

XI. Subject Committees

13. *Clause (5) of article 243S of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act provides that nothing in this article shall be deemed to prevent the Legislature of a State from making any provision for the constitution of Committees in addition to the Wards Committees, the issue is whether other Committees may be constituted.*

- (1) Each State Government has to take a view in this regard keeping in view its demographic characteristics and the felt needs for decentralization.
- (2) Section 12 of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act, 1980, provides for constitution of Municipal Consultative Committees each of which shall consist of not more than five elected members of the Corporation, to advise the Mayor-in-Council in the discharge of its functions. This approach was adopted to create a role for as many Councillors as possible in civic administration and is on the lines of the Consultative Committees in the Parliament.
- (3) The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, provides under section 41, that the Government may, by notification, and with the concurrence of the local authorities concerned constitute “Joint Committees” or “Subject Committees” comprising such number of members and in such manner for carrying out such specific functions as may be prescribed.
- (4) The Punjab Municipal Bill, 1999, under clause 6, provides for several “Subject Committees for Municipal Corporations or Class ‘A’ Municipal Councils,” only, namely, “a Committee on Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, and Solid Waste Management,” “a Committee on other Civic Services including streets and street lighting,” and “a Committee on Slum Improvement, Town Planning and Land Use Controls and Improvement of Environment”. Such Committees have been given a term of one year only.
- (5) In the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, 1976, the amending legislation has provided for constitution of 4 Standing Committees, namely, “the Standing Committee for Taxation, Finance and Appeals”, “the Standing Committee for

Public Health, Education and Social Justice”, “the Standing Committee for Town Planning and Improvement” and, “the Standing Committee for Accounts”.

- (6) The Madhya Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1956, pursuant to a 1998 amendment, under section 46, provides for constitution by the Speaker of “Advisory Committees” for every Department of the Corporation each of the Committees having nine members in the case of Corporations having 60 or more than 60 wards, and seven members in the case of Corporations having less than 60 wards. The member of the Mayor-in-Council in charge of the Department shall convene and preside over the meeting of the Committee, at least once in every two months.

Provisions Made in the Municipal Law

- 15.** *The Municipal Law, under clause 32, provides for three Subject Committees, namely, a “Committee on Water-supply, Drainage and Sewerage and Solid Waste Management”; a “Committee on Urban Environment Management and Land Use Control”; and a “Committee on Slum Services”.*

It also provides for constitution of Ad-hoc Committees, under clause 33, and, Joint Committees which may be set up by the State Government, under clause 34, to deal with inter-Municipality issues.