

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-REFORMS OFFICE.

(The Council of State Electoral Rules.)

NOTIFICATIONS.

No. 767-F.

Simla, the 27th July 1920.

Rules for the election and nomination of members to the Council of State, for the qualification of electors and members, the constitution of Constituencies and the final decision of doubts and disputes as to the validity of elections.]

Whereas by section 47 of the Government of India Act, 1919, it is provided that the said Act shall come into operation on such date or dates as the Governor General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council may appoint;

And whereas the said Act confers powers for the making of rules thereunder for the nomination and election of members of the Council of State; and for matters incidental and consequential thereto;

And whereas it is necessary for the purpose of bringing into operation the provisions of the said Act in respect of such Council on such date as may hereafter be appointed to make such rules prior to the date on which these provisions will be brought into operation;

And whereas a draft of such rules was laid before Houses of Parliament and was duly approved by them with certain modifications and additions;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Interpretation Act, 1889, read with the rule-making powers under the said Act, the Governor General in Council with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council is pleased to make the said rules in the form so approved, the same being as follows:-

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) These rules may be called the Council of State Electoral Rules.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

2. In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "the Act" means the Government of India Act;

- (b) "**Commissioners**" means the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of holding an election inquiry under these rules;
- (c) "**corrupt practice**" means any act deemed to be a corrupt practice under the provisions of Schedule IV;
- (d) "**election agent**" means the person appointed under these rules by a candidate as his agent for an election;
- (e) "**Gazette**" means the Gazette of India; and
- (f) "**Schedule**" means a Schedule to these rules.

PART I.-COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL OF STATE AND CONSTITUENCIES.

Composition of Council of State.

3. The Council of State shall consist of-

- (1) thirty-three elected members, and
- (2) twenty-seven members nominated by the Governor General, of whom not more than twenty may be officials, and one shall be a person nominated as the result of an election held in Berar.

Constituencies.

4. The elected members shall be elected by the constituencies specified in Schedule I, subject to the provisions of that Schedule in regard to constituencies entitled to elect in rotation, and the number of members to be elected by each constituency shall be as stated therein against that constituency.

PART II.-QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTED MEMBERS.

General disqualification for being elected.

5. (1) A person shall not be eligible for election as a member of the Council of State if such person-

- (a) is not a British subject; or
- (b) is a female; or
- (c) is already a member of any legislative body constituted under the Act; or
- (d) having been a legal practitioner has been dismissed or is under suspension from practising as such by order of any competent court; or
- (e) has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or
- (f) is under 25 years of age; or
- (g) is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (h) being a discharged insolvent has not obtained from the court a certificate that his insolvency was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part;

Provided that, if the Ruler of a State in India or any subject of such a State is not ineligible for election to the Legislative Council of a province, such Ruler or subject shall not by reason of not being a British subject be ineligible for election to the Council of State by any constituency in that province;

Provided further that the disqualification mentioned in clause (d) may be removed by an order of the Governor General in Council in this behalf.

(2) A person against whom a conviction by a criminal court involving a sentence of transportation or imprisonment for a period of more than six months is subsisting shall, unless the offence of which he was convicted has been pardoned, not be eligible for election for five years from the date of the expiration of the sentence.

(3) If any person is convicted of an offence under Chapter IX-A of the Indian Penal Code punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months or is, after an inquiry by Commissioners appointed under any rules for the time being in force regarding elections to a legislative body constituted under the Act, reported as guilty of a corrupt practice as specified in Part I, or in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of Part II, of Schedule IV, such person shall not be eligible for election for five years from the date of such conviction or of the finding of the Commissioners, as the case may be; and a person reported by any such Commissioners to be guilty of any other corrupt practice shall be similarly disqualified for three years from such date.

(4) If any person has been a candidate or an election agent at an election to any legislative body constituted under the Act and has failed to lodge any prescribed return of election expenses or has lodged a return which is found, either by Commissioners holding an inquiry into the election or by a Magistrate in a judicial proceeding, to be false in any material particular, such person shall not be eligible for election for five years from the date of such election:

Provided that any disqualification mentioned in sub-rule (3) or sub-rule (4) of this rule may be removed by an order of the Governor General in Council in that behalf.

Special qualifications for election in case of certain constituencies.

6. (1) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Council of State to represent-

(a) a general constituency situated in the United Provinces or in the province of Assam, unless his name is entered on the electoral roll of a general constituency situated within the same province;

(b) a general constituency situated in the province of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the Punjab or Bihar and Orissa unless his name is entered on the electoral roll of the constituency or of another

constituency situated in the same province and of the same communal description as that by which he desires to be elected;

(c) a general constituency situated in the Central Provinces or in the province of Burma, unless his name is entered on the electoral roll of the constituency.

(2) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the Council of State to represent a special constituency unless his name is entered on the electoral roll of the constituency.

(3) For the purposes of these rules-

(1) "special constituency" means a European Commerce constituency;

(2) "general constituency" means any constituency specified in Schedule 1 other than a European Commerce constituency.

PART III.-THE ELECTORAL ROLL.

General conditions of registration and disqualifications.

7. (1) Every person shall be entitled to have his name registered on the electoral roll of a constituency who has the qualifications prescribed for an elector of that constituency and who is not subject to any of the disqualifications hereinafter set out, namely:-

(a) is not a British subject; or

(b) is a female; or

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

(d) is under 21 years of age:

Provided that, if the Ruler of a State in India or any subject of such a State is not disqualified for registration on the electoral roll of a constituency of the Legislative Council of a province, such Ruler or subject shall not by reason of not being a British subject be disqualified for registration on the electoral roll of any constituency of the Council of State in the Province:

Provided further that, if a resolution is passed by the Council of State after not less than one month's notice has been given of an intention to move such a resolution, recommending that the sex disqualification for registration should be removed either in respect of woman generally or any class of women, the Governor General in Council shall make regulations providing that women or a class of women, as the case may be, shall not be disqualified for registration by reason only of their sex, if they are not so disqualified for registration as electors for the Legislative Council of their province:

Provided further that no person shall be entitled to have his name registered on the electoral roll of more than one general constituency.

(2) If any person is convicted of an offence under Chapter IX-A of the Indian Penal Code punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months or is, after an inquiry by Commissioners appointed under any rules for the time being in force regarding elections to a legislative body constituted under the Act, reported as guilty of a corrupt practice as specified in Part I, or in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of Part II, Schedule IV, his name, if on the electoral roll, shall be removed therefrom and shall not be registered thereon for a period of five years from the date of the conviction or the report, as the case may be, or, if not on the electoral roll, shall not be so registered for a like period; and if any person is reported by any such Commissioners as guilty of any other corrupt practice, his name, if on the electoral roll, shall be removed therefrom and shall not be registered thereon for a period of three years from the date of the report or, if not on the electoral roll, shall not be so registered for a like period:

Provided that the Governor General in Council may direct that the name of any person to whom this sub-rule applies shall be registered on the electoral roll.

Qualifications of electors.

8. (1) The qualifications of an elector for a general constituency shall be such qualifications based on-

- (i) residence, or residence and community, and
- (ii) (a) the holding of land, or
- (b) assessment to or payment of income-tax, or
- (c) past or present membership of a legislative body, or
- (d) past or present tenure of office on a local authority, or.
- (e) past or present university distinction, or
- (f) the tenure of office in a co-operative banking society, or
- (g) the holding of a title conferred for literary merit,

as are specified in Schedule II in the case of that constituency.

(2) The qualifications of an elector for a special constituency shall be the qualifications specified in Schedule II in the case of that constituency.

Electoral roll.

9. (1) An electoral roll shall be prepared for every constituency, on which shall be entered the names of all persons appearing to be entitled to be registered as electors for that constituency. It shall be published in

the constituency together with a notice specifying the mode in which and the time within which any person whose name is not entered in the roll and two claims to have it inserted therein, or any person whose name is on the roll and who objects to the inclusion of his own name or of the name of any other person on the roll, may prefer a claim or objection to the Revising Authority.

(2) The regulations for the time being in force in any province for the purpose of elections to the

Legislative Council of that province in regard to the following matters, namely,-

(1) the authority by whom the electoral roll shall be prepared and the particulars to be contained in the roll,

(2) the time at which the roll shall be prepared,

(3) the publication of the roll in the constituency to which it relates,

(4) the mode in which and the time within which claims and objections may be preferred,

(5) the constitution and appointment of Revising Authorities to dispose of claims and objections,

(6) the manner in which notices of claims or objections shall be published,

(7) the place, date, and time at which and the manner in which claims or objections shall be heard, shall apply for the purpose of the holding of elections within that province to the Council of State; Provided that the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette, direct that such modifications and adaptations as he may specify shall be made in the application of those regulations.

(3) The orders made by the Revising Authority shall be final, and the electoral roll shall be amended in accordance therewith and shall, as so amended, be republished in the case of each province in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations aforesaid for the republication of electoral rolls of constituencies of the Legislative Council.

(4) The electoral roll shall come into force from the date of such republication, and shall continue in force for a period of three years or for such less period as the Governor -General in Council may be regulation prescribe, and after the expiration of such period a fresh roll shall be prepared in accordance with these rules.

(5) If a constituency is called upon to elect a member or members after an electoral roll has ceased to have force and before the completion of the new electoral roll, the old electoral roll shall for the purposes of that election continue to operate as the electoral roll for the constituency.

Right to vote.

10. Every person registered on the electoral roll for the time being in force for any constituency shall while so registered be entitled to vote at an election of a member or members for that constituency: provided that no person shall vote in more than one general constituency.

PART IV.-ELECTIONS.

Nomination of candidate.

11. (1) Any person may be nominated as a candidate for election in any constituency for which he is eligible for election under these rules.

(2) On or before the date on which a candidate is nominated, the candidate shall make in writing and sign a declaration appointing either himself or some other person, who is not disqualified under these rules for the appointment, to be his election agent, and no candidate shall be deemed to be duly nominated unless such declaration has been made.

(3) A candidate who has withdrawn his candidature shall not be allowed to cancel the withdrawal or to be renominated as a candidate for the same election.

Procedure at election.

12. (1) If the number of candidates who are duly nominated and who have not withdrawn their candidature before such time as the Governor General in Council may fix in this behalf exceeds that of the vacancies, a poll shall be taken.

(2) If the number of such candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, all such candidates shall be declared to be duly elected.

(3) If the number of such candidates is less than the number of vacancies, all such candidates shall be declared to be elected, and the Governor General shall, by a notification in the Gazette, call for fresh nominations for the remaining vacancy or vacancies, and if any such are received shall call upon the constituency to elect a member or members, as the case may be.

(4) Votes shall be given by ballot and no votes shall be received by proxy.

(5) In plural-member constituencies every elector shall have as many votes as there are members to be elected, but on elector shall give more than one vote to any one candidate except in the case of the Bombay (non-Muhammadan) constituency, in which constituency an elector may accumulate all his votes on any one candidate or may distribute them among the candidates as he pleases:

Provided that in the Madras (non-Muhammadan) constituency the election shall be made according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, and votes shall be given in accordance with regulations made in that, behalf by the Governor General in Council.

(6) Votes shall be counted by, or under the supervision of, the Returning Officer, and any candidate, or in the absence of the candidate, a representative duly authorised by him in writing, shall have a right to be present at the time of counting.

(7) When the counting of the votes has been completed, the Returning Officer shall, forthwith declare the candidate or candidates, as the case may be, to whom the largest number of votes has been given to be elected:

Provided that in the Madras (non-Muhammadan) constituency the Returning Officer shall determine the candidates to whom the largest number of votes has been given in accordance with the regulations made in that behalf.

(8) Where an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of one vote will entitle any of the candidates to be declared elected, the determination of the person or persons to whom such one additional vote shall be deemed to have been given shall be made by lot to be drawn in the presence of the Returning Officer and in such manner as he may determine.

(9) The Returning Officer shall without delay report the result of the election to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department, and the name or names of the candidate or candidates elected shall be published in the Gazette.

Regulations regarding the conduct of elections.

13. The regulations for the time being in force in any province for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Council of that province in regard to the following matters, namely,-

- (1) for the form and manner in, and the conditions on, which nominations may be made, and for the scrutiny of nominations,
- (2) for the appointment of a Returning Officer for each constituency and for his powers and duties,
- (3) for the division of general constituencies into polling areas and for the appointment of polling stations for these areas,
- (4) for the appointment of officers to preside at polling stations, and for the duties of such officers,
- (5) for the checking of voters by reference to the electoral roll,

(6) for the manner in which votes are to be given, both generally and in the case of illiterate voters or voters under physical or other disability,

(7) for the procedure to be followed in respect of tender of votes by persons representing themselves to be electors after other persons have voted as such electors,

(8) for the scrutiny of votes,

(9) for the safe custody of ballot papers and other election papers, for the period for which such papers shall be preserved, and for the inspection and production of such papers, and

(10) for the conduct of elections generally,

shall apply for the purpose of the holding of elections within that province to the Council of State: Provided that the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette, direct that such modifications and adaptations as he may specify shall be made in the application of those regulations. In particular the Governor General in Council may, notwithstanding anything in these rules, if a resolution in favour of the introduction of proportional representation is passed by the Council after not less than one month's notice has been given of an intention to move such a resolution, for any plural-member constituencies introduce the method of election by means of the single transferable vote, and may make all necessary regulations for that purpose and to that end may group together single-member constituencies so as to make new plural-member constituencies.

Multiple elections.

14. (1) If any person is elected by more than one constituency, he shall, by notice in writing signed by him and delivered to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department within seven days from the date of the publication of the result of such election in the Gazette, choose for which of these constituencies he shall serve, and the choice shall be conclusive.

(2) When any such choice has been made, the Governor General shall call upon any constituency or constituencies for which such person has not chosen to serve to elect another person or persons.

(3) If the candidate does not make the choice referred to in sub-rule (1) of this rule, the elections of such person shall be void and the Governor General shall call upon the constituency or constituencies concerned to elect another person or persons.

Election Agents and Return of Expenses.

Disqualification for being an election agent.

15. No person shall be appointed an election agent who is himself ineligible for election as being subject to any disqualification mentioned in sub-rule (3) or sub-rule (4) of rule 5.

Revocation of the appointment of election agent.

16. (1) The appointment of an election agent, whether the election agent appointed be the candidate himself or not, may only be revoked by a writing signed by the candidate and lodged with the officer receiving nominations and shall operate from the date on which it is so lodged.

(2) In the event of such a revocation or of the death of any election agent, whether such event occurs before, during or after the election, then the candidate shall appoint forthwith another election agent and declare his name in writing to the said officer.

Return of election expenses.

17. (1) Within one month or such longer period as the Governor General may allow after the date of the declaration of the result of the election every candidate, either personally or through his election agent, shall cause to be lodged with the Returning Officer a return of his election expenses containing the particulars specified in Schedule III.

(2) Every such return shall contain a statement of all payments made by the candidate or by his election agent or by any persons on behalf of the candidate or in his interests for expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct and management of the election, and further a statement of all unpaid claims in respect of such expenses of which he or his election agent is aware.

(3) The return shall be accompanied by declarations by the candidate and his election agent which shall be in the form contained in the said Schedule and shall be made on oath or affirmation before a Magistrate.

(4) The Governor General in Council shall cause to be prepared in such manner, and maintained for such time, as he may direct, a record showing the names of all candidates at every election under these rules and the date on which the return of election expenses of each candidate has been lodged with the Returning Officer.

Fixation of maximum election expenses.

18. (1) The Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette-

(a) fix maximum scales of election expenses, which shall be applicable to any election held after the first elections under these rules; and

(b) prescribe the numbers and description of persons who may be employed for payment in connection with any election held under these rules.

(2) Any notification issued under this rule may make different provisions for different constituencies.

Accounts of agents.

19. Every election agent shall keep regular books of account in which the particulars of all expenditure of the nature referred to in rule 17 shall be entered, whether such expenditure is incurred by the candidate or by the election agent or by any person under the direction of the candidate or the election agent.

PART V.-NOMINATED MEMBERS.

General disqualifications for nomination.

20. (1) Save as expressly provided in these rules in regard to the nomination of a person elected in Berar, no person shall be nominated to the Council of State who-

- (a) is not a British subject; or
- (b) is a female; or
- (c) is already a member of any legislative body constituted under the Act; or
- (d) having been a legal practitioner has been dismissed or is under suspension from practising as such by order of any competent court; or
- (e) has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or
- (f) is under 25 years of age; or
- (g) is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (h) being a discharged insolvent has not obtained from the court a certificate that his insolvency was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part:

Provided that, if the Ruler of a State in India or any subject of such a State is not disqualified for nomination to the Legislative Council of a province, such Ruler or subject shall not by reason of not being a British subject be disqualified for nomination to the Council of State to represent that province;

Provided further that the disqualification mentioned in clause (d) may be removed by an order of the Governor General in Council in this behalf.

(2) A person against whom a conviction by a criminal court involving a sentence of transportation or imprisonment for a period of more than six months is subsisting shall, unless the offence of which he

was convicted has been pardoned, not be eligible for nomination for five years from the date of the expiration of the sentence.

(3) If any person is convicted of an offence under Chapter IX-A of the Indian Penal Code punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months or is, after an inquiry by Commissioners appointed under any rules for the time being in force regarding elections to a legislative body constituted under the Act, reported as guilty of a corrupt practice as specified in Part I, or in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of Part II, of Schedule IV, such person shall not be eligible for nomination for five years from the date of such conviction or of the finding of the Commissioners, as the case may be; and a person reported by any such Commissioners to be guilty of any other corrupt practice shall be similarly disqualified for three years from such date.

(4) If any person has been a candidate of an election agent at an election to any legislative body constituted under the Act and has failed to lodge any prescribed return of election expenses or has lodged a return which is found, either by Commissioners holding an inquiry into the election or by a Magistrate in a judicial proceeding, to be false in any material particular, such person shall not be eligible for nomination for five years from the date of the election;

Provided that any disqualification mentioned in sub-rule (3) or sub-rule (4) of this rule may be removed by an order of the Governor General in Council in that behalf.

Term of office of nominated member.

21. (1) A nominated non-official member shall hold office for the duration of the Council of State to which he is nominated.

(2) Official members shall hold office for the duration of the Council of State to which they are nominated or for such shorter period as the Governor General may, at the time of nomination, determine.

PART VI.-GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Obligation to take Oath.

Taking of oath.

22. Every person who is elected or nominated to be a member of the Council of State shall before taking his seat make, at a meeting of the Council of State, an oath or affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown in the following form, namely;

I, A. B., having been(elected/ nominated) a member of this Council do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Emperor of India, His heirs and successors, and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter.

Vacation of Seat.

Effect of subsequent disabilities or failure to take oath.

23. If any person having been elected or nominated subsequently becomes subject to any of the disabilities stated in clauses (a), (d), (e), (g) and (h) of sub-rule (l) or in sub-rule (2), (3) and (4) of rule 5 or of rule 20, as the case may be, or fails to make the oath or affirmation prescribed by rule 22 within such time as the Governor General considers reasonable, the Governor General shall, by notification in the Gazette, declare his seat to be vacant.

Casual vacancies.

24. (1) When a vacancy occurs in the case of an elected member by reason of his election being declared void or his seat being declared vacant, or by reason of absence from India, inability to attend to duty, death, acceptance of office or resignation duly accepted, the Governor General shall, by notification in the Gazette, call upon the constituency concerned to elect a person for the purpose of filling the vacancy within such time as may be prescribed by such notification.

(2) If a vacancy occurs in the case of a nominated member, the Governor General shall nominate to the vacancy a person having the necessary qualification under these rules.

First Constitution of the Council of State.

Constitution of Council of State.

25. (1) As soon as conveniently may be after these rules come into force, a Council of State be constituted in accordance with their provisions.

(2) For this purpose the Governor General shall, by notification in the Gazette, call upon the constituencies referred to in rule 4 to elect members in accordance with these rules within such time as may be prescribed by such notification, and shall make such nominations as may be necessary to complete the Council of State before the date fixed for its first meeting.

(3) If any difficulty arises as to the preparation or publication of the first electoral roll or the holding of the first elections after the commencement of these rules, the Governor General in Council may by order do any matter or thing which appears to him necessary for the proper preparation or publication of the roll or for the proper holding of the elections.

General Elections.

Reconstitution of Council of State.

26. (1) On the expiration of the duration of a Council of State or on its dissolution, a general election shall be held in order that a new Council of State may be constituted.

(2) On such expiration or dissolution, the Governor General shall, by notification in the Gazette, call upon the constituencies referred to in rule 4 to elect members in accordance with these rules within such time after the date of expiration or dissolution as may be prescribed by such notification: Provided that, if the Governor General thinks fit, such notification may be issued at any time not being more than three months prior to the date on which the duration of the Council of State would expire in the ordinary course of events.

(3) Before the date fixed for the first meeting of the Council of State, the Governor General shall make such nominations as may be necessary to complete the Council of State.

Publication of result of general election.

27. As soon as may be after the expiration of the time fixed for the election of members at any general election, the names of the members elected for the various constituencies at such election shall be notified in the Gazette.

PART VII.-THE FINAL DECISION OF DOUBTS AND DISPUTES AS TO THE VALIDITY OF AN ELECTION.

Definition.

28. In this Part and in Schedule IV, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "agent" includes an election agent and any person who is held by Commissioners to have acted as an agent in connection with an election with the knowledge or consent of the candidate;

(b) "candidate" means a person who has been nominated as a candidate at any election or who claims that he has been so nominated or that his nomination has been improperly refused, and includes a person who, when an election is in contemplation, holds himself out as a prospective candidate at such election, provided that he is subsequently nominated as a candidate at such election; and

(c) "returned candidate" means a candidate whose name has been published under these rules as duly elected.

The election petition.

29. No election shall be called in question except by an election petition presented in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

Presentation of the petition.

30. An election petition may be presented to the Governor General by any candidate or elector against any returned candidate within fourteen days from the date on which the result of the election has been published in accordance with sub-rule (9) of rule 12.

Contents of the petition.

31. The petition shall contain a statement in concise form of the material facts on which the petitioner relies and the particulars of any corrupt practice which he alleges and shall, where necessary, be divided into paragraphs numbered consecutively. It shall be signed by the petitioner and verified in the manner prescribed for the verification of pleadings in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Against whom it may be presented.

32. The petitioner may, if he so desires, in addition to calling in question the election of the returned candidate, claim a declaration that he himself or any other candidate has been duly elected; in which case he shall join as respondents to his petition all other candidates who were nominated at the election.

Deposit of security.

33. At the time of presentation of the petition, the petitioner shall deposit with it the sum of one thousand rupees in cash or in Government Promissory Notes of equal value at the market rate of the day as security for the costs of the same.

Dismissal for default.

34. (1) If the provisions of rule 33 are not complied with, the Governor General shall dismiss the petition.

(2) Upon compliance with the provisions of rule 33.-

Appointment of Commissioners.

(a) the Governor General shall appoint as Commissioners for the trial of the petition three persons who are or have been, or are eligible to be appointed, Judges of a High Court within the meaning of section 101 (3) of the Act, and shall appoint one of them to be the President, and thereafter all applications and proceedings in connection therewith shall be dealt with and held by such Commissioners;

(b) the President of the Commission so constituted shall, as soon as may be, cause a copy of the petition to be served on each respondent and to be published in the Gazette, and may call on the petitioner to execute a bond in such amount and with such sureties as he may require for the payment of any further costs. At any time within fourteen days after such publication, any other

candidate shall be entitled to be joined as a respondent on giving security in a like amount and procuring the execution of a like bond.

(3) When in respect of an election in a constituency more petitions than one are presented, the Governor General shall refer all such petitions to the same Commissioners, who may at their discretion inquire into the petitions either in one or in more proceedings as they shall think fit.

Inquiry by Commissioners.

35. Every election petition shall be inquired into by the Commissioners, as nearly as may be, in accordance with the procedure applicable under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, to the trial of suits; provided that it shall only be necessary for the Commissioners to make a memorandum of the substance of the evidence of any witness examined by them.

Place of inquiry.

36. The inquiry shall be held at such place as the Governor General may appoint; provided that the Commissioners may in their discretion sit for any part of the enquiry at any other place in the province in which the constituency in question is situated, and may depute any one of their number to take evidence at any place in that province.

Withdrawal of petition.

37. (1) No election petition shall be withdrawn without the leave of the Commissioners.

(2) If there are more petitioners than one, no application to withdraw a petition shall be made except with the consent of all the petitioners.

(3) When an application for withdrawal is made, notice thereof fixing a date for the hearing of the application shall be given to all other parties to the petition and shall be published in the Gazette.

(4) No application for withdrawal shall be granted if the Commissioners are of opinion that such application has been induced by any bargain or consideration which the Commissioners consider ought not to be allowed.

(5) If the application is granted-

(a) the petitioner shall be ordered to pay the costs of the respondent theretofore incurred or such portion thereof as the Commissioners may think fit;

(b) such withdrawal shall be reported to the Governor General, who shall publish notice thereof in the Gazette; and

(c) any person who might himself have been a petitioner may, within seven days of such publication, apply to be substituted as petitioner in place of the party withdrawing, and, upon compliance with the conditions of rule 33 as to security, shall be entitled to be so substituted and to continue the proceedings upon such terms as the Commissioners may think fit.

Abatement or substitution on death of petitioner.

38. (1) An election petition shall abate only on the death of a sole petitioner or of the survivor of several petitioners.

(2) Such abatement shall be reported to the Governor General, who shall publish notice thereof in the Gazette.

(3) Any person who might himself have been a petitioner may, within seven days of such publication apply to be substituted as petitioner, and, upon compliance with the conditions of rule 33 as to security, shall be entitled to be so substituted and to continue the proceedings upon such terms as the Commissioners may think fit.

Abatement or substitution on death of respondent.

39. If before the conclusion of the trial of an election petition the respondent dies or gives notice that he does not intend to oppose the petition, the Commissioners shall cause notice of such event to be published in the Gazette, and thereupon any person who might have been a petitioner may, within seven days of such publication, apply to be substituted for such respondent to oppose the petition, and shall be entitled to continue the proceedings upon such terms as the Commissioners may think fit.

Recrimination when seat claimed.

40. Where at an inquiry into an election petition any candidate, other than the returned candidate, claims the seat for himself, the returned candidate or any other party may give evidence to prove that the election of such candidate would have been void if he had been the returned candidate and a petition had been presented complaining of his election.

Attendances of Law Officers.

41. When at an inquiry into an election petition the Commissioners so order, the Advocate General or some person acting under his instructions shall attend and take such part therein as they direct.

Explanation.- The expression "Advocate General" includes also a Government Advocate, or, where there is no Advocate General or Government Advocate, such other officers as the Local Government may appoint in this behalf.

Grounds for declaring election void.

42. (1) Save as hereinafter provided in this rule, if in the opinion of the Commissioners-

- (a) the election of a returned candidate has been procured or induced, or the result of the election has been materially affected, by a corrupt practice, or
- (b) any corrupt practice specified in Part I of Schedule IV has been committed, or
- (c) the result of the election has been materially affected by any irregularity in respect of a nomination paper, or by the improper reception or refusal of a vote, or by any non-compliance with the provisions of the Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, or by any mistake in the use of any form annexed thereto,

the election of the returned candidate shall be void.

(2) If the Commissioners report that a returned candidate has been guilty by an agent (other than his election agent) of any corrupt practice specified in Part I of Schedule IV which does not amount to any form of bribery other than treating as hereinafter explained or to the procuring or abetment of personation, and if the Commissioners further report that the candidate has satisfied them that-

- (a) no corrupt practice was committed at such election by the candidate or his election agent, and the corrupt practices mentioned in the report were committed contrary to the orders and without the sanction or connivance of such candidate or his election agent, and
- (b) such candidate and his election agent took all reasonable means for preventing the commission of corrupt practices at such election, and
- (c) the corrupt practices mentioned in the said report were of a trivial, unimportant and limited character, and
- (d) in all other respects the election was free from any corrupt practice on the part of such candidate or any of his agents

then the Commissioners may find that the election of such candidate is not void.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this sub-rule “treating” means the incurring in whole or in part by any person of the expense of giving or providing any food, drink, entertainment or provision to any person with the object, directly or indirectly, of inducing him or any other person to vote or refrain from voting or as a reward for having voted or refrained from voting.

Report of Commissioners and procedure thereon.

43. (1) At the conclusion of the inquiry, the Commissioners shall report whether the returned candidate, or any other party to the petition who has under the provisions of these rules claimed the seat, has been duly elected, and in so reporting shall have regard to the provisions of Rule 42.

(2) The report shall be in writing and shall be signed by all the Commissioners. The Commissioners shall forthwith forward their report to the Governor General who, on receipt thereof, shall issue orders in accordance with the report and publish the report in the Gazette, and the orders of the Governor General shall be final.

Form of report.

44. If either in their report or upon any other matter there is a difference of opinion among the Commissioners, the opinion of the majority shall prevail, and their report shall be expressed in the terms of the views of the majority.

Finding as to corrupt practices and persons guilty thereof.

45. Where any charge is made in an election petition of any corrupt practice, the Commissioners shall record in their report-

(a) a finding whether a corrupt practice has or has not been proved to have been committed by any candidate or his agent, or with the connivance of any candidate or his agent, and the nature of such corrupt practice, and

(b) the names of all persons (if any) who have been proved at the inquiry to have been guilty of any corrupt practice and the nature of such corrupt practice with any such recommendations as they may desire to make for the exemption of any such persons from any disqualifications they may have incurred in this connection under these rules.

PART VIII.-SPECIAL PROVISION.

Interpretation in case of doubt.

46. If any question arises as to the interpretation of these rules otherwise than in connection with an election inquiry held thereunder, the question shall be referred for the decision of the Governor General, and his decision shall be final.

S. P. O'DONNELL,
Secretary to the Government of India.

----- Attachment -----

[ATTACH LIST 1] 01 SCHEDULE 1. (See rule 4.)

[ATTACH LIST 2] 02 SCHEDULE II. (See rule 8.) Qualifications of Electors. PART IX.-BURMA.

[ATTACH LIST 3] 03 SCHEDULE III. (See rule 17.) Return of Election Expenses.

[ATTACH LIST 4] 04 SCHEDULE IV. [See rules 5, 7, 20, 31, 42 and 45.] The following shall be deemed to be corrupt practices for the purposes of these rules: PART I.