duty to bring to your notice, the deterioration in the State of Pondicherry which has set in during the last few months.

You are aware of my long and intimate association with the Indian National Congress, extending over a period of 25 years, the bitter struggles for liberation and merger which my friends and I had carried on during the days of French Imperialism. You are also aware that it was Mr. Goubert and his group who were the instruments of the French repression and that we were the victims of their holliganism. After the de facto transfer, we managed to draw a veil over the past and tried to work together with Mr. Goubert's group in the common interest of the Pondicherry State and the Congress Organisation. I was anxious to retire then, as I did not wish to associate myself with the discredited group of Mr. Goubert. But I was persuaded by the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and the All India Congress Committee to help in writing a new chapter in the history of Pondicherry.
Fortunately, the Party had a decent leader in late Shri Pakkiriswamy Pillai and the Party was able to carry on well enough. But even during days of Pakkiriswamy Pillai’s leadership, Mr. Goubert had been working surreptitiously to strengthen his groups and to seize power if possible, on the death of Shri Pakkiriswamy Pillai, he began to maneuver for leadership, promising contracts, offices, emoluments and other inducements to the members of the Assembly in return of their support.

It is an open secret that Mr. Goubert is personally unpopular and thoroughly discredited before the people of Pondicherry. It was felt that his election as Leader would bring back all the corruption, nepotism and abuses of power for which he has been notorious in the past.

For a long time after the death of Sri Pakkiriswamy Pillai I did not even remotely contemplate, seeking the election as Party Leader. Temperamentally, I am more at home as a speaker than as a Party Leader. When the first Government was formed and the place of Councilor were available to me, I preferred to take up the office of the Speaker so that I may hold the balance fair and equal in the House and establish sound and proper democratic traditions in a place where such ideas were totally unknown.

It was suggested to me that in the interest of the Congress Organisation and of the future of the people of Pondicherry, I should become the leader of the Congress Party. I understood that it was also the desire of the High Command. I felt it was a call of duty that I should offer myself for the election as leader.

Initially, a large number of members warmly welcomed my candidature and it looked that on the 4th February, 1956 when a meeting
was called for election of leader, I would be accepted. But in the meanwhile, certain interested parties who had to benefit by way of contracts, began to move and set up Mr. Goubert to contest for the leadership.

Messrs. R. Venkataraman, M.P. and K.S Venkatakrishna Reddiar, Vice-President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee came to Pondicherry on the 4th February, 1956. Mr. Venkatakrishna Reddiar appears to be interested in some contracts and bus routes in Pondicherry state. While appearing to be an observer on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, he started secretly collecting signatures on behalf of Mr. Goubert. This caused a considerable confusion among the members. When the Vice-President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee engaged himself in collecting signatures, the member thought that they were obliged to support Mr. Goubert. Since a contest for the leadership seemed inevitable, the meeting was adjourned for further consultations among members.

In the meanwhile, the Chief Commissioner seems to have been persuaded that Mr. Goubert had a strong majority in the party and that he should be accepted. Since then, the Chief Commissioner has himself exerted pressure and influence on the members of the Assembly to gather support to Mr. Goubert.

A strong section numbering 9 in a party of 24 members, suggested as a compromise that anybody other than Mr. Goubert would be acceptable to them. As I am was not anxious to become the Leader at all, I welcomed the suggestion. But even this suggestion was rejected by Mr. Goubert and his group.
I do not want to worry you with various details. But I feel it my duty to convey to you that but for the Chief Commissioner, exerting pressure on behalf of Mr. Goubert, the course of events in the Party would have been different.

You should have received distorted versions of the events culminating in the meeting of the Representative Assembly on the 23rd April, 1956. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my version of the events prepared objectively to the best of my conscience.

The subsequent proceedings of the Representative Assembly after I had adjourned it as lawful President of the Assembly is illegal, unconstitutional and totally void. The proceedings of the Representative Assembly on the 23rd April, 1956 were reminiscent of the French Indian Assembly days. What surprises and hurts me is that the Chief Commissioner without immediately declaring it void, is giving every sort of support to the totally void proceedings.

The fair name of Indian Union and democracy is in jeopardy in Pondicherry. Peoples’ faith in the Congress Organisation will be shattered if you do not immediately condemn such irregularities. I have every confidence that on the facts ever, as presented by Mr. Goubert or Chief Commissioner you will conclude the subsequent proceedings are wholly void.

I further submit that the majority of the members of the Assembly are against Mr. Goubert’s leadership. He is only trying to secure a nominal and adhoc majority by offering some office or other to one or the other of the members. The administration is also aiding him in his methods and activities. I appeal to you not to let the fair name of the
Congress and Indian Union be tarnished by supporting his wholly unconstitutional, undemocratic activities

We have to face the people again in elections sooner or later and the people will hardly forgive the Congress for support to Mr. Goubert.

I beg to be excused for the trouble I have given you.

Yours Sincerely,
R.L. Purshothama Reddiar

Interior Regulation of the Representative Assembly Convocation of the Representative Assembly:

Article – 1

The Assembly meets every year in two ordinary sessions. The first one takes place between 1st March and 1st April and the second, called Budgetary Session opens in the course of August. Their duration cannot exceed thirty days. The Chief of the territory will send the convocation

The Assembly may hold extraordinary sessions, the duration of which cannot exceed fifteen days. The convocation is sent by the Chief of the territory either on his own initiative or on the written request (collective or individual) of two-thirds of the Members made to the President. This request is registered in the Secretariat and forwarded by the President to the Chief of the territory within the forty-eight hours.

FORMATION OF THE TEMPORARY OFFICE

ARTICLE – 2

On the day fixed in the convocation, the Members of the Representative Assembly meet in the place reserved for holding
deliberations half-an-hour before the time fixed for the opening of the session.

If the quorum (half plus one of the Members inactivity) is not attained on the date fixed for the opening of the session, the session is automatically postponed to the third following day, excluding Sunday and holidays. The deliberations are then valid, whatever may be the number of the Members present; The legal duration of the session runs from the date fixed for the session runs from the date fixed for the second meeting.

The oldest of the Members present fulfils the functions of President and the youngest one fulfils the functions of Secretary.

The oldest Members informs the Chief of the territory through a messenger that the Members of the Assembly are present.

ARTICLE – 3

A delegation of four Members selected by the drawing of lots receives the Chief of the territory at the outer entrance of the meeting hall and takes him to the chair reserved for him. The same delegation accompanies him when he goes out.

ARTICLE – 4

At the opening session, only the oldest Member takes seat next to the Chief of the territory. Seats are reserved around them to the Heads of Departments and to the Members of the Privy Council, and in the hall to the officers escorting him.

Formation of the permanent vote

ARTICLE – 5

In the March session, after the Chief of the territory has left the meeting hall, the Assembly begins immediately after the election of the
President, three Vice-Presidents, four Secretaries and a Quester. The Members of the office are elected for one year and can be re-elected.

ARTICLE – 6

If the first round of ballet gives no result, a second vote of oldest Member is declared elected. The voting takes place by uninominal ballot for the President and by ballot for a list as regards the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries.

ARTICLE – 7

After the elections are over, the President and the Secretaries take their respective seats.

ARTICLE – 8

The Vice-Presidents officiate for the President in case of absence or of impediment. The rank of substitutes is put up by the office during the first meeting by means of secret ballot. The Secretaries are replaced by the youngest among the Members present.

ARTICLE – 9

The office receives all documents relating to matters which are to be discussed by the Assembly.

ARTICLE – 10

The Questor is in charge of the account and of the sundry expenses of the Assembly.

At the end of the session, he submits his accounts to the approval of the Representative Assembly.

Assignments of the President

ARTICLE – 11
The President alone maintains the order in the Assembly. He may cause to be expelled from the meeting hall or to arrest anybody creating troubles. In case of crimes or offences, he puts up a report and the Public Prosecutor is immediately called for. He makes to observe the rules, authorizes to speak the Members wishing so, watches that the Members never deviate from the subject of the deliberation, puts questions and pronounces the decisions of the Assembly. He speaks on behalf of the Assembly and in conformity with its resolution.

ARTICLE – 12

The Assembly can send directly, through its President, to the Minister of French Overseas territories the remarks which it would have to make in the interest of the territory, with the exception of political problems, as well as its opinion on the situation and the needs of the various public services.

ARTICLE – 13

The Assembly can direct on more of its members to gather on the spot the necessary information for taking decisions on the matters which are within its assignments.

ARTICLE – 14

The Assembly asks the Chief of the territory to give all information about the matters regarding the territory.

Secretaries and Record – Keeper

ARTICLE – 15

The Secretaries are in charge of drafting, under the guidance of the President, the resolutions of the Assembly, of reading them, of noting in view of the discussion the names of the Members according to the order
of their requests, of counting openly their votes, of taking note of the decisions taken and of the adjournments pronounced.

**ARTICLE – 16**

A Record – keeper and an Assistant Record-keeper are responsible for the records of the Assembly and for the care of the correspondence. They are proposed by the office and appointed by the Assembly at the absolute majority of the members present.

One or more “Redacteurs” assist the Secretaries for the duration of each session. They are appointed by the President.

The Record keeper can be entrusted with the functions of “Redacteurs”.

In case of death, resignation or impediment of the Record-keeper, the President of the last session provides temporarily for the vacancy.

The Record-keeper and the “Redacteurs” can communicate the minutes, the records and any other document being at their disposal only to the Members of the Assembly and to the Administration.

**Committees**

**ARTICLE – 17**

At the first meeting of an ordinary or extraordinary session and after the projects of the Administration have been communicated, the President informs the Representative of the Administration of the deposit, of the documents and the Assembly fixes the number of the Committees which are necessary for the study of these projects. The members of these Committees are appointed by ballot for a list and their number can vary from twelve to fifteen.
If after two rounds of ballot, it remains to appoint one or several members, they are appointed by relative majority and in case of equality of votes, the oldest Member is appointed.

ARTICLE – 18

Each committee selects a President and one or more “Reporteurs”. Intimation of it is given to the President of the Representative Assembly.

In the committees, the voice of the President is prevailing in case of equality of votes.

ARTICLE – 19

The President of each committee takes charge of the documents necessary to its functioning and watches that after the decisions of the Assembly, the said documents are restored by the “Reporteurs” to proper hands.

ARTICLE – 20

The committees can, through their President, invite amidst them, with consultative voice, any person to whom they would have to ask necessary information. They can also ask to their the Heads of Administration with the authorization of the Chief of the territory or the Heads of Departments with the authorization of the Representative of the Administration.

The President of the Assembly can, when he deems it necessary, participate to the works of the committees of which he is not a Member, without deliberative voice.

When the author of a proposal is not a member of the committee in charge of the study of this proposal, he will have the right to explain his proposal to the committee.
All the Members of the Assembly can attend the works of the committees, but they have no right to speak.

ARTICLE – 21

When the oldest Member or the President of a committee has failed to convene it with sufficient majority, the said committee will be convocated a second time the next day and its deliberations will be valid whatever may be the number of the Members present.

ARTICLE – 22

The reports will be as much as possible printed and distributed to the Members of the Assembly as well as to the Representative of the Administration, twenty-four hours before the commencement of the discussions, unless the Assembly declares urgency.

When the reports cannot be printed, the manuscripts will be deposited in the office three days before the commencement of the discussions in the general meeting. Intimation of the same will be given by means of a circular of the President to the Members of the Assembly. The office must communicate to the Representative of the Administration these reports twenty-four hours before the meeting. However, in all the questions for which the Assembly would have declared urgency, the report can be made within twenty-four hours and discussed immediately.

ARTICLE – 23

The reading of the reports is followed by a general discussion first on the whole of the project and after on its details. As for the report on the budget of receipts and expenditure, on supplementary provisions and deductions from Reserve Fund, a general discussion take place on the whole and after it is deliberated by Chapter and by Article.
In any case, the discussion on a report must be postponed, if the Members ask for the same, to the next meeting and the documents will remain in the office at the disposal of the Members of the Assembly.

**Holding of meetings**

**ARTICLE – 24**

The president opens the meetings and closes them. At the end of each meeting he indicates, after having consulted the Assembly, the day and hour of the opening of the next meeting and also the agenda.

**ARTICLE – 25**

At the opening of each meeting, the report of the previous meeting is read and the examination and discussion of works under agenda are undertaken.

Nevertheless, if the report of the previous meeting was not ready, the Assembly may adjourn the reading to another meeting.

**ARTICLE – 26**

Resolutions of the Assembly are valid only if the half plus one its number in function, are present.

When the Members present do not form the majority of the Assembly, questions put in the agenda are adjourned to the next day and the resolutions taken are valid whatever may be the number of voters.

In both cases, the names of the absentees are written in the report.

Nevertheless, communications that the Government would have to do, should be previously received, if they require it.

The reading of the reports put in the agenda may also be done.
ARTICLE – 27

No Member of the Assembly can speak if he has not asked for and obtained the permission of the President.

He speaks standing

ARTICLE – 28

The President may speak in a meeting only to present the condition of the question or to recall to the question. If he wants to discuss, he quits the chair. He can take it again only after the vote on the question. He is, in this case, replaced by the Vice-Presidents, according to Article 8 and if they are absent, by the senior Member.

ARTICLE – 29

None can speak to develop his opinion more than twice about the same question and in the same meeting, unless the Assembly decides otherwise.

ARTICLE – 30

Reporters, when they defend the work of the commissions of which they are the organs will have always the right to speak. They got permission at last to sum up the discussion, when they ask for it, and in this case, the closing may be pronounced only after the summary is over.

ARTICLE – 31

During the discussion, speakers speak alternatively, for an against, till the Assembly sufficiently enlightened pronounces the closing.

ARTICLE – 32

Permission to speak is always granted to the Member who asks for it, against the closing, on the fixing of the agenda, on the putting of the question for a resolution of order, for a calling to rules, for a personal
fact, to justify a calling to order, or to reply to a communication of the
Government Representative.

Only one Member will be heard against the closing

When a Member was twice called to order in the same meeting, the
President, after granting him the permission to speak, if he asks for it,
should consult the Assembly to know whether he will be heard again on
the same question.

The Assembly pronounces by sitting and standing without debate.

ARTICLE – 33

If the meeting becomes tumultuous, the President will ring up. If
the tumult continues, he will announce that he is going to break up the
meeting; then he will suspend the meeting for fifteen minutes and after it
will be automatically begun again.

ARTICLE – 34

In complex questions, the division takes place automatically, when
required.

ARTICLE – 35

In any question, the sub-amendment should be put to vote before
the amendment and the amendment before the principal question.

ARTICLE – 36

Amendments and sub-amendments should be by writing, signed
and remitted to the president.

ARTICLE – 37

Before voting, reading of all amendments and sub-amendments is
made and priority is granted always to the largest one.
ARTICLE – 38
Questions are voted in general by sitting and standing.

On any question of person, the Assembly votes in secret ballet.

The secret ballet may also take place whenever, on the proposal of ten members, the majority decides.

ARTICLE – 39
When the Assembly votes by sitting and standing, the office decides, from the result of the trial which may be repeated, whether there is doubt.

In case of division, the President has his casting vote.

ARTICLE – 40
For voting in secret ballot, every Member puts a slip in a box with the word “YES” for adoption and “NO” for rejection. White slips express abstaining.

The counting of votes is made by the President with the help of Secretaries.

The result of the counting is closed by the Secretaries and pronounced by the President

ARTICLE – 41
In case of equal votes, a second voting is made immediately. If there is again equality, the motion is rejected.

ARTICLE – 42
It is prevented to put again under deliberation, in the same meeting, a motion once acquired.
Nevertheless, when preparing the budget, the equilibrium is not secured, and in the case there will be a surplus of receipts allowing reductions, the discussion may take place again with the consent of the majority on points determined beforehand. In both cases, the motion must be supported at least by five Members.

ARTICLE – 43

Any Member who desires to bring a motion, should present it in writing, dated, signed and supported by another Member, to the President who reads it to the Assembly.

ARTICLE – 44

No motion is put under discussion in the meeting in which it is presented.

The president, after having consulted the Assembly, fixes the date on which it will be discussed.

Reports and Correspondence

ARTICLE – 45

A register for the correspondence of the President is kept. It is communicated to Members on their demand by the Record keeper in charge.

ARTICLE – 46

Reports should contain the date of the meetings, calls names of the Members present and absent, admittance or rejection of excuses, announcement and remittance of documents, analysis of resolutions, decisions, adjournments, agenda and communications made to the Assembly.
ARTICLE – 47

Rectification, if any, is made immediately on the spot. It is prevented to change or to rectify anything in the report, read and adopted without remarks. After the adoption, reports may be published in the “Journal Official” of the colony, on the demand of the Assembly.

ARTICLE – 48

Immediately after the writing is adopted, minutes of the reports are signed by the President and the Secretaries and deposited in the records Room.

ARTICLE – 49

Reports written by the Secretaries are signed by the President and sent by him to the Chief of the territory and are published within the shortest time by the Government. One copy of the same is sent to each representative of the territory and to the Members of the Assembly.

ARTICLE – 50

If at the time of the closing of the session, all reports are not read and adopted, a commission composed of five Members shall be adjoined to the office, in order to examine, adopt or modify them and to see to their prompt dispatch.

All the members of the Assembly have the right to take part in this work, with deliberate voice.

Leave, absence and resignation

ARTICLE – 51

No Member can absent himself without a leave from the Assembly. However, the President may, in case of absolute necessity, grant a leave and he renders account of it to the Assembly.
ARTICLE – 52

When a member of the Assembly fails, in the course of his mandate, to be present at meetings of two ordinary sessions, without excuse legitimate and admitted by the Assembly, he shall be declared resigned automatically, by the Assembly in the last meeting of the second sessions.

When a member of the Assembly gives his resignation, he sends it to the President of the Assembly or the President of the Permanent Commission who informs immediately about it to the Chief of the territory.

Change in the rules

ARTICLE – 53

Any motion for modifying the rules, shall be taken for discussion, only if it is brought by twelve Members,

Any modification will be admitted, only with the majority of the Members of the Assembly

Petitions sent to the Assembly

ARTICLE – 54

Any petition sent to the Assembly, should, to be accepted, be stamped, written in the French language and signed by the petitioner. In case the petitioner does not know to sign in French, the petition writer should sign it also. Any petition in a language other than French should be accompanied with a translation.
ARTICLE – 55

Petitions are opened by the President and sent for examination by the competent commission with a serial number. This serial number and the name of the petitioner only will be mentioned in the report.

Badges

ARTICLE – 56

Members of the Representative Assembly of the French Settlements in India bear a badge, its model is fixed by Arrete of the Chief of the territory.

Town hall, the 11th January 1947
Sd/-V. GNANA (President)
BALASOUPRAMANIEN
Secretary