

## **CHAPTER - 16**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

#### **16.1 Position prior to 1981:**

Before the introduction of the District Councils in 1981, there were 4 types of Local Authorities namely, Municipal Councils, Urban Councils, Town Councils and Village Councils. The respective areas of these Councils were divided into wards, based on the existing Village or other units. The areas of authority of the present Pradeshiya Sabhas were earlier under Town Councils and Village Councils.

These Councils were smaller in extent and therefore had a limited number of members.

Nominations for Local Elections were received at the Office of the Local Authority itself from candidates representing political parties as well as independent candidates.

Each Ward had one Polling Station (or two in the case of stations covering a large area).

Immediately after close of poll, the counting Of votes was done by the Presiding Officer at the Polling Station and the result was declared there itself. The election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor / Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council took place at the first meeting of the representatives so elected. The above position changed drastically with the enactment of the Local Authorities Elections Act of 1989. The main characteristics of the newly introduced electoral system are indicated below.

#### **16.2 Present Position**

##### **16.2.1 Electoral Area**

The Local Authority is deemed to be a single electorate (for all candidates).

The elected members accordingly represent the total area of the Local Authority.

##### **16.2.2 Receipt of Nominations**

Political Parties and Independent Candidates as Groups are required to submit their lists of candidates equivalent in number to the total number of Councillors to be elected. A period of 07 days is allotted for submission of nominations. Nominations are received at the offices of the respective District Secretaries.

Nomination lists are submitted under the signature of the Secretary of the Political Party concerned or the leader of the Independent Group, as the case maybe.

##### **16.2.3 Election Procedure under Proportional Representation:**

Each voter can vote for the Political Party or the Independent Group of his choice and also indicate three preferences to one or two or three candidates of that Party or Group. -

The number of members elected from each Party or Group is determined by the proportion of votes received by that Party or Group in the entire electoral area.

The Party or Group that received the highest number of votes is entitled to two "Bonus" seats.

Any party or Group that received less than one-eighth (1/8) of the total number of votes cast at the election will not be entitled to have any representative. Candidates are elected on the basis of the total number of preference votes received by them, within the number of seats allotted to the party or group concerned. When a member's vacancy occurs in a Council, no by-election is held but the candidate of the same political party or Group who received the next highest number of preferences is nominated to fill the vacancy.

#### **16.2.4 Appointment of Mayor/Deputy Mayor, Chairman/Vice Chairman and Representatives.**

The Returning Officer declares members elected as shown under para 16.2.3. above. The Political Party or Independent Group that received the highest number of votes and thereby qualified to have the highest number of members will nominate members for the positions of Mayor/Deputy Mayor (or Chairman! Vice Chairman) and the Commissioner of Elections appoints them accordingly.

#### **16.2.5 Term of Office of a Council**

The term of Office of Councils is 4 years. The Minister in charge has the power to extend this period by a further period of one year.

#### **16.2.6 Desirable features of the present system.**

- (a) As members are not assigned particular wards, the Party or Group in control is able to carry out development works and community services throughout the area of authority of the Council. When members are assigned individual wards the wards represented by members out side the ruling party or group do not receive sufficient attention for such work.
- (b) As a system of Political Parties or Groups is involved, all such Parties or Groups are in a position to be represented in. Council, thereby ensuring wider participation in Council affairs.
- (c) Representation of special interest groups such as youth or women, can be easily provided for under this system. However the degree of representation of such interest groups may vary under the systems of preferential votes ("manapa").

#### **16.2.7 Defects of the Present system**

##### **16.2.7.1 Ward System.**

- (a) The absence of a representative for a specific area or ward and conversely the absence of a ward or area for an elected representative.
- (b) Absence of a representative to whom the people could go direct for their requirements and who could also be given direct responsibility to look after their interests.
- (c) Absence of a person to monitor the proper execution of development activity at village level, leading to lowering of standard of such work and also to corruption and malpractices.
- (d) Certain sections of the Local Authority area may be represented by a large number of elected members while other areas may remain unrepresented. (Large numbers are elected from areas with high population density while fewer members are elected from sparsely populated areas.)

(e) Absence of popular leadership to guide community participation which would minimise state expenditure on certain community activities.

(f) The absence of a uniform network of representatives sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the people at village/ward level covering the Council's area of authority. This has distanced the Councils from the people.

### **16.2.7.2 Method of Election**

(a) Under the former ward system a member who failed to fulfil his duties to the satisfaction of his people would not be re-elected. Under the present system it is possible for a member to be re-elected with the aid of the votes of persons from outside his own area which may be obtained through unfair means, such as offer of financial incentives or threat and intimidation.

(b) Candidates rejected by votes of their own areas of residence may be elected through the votes of persons from outside.

(c) Under proportional representation, candidates in a Party or Group List could be elected even without sufficient preferential votes in their favour. Members so elected cannot be considered the choice of the people.

(d) Persons willing to serve as members of Councils but not prepared to contest elections on a Political Party ticket are required to organise themselves into independent groups. This is a restriction on democratic rights which limits the entry of suitable persons.

(e) Persons willing to serve the public but unwilling to join a political party or other group are prevented from contesting.

(f) The possibility of obtaining preferential votes from the entire Local Authority area creates a competition for preference votes among the candidates which situation could turn to violence and breach of peace in the locality. Candidates at times use force and thuggery to grab more preference votes thereby disturbing the peace of the average citizen. (One witness aptly described election time as war time.)

(g) The candidate with the highest number of preference votes is usually appointed the head of the Local Authority. This causes unnecessary competition among some candidates which disturbs the peace.

(h) As contestants have to cover the entire Local Authority area large sums are spent on election propaganda. Thus only persons of substantial means are able to face a contest, depriving the less affluent persons willing to serve the community. This too is a limitation on the democratic process.

(i) As very substantial resources are required for election propaganda, candidates often seek outside financial support. Such support is usually offered by contractors, real estate dealers and others with similar business interests. This kind of financial support is a form of bribery. When elected through such methods, members and heads of Local Authorities are often compelled to ignore acts of corruption by such sponsors.

(k) Similarly, as all candidates and their supporters congregate at a single point for the count of votes the tendency for clashes is greater.

(j) Centralised counting of votes of the entire Local Authority area involves heavy expenditure and complexity of arrangements by state institutions.

(1) The movement of all ballot boxes to a single counting centre and the complexity of the count itself involving the preferential votes, the count of which the candidates themselves

- may not be able to monitor, are factors that create a lack of credibility on the results of the poll.
- (m) The tendency for racial, religious and caste distinctions to surface is greater under the P. R. system.
  - (n) The chairman nominated by the party in power in the Council is not necessarily the candidate who received the highest number of preferences. Here the political party has taken precedence over democratic ideals.
  - (o) The present system is not conducive to the emergence of genuine local leadership. Political parties and groups attempt to enforce leadership at village level.
  - (p) Elected candidates are committed to grant favours to various individuals in the Local Authority area in terms of promises made and understandings had during election time. Works executed by representatives in fulfillment of such promises made on a haphazard basis may lead to lop-sided development and prevent maximising benefits from expenditure.
  - (q) Polling Agents to monitor polling at individual polling stations are nominated by the political party or group concerned, as all candidates cannot appoint such agents for all polling stations. This can lead to cases of impersonation and other malpractices taking place.
  - (r) Similarly Counting Agents to monitor the count are also nominated by the Party as all candidates cannot nominate their own agents. Candidates themselves are not in a position to ensure the accuracy of the count of, preferential votes in their favour.
  - (s) There is a high proportion of rejected ballot papers under the present system.
  - (t) Local Authority representatives avoid taking action against persons responsible for activities detrimental to Local Authority interests (e. g. encroachment on roads, obstructions of surface drainage, unauthorised constructions, environmentally harmful industries etc.) fearing withdrawal of support through preferential votes. The system of voting does not therefore ensure equity and justice to citizens.
  - (u) When one representative initiates a desirable project or activity in a given area another representative who has influence or interests in that area may take objection to such activity fearing a loss of preferences for himself.

### **16.2.7.3 Receipt of Nominations**

- (a) Even though a period of 7 days is allocated for receipt of nominations most nomination papers are submitted on the last two days only. There is thus a waste of time and resources on nomination procedure under the current system.
- (b) Under the list system of nominations, when there is a fault in respect of the entry of a single name, any legal proceedings arising there from will have to be against all nominees in the list. Similarly the total list is rejected in case of a fault sufficient for rejection of only one nominee in the list.
- (c) As there is no requirement for nominees to be residents of the Local Authority area it is possible for persons from outside to be nominated. The interest of such persons to be of service to the area may be very limited.

### **16.2.7.4 Election of Mayor/Deputy Mayor, Chairman/Vice Chairman**

- (a) Appointments to these positions are not based on the will of the majority of people or by majority vote of the elected representatives. As the Political Party or Group that nominates persons to these positions does not necessarily consider the will of the majority, the process is not democratic.

- (b) As much as the people and their representatives have no power to appoint the heads of Local Authorities they also do not have the power to remove them.
- (c) Holders of these positions cannot be removed even by a vote of no confidence, This position negates the principle of people's sovereignty. As they are not appointed by the people or their representatives they tend to disregard the Council members and the people. Their duty and responsibility to the public are not properly fulfilled due to such absolute power vested in them.

### **16.3 Proposals and suggestions received for a new Local Government Elections' system.**

#### **16.3.1 Electoral Area**

- (a) The ward system as under the former Village Council structure should re-introduced.
- (b) The present Gram a Niladhari Division to be considered as the ward.
- (c) The ward area to be determined on the basis of population, number of families, geographical area, communities, natural boundaries etc.
- (d) A single community group to be included in a ward.
- (e) The entire Local Authority area to be the electorate as at present.

#### **16.3.2 Receipt of Nominations**

- (a) The period of nominations to be 3 days instead of the present 7 days.
- (b) Nominations to be received at the main office of the Local Authority.
- (c) Nominations to be received at the Divisional Secretary's office.

#### **16.3.3 Term of office of Councils**

- (a) The term of office should be 3 years with provision for one year's extension due to exigencies.
- (b) The term should be 04 years without provision for extension.
- (c) The term should be 04 years with provision for extension by one year.
- (d) Term of office to be 5 years.

#### **16.3.4 Qualifications of candidates**

- (a) Minimum educational qualifications for candidates to be specified.
- (b) Elected candidates should be of good character.
- (c) Candidates should be permanent residents of the Local Authority area.

#### **16.3.5 Voting and appointment of members**

- (a) The production of the National Identity Card to be made compulsory for voting and the NIC number to be included in the Electoral List.
- (b) A suitable number of additional seats to be allotted to the party or group winning the highest number of seats whether under Proportional Representation or under the ward system.
- (c) 50% of the total number of members to represent youth.

- (d) 25% of the total number of members to represent women.
- (e) As youth and women representation is not possible under the ward system, such representatives should be appointed to Committees to be set up under a system of Advisory Committees.
- (f) Elections should be conducted under the ward system with provision for by-elections.
- (g) Elections should be conducted on the present P. R. system as it is, or on a combination of the P. R. and the ward system.
- h) Members should not be elected on the basis of minority groups as it could aggravate racial tendencies.
- (i) Provision should be made available to re-call an elected member when requested by a specified proportion of electors.
- (j) Elected members should not be paid a monthly salary or allowance. They could be paid an allowance based on their participation and be reimbursed any expenses,
- (k) A Ward Committee with formal authority should be organised within each ward,
- (l) Elections should be on Political Party lines.
- (m) Elections should not be based on Political Party lines (for the following reasons) :-
  - \* Political Parties are expected to formulate policy to be implemented at national level. At the Local Government level there is no need for policy formulation by Political Parties as the requirement is implementation of accepted policy.
  - \* It is sometimes not possible for a voter to vote for a candidate because the candidate's political party is not acceptable. Similarly a person inclined to vote for a party is required to vote even when the candidate is not acceptable. This is a constraint on the free vote and causes votes to be cast to the undeserving.
  - \* Candidates are chosen by the Political Party concerned and not by the people. The democratic face of the process has thus diminished.
  - \* The political party system reduces peoples participation. Supporters of parties other than that of the successful candidate tend to withdraw the support of groups they lead.
  - \* Political parties create divisions within Councils whereby even beneficial programmes proposed by the ruling party are opposed by other parties. Similarly those in authority are sometimes reluctant to accept desirable proposals of groups outside those in authority.
  - \* What the public expect from a Local Authority is the performance of certain services from time to time, for which a Political Party system is not relevant. It requires only a peoples representative. The avoidance of the party system will therefore be desirable.
  - \* Full fledged leadership at village level will emerge only outside a political party system,
  - \* Under Political Party administration, Councils discuss resolutions on matters outside the purview of the Local Authority and of no interest to the area and international issues, thus involving a waste of Council time and resources and the neglect of attention to local affairs.

### **16.3.6 Proposals received on the appointment and removal of Chairman / Vice Chairman; Mayor/Deputy Mayor.**

- (i) Appointment by elected representatives
- (ii) Appointment by majority vote of the voters of the area of authority. Appointment by the

respective political parties or groups as at present.

(iii) Appointment by popular vote of the people if elections are under the Political Party system and appointment by elected representatives if elections are not under a political party system.

(iv) Provision should be available for removal of a Head of a Council by a vote of no confidence if he is found unsuitable.

(v) If the Annual Budget of the Council is rejected by the Council, either the Chairman should be removed or the Council should be dissolved.

The Commission also considered it necessary to study the electoral systems prevailing in other countries and accordingly collected information from diplomatic missions of selected countries and conducted a seminar where Local Government systems in 10 countries were examined. The countries were Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, India, UK, Norway, Philippines and Switzerland. It was noted in the proceedings that some countries adopt the P. R. system, or only the ward system. It was also noted that while elections to Local

Authorities are held under the political party system in some countries others have their elections outside the party system. Local elections are held without political party recognition in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Some countries have a Central Elections Commission which conducts all local elections too. We have paid attention to the practices in these countries too in making recommendations on the Local Government electoral process.

## **16.4 Observations, Conclusions and Recommendations:**

### **16.4.1 Ward System**

We have given very careful consideration to the views stated above and come to the conclusion that local authority elections Under the ward system is the most desirable. The majority of the proposals received were in favour of the former ward based elections that existed under the then Village Councils, and accordingly we recommend the election of representatives on the basis of wards,

Since the present Grama Niladhasi Divisions are too small to be wards, involving too large a - number of representatives, we recommend that the wards that existed prior to 1980 be the basis of ward divisions.

### **16.4.2 Receipt of Nominations and the Election System**

We recommend that nominations be received at the main office of the Local Authority concerned. If under unavoidable circumstances it has to be held elsewhere, the choice of a venue should be left to the Commissioner of Elections.

We also recommend the reduction of the present period of 7 days for receipt of nominations to 3 days. This will save time and state expenditure on the nomination process.

We recommend that the receipt of nominations be under the ward system and without the participation of political parties. Having carefully considered the views above the Commission wishes to point out that the advantages of the conduct of local elections outside the political party system far outweighs the disadvantages and therefore will be of greater benefit to the public and also for preservation of democratic values at optimum level.

We also recommend the allocation to candidates, symbols other than those assigned to political

parties at present, or in the alternative, adopt a system of numbers to identify candidates. We recommend that a candidate should be elected from a ward out of nominations obtained outside a political party or group system and that he should receive an absolute majority or in more specific terms, over one half of the valid votes cast at the election under the procedure outlined below :-

(a) Where only two candidates have presented nominations the ballot papers will be prepared for the vote only and the candidate who receives the absolute majority, that is over one half of the valid votes cast should be elected.

(b) Where three candidates have been nominated the ballot paper should be prepared in such manner that a voter can indicate a second preference in addition to the vote. At the election if a candidate obtains an absolute majority, that is, over one half of the valid votes he should be elected. If no candidate receives an absolute majority, the candidate who received the least number of votes should be eliminated from the contest and the second preferences in the votes cast for him should be added to the votes of the other two candidates as indicated. If as a result one of the other two candidates receives an absolute majority he shall be elected.

(c) Where over three candidates are nominated the ballot paper should be so prepared that the voter can indicate a second and a third preference in addition to the vote. Here too if at the first count, a candidate receives over one half of the valid votes cast he should be elected. If no candidate receives such absolute majority all candidates other than the two who receive the highest and the second highest number of votes should be eliminated from the contest, and the second preference in the votes cast for the candidates so eliminated, shall, if in favour of one of the candidates who had received the highest and the second highest number of votes, be treated as votes in favour of the relevant candidate. If one of them receives an absolute majority in consequence, he shall be elected. Where a candidate's second preference, is not clearly indicated (i.e. more than one second preference, or marking does not clearly indicate in whose favour it is) his third preference should be treated as the second preference. If the candidate has not indicated clearly his third preference too, it should not be counted.

(d) If no candidate receives an absolute majority, that is over one half of the valid votes, even after such transfer of second preferences a fresh election should be held in respect of that ward. The above method of election is in use at present for the election of the President of Sri Lanka. We recommend that the Local Government election system including the method of voting and counting of votes be based on the Presidential Election Act No. 15 of 1981 and amendments thereto.

The Commission is of the firm belief that such changes will reduce to some extent the distressing divisions within the community at grass roots level and help to foster better integration and unity within the community.

We received only a few proposals in favour of the present system of Proportional Representation and in favour of a mixed system (with half the number of representatives elected on a ward basis and the other half on proportional representation basis). However proposals on both these systems received our serious consideration. The disadvantages of the system of proportional representation in operation at present have been noted under "Defects of the Present System". Having considered these defects and disadvantages we recommend that this system be withdrawn. We have also come to the conclusion that the mixed (dual) system too does not eliminate the said disadvantages and defects. Although we noted its advantages of greater opportunity for minor group representations and separate representation of youth and women, the system will have the following disadvantages in addition to those stated



under “Defects of the Present System”.

a. Conflicts between the two categories of members elected on ward basis and those elected under P.R. will be unavoidable in working with constituents. These conflicts will be reflected at Council level too, negating the advantages expected.

b. The application of the present method of proportional representation even though in part, will require the continued operation of the political party and group system against which there is strong public opinion as indicated by the evidence before the Commission. We therefore recommend that elections to Local Authorities should be based on the ward system and not on the present method of proportional representation or on the mixed (dual) system,

#### **16.4.3 Educational Qualifications of Candidates**

Numerous proposals were received at the hearings of the Commission on the stipulation of some minimum educational qualification for candidates at Local Authority elections. We have taken notice of the fact that these institutions are not involved in policy formulation and the position that what matters here is a candidate’s ability to serve the people and not his academic achievements. The stipulation of educational qualifications may prevent the entry of genuine and capable persons who are dedicated to serve the people. We therefore do not recommend the stipulation of an educational qualification for candidates.

#### **16.4.4 Representation of Youth and Women**

Proposals were made before us that while continuing the provisions for youth representation in Local Authority elections there should be provision for women’s representation too. The Commission gave careful consideration to this suggestion but concluded that any attempt to accommodate such representation under the ward system would be detrimental to democratic ideals. It was also noted that under the ward system both these categories could contest without limitation in numbers and also be elected without such limitation. It was further observed that it is the voters of the ward who should determine whether their representative should be a male youth, female youth, a woman or other, and not an outside party imposing such a decision. If the voters so desire it should be possible for these categories to have even 100% representation. We therefore recommend that women and youth as categories of voters need not have a fixed percentage of candidates or representatives and that they should be free to contest in any desired numbers.

#### **16.4.5 Conduct of Election, Counting and Declaration of Result**

The views noted at para 16.3 above received our careful consideration. It was clear to us that if the count and the declaration of result be conducted within each ward itself, it will have, the advantages of ensuring transparency and people’s trust in the election process, candidates’ ability to monitor the voting and counting, minimisation of incidents of violence and economy in state expenditure. We therefore recommend that it is most expedient to conduct the poll, count of votes and the declaration of results in the respective wards. Where a ward has two polling stations due to larger numbers, one of them could be selected as the Counting Centre with suitable arrangements to ensure the safe transport of the Ballot Box of the other polling station.

We do not consider that all Local Government elections be held on the same day. We recommend that a single day be fixed in respect of elections in a District or in a single Local

Authority.

The Election Commissioner or the Returning Officer should publish the names of all candidates so declared elected at each ward Counting Centre.

#### **16.4.6 Use of National Identity Card for voting**

We recommend that the National Identity Card (MC) issued by the Department of Registration of Persons be made compulsory for voting and that the number of the (MC) be entered against every name in the Electoral Register. We make this recommendation to (a) ensure that every voter is given the right to vote, (b) facilitate the identity of the voters and (c) reduce the incidents of impersonation and other election malpractices which has become a subject of public censure in recent times.

Arrangements should be made to ensure the issue of NICC to all persons over 18 years of age within a specified period. The proposal may be implemented only after ascertaining such action by the Department of Registration of Persons.

#### **16.4.7 Appointment of Mayor/Deputy Mayor, Chairman/Vice Chairman**

The Commission considered the proposals received in this connection as stated at para 16.3.6 above. The proposals received were (1) Nomination by the relevant Political Party (2) Election by voters of the Local Authority area (3) Election by the elected representatives.

Many of the proposals received at our hearings were in favour of the election by majority vote of the elected representatives, while the other two methods were suggested by a few. When political parties make selections for these positions, apart from the procedure being not democratic, the holders of the positions become answerable to the party and not to the people. Also, if the entire Local Authority area elects the holders of these positions, they could only be removed with a similar vote only and therefore would not be receptive to the voice of the elected representatives. The election process too would be rather complex and appointees may not be the most suitable as the election would be simply on a candidate's popularity in the area. The more democratic process which will also ensure better balance of power would be election by the elected representatives. We therefore recommend that the election of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman be by the majority vote of the elected representatives. We also recommend that this election be conducted by the C.L.G. or his authorised representative by majority vote of members present and that this be done within a week of the election of members of the Council.

#### **16.4.8 Term of Office of a Council:**

Having considered all representations made to us on this aspect, we recommend that the term of office of Councils should be 4 years as at present with provision for extension in unavoidable circumstances by a maximum period of one year on the approval of the Minister. However, the Commission is of opinion that the occasion for such extensions will be very rare when members are elected outside the party system and on ward basis.

#### **16.4.9 No Confidence motions:**

We recommend that when a motion of no confidence is passed against a Mayor! Chairman, he should resign his post after which a substitute should be elected, for the unexpired term of his office. We also recommend that the Council membership of a Mayor! Chairman so removed from office could be retained.

#### **16.4.10 Recall of an elected Representative:**

As much as having the right of electing a representative, electors should have the right to remove a representative. We recommend that a number of electors not less than 50% of the number who voted at the election at which a member was elected, should have the legal right to make an application for the cancellation of the appointment (re-call) of that member. The specification of the above number is because of the possibility that other candidates at the election could / may have together obtained more votes than the winning candidate. An application for recall should be possible only after a lapse of one year from the election of the member and before the commencement of the final year of the term of office of the Council. The application should be made to the proposed Provincial Local Government Advisory Committee. The Committee shall if satisfied after an investigation on the bona fides of the electors making the application, recommend to the Minister of Local Government the suspension of the membership of the member concerned. The Minister shall there upon take steps to suspend the member, and inform the Commissioner of Elections to conduct a second election in respect of the ward concerned. The Commissioner of Elections should hold this election at which the suspended candidate may contest. If he is elected the suspension should be withdrawn forthwith. If another is elected the suspended member's election shall stand cancelled.

#### **16.4.11 Position of Council on defeat of Budget:**

The rejection of the Budget of a Council would mean that the electors are not in agreement with the programme and plans of the Council. The implementation of a budget which has no approval of the Council would amount to noncompliance with the will of the People. The Commission is therefore of the view that the rejection of the budget means that the Council becomes inoperative. We therefore recommend the following procedure in respect of the rejection of the Budget.

Local Authorities should be advised to formulate their Budgets with priority consideration of the requirements of the Ward Committees to be established in every ward of the Council. They should also be advised to prepare these proposals so that certain agreed percentages are spent on all the services delivered by the Council. (The minimum percentages may be laid down by the CLG). If the budget so prepared is not passed by the Council specific reasons for the rejection should be taken note of and the Budget suitably amended and resubmitted to the Council within a month. If the revised budget so presented is also not passed the Council should be dissolved and fresh elections held.

#### **16.4.12 Payment of Allowances to Council Members:**

The adverse effects of the present system of payments of allowances to Council Members have been noted. Many of the representations received by us stressed the need to review the practice. While the payment on a monthly basis has been assumed to be a monthly salary, certain Council Members are said to be drawing the allowance without even attending the regular Meetings. It is further noted that as this remuneration has come to be treated as a regular monthly salary, persons unsuitable for community service are attracted by this prospect to come forward as candidates at Council elections. We therefore recommend that remuneration to Council members be based on their attendance at meetings of the Council and of the Standing Committees. However we have no objection to the payment of a suitable monthly allowance to the Mayor or

Chairman in view of the fact that he holds strict responsibility on Council affairs and is required to work almost on full time basis.

**16.4.13 Amending the Election Law:**

If the above recommendations are to be implemented it will be necessary to make major changes to the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance. It will be preferable to re-introduce with necessary amendment, the Local Government Elections Ordinance which was in operation when the Village Councils were in existence. We also propose th such amendments be introduced with a view to implementing the recommendations made in this Chapter.