

EXTRACT

THE STATES REORGANISATION ACT, 1956 (ACT NO.37 OF 1956)

PART – III

ZONES AND ZONAL COUNCILS

Establishment of Zonal Councils.

15. As from the appointed day, there shall be a Zonal Council for each of the following five zones namely:
- (a) the Northern Zone, comprising the States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir, National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh;
 - (b) the Central Zone, comprising the States of *Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, **Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;
 - (c) the Eastern Zone, comprising the States of Bihar, ^Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal;
 - (d) the Western Zone, comprising the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa and the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu;
 - (e) the Southern Zone, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and # Telangana and the Union Territory of Puducherry,

Composition of the Councils.

16. (1) The Zonal Council for each zone shall consist of following members, namely:
- (a) a Union Minister to be nominated by the President;
 - (b) the Chief Minister of each of the States included in the zone and two other Ministers of each such State to be nominated by the Governor and if there is no Council of Ministers in any such State, three members from that State to be nominated by the President;

- (c) where any Union Territory is included in the zone, not more than two members from each such territory to be nominated by the President;
- (2) The Union Minister nominated under clause (a) of subsection (1) to a Zonal Council shall be its Chairman.
- (3) The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone shall act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

Provided that if during that period there is no Council of Ministers in the State concerned, such member from that State as the President may nominate in this behalf shall act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council.

- (4) The Zonal Council for each zone shall have the following persons as Advisers to assist the Council in the performance of its duties, namely :
 - (a) one person nominated by the Planning Commission;
 - (b) the Chief Secretary to the Government of each of the States included in the Zone; and
 - (c) the Development Commissioner or any other officer nominated by the Government of each of the States included in the Zone.
- (5) Every Adviser to a Zonal Council shall have the right to take part in the discussions of the Council or of any Committee thereof of which he may be named a member but shall not have a right to vote at a meeting of the Council or of any such Committee.

**Meetings of
the Councils.**

- 17. (1) Each Zonal Council shall meet at such time as the Chairman of the Council may appoint in this behalf and shall, subject to the other provisions of this section, observe such rules of procedure in regard to transaction of business at its meetings as it may, with the approval of the Central Government, lay down from time to time.

- (2) The Zonal Council for each zone shall, unless otherwise determined by it, meet in the States included in that zone by rotation.
- (3) The Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman or in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, any other Member chosen by the members present from amongst themselves shall preside at a meeting of the Council.
- (4) All questions at a meeting of a Zonal Council shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members present and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman or, in his absence any other person presiding shall have a second or casting vote.
- (5) The proceedings of every meeting of a Zonal Council shall be forwarded to the Central Government and also to each State Government concerned.

Power to appoint Committees.

- 18. (1) A Zonal Council may from time to time by resolution passed at a meeting to appoint Committees of its members and Advisers for performing such functions as may be specified in the resolution and may associated with any such Committee, such Ministers either for the Union or for the States and such officers serving either in connection with the affairs of the Union or of the States as may be nominated in that behalf by the Council.
- (2) A person associated with a Committee of a Zonal Council under sub-section (1) shall have the right to take part in the discussions of the Committee, but shall not have a right to vote at a meeting thereof.
- (3) A Committee appointed under sub-section (1) shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to transaction of business at its meetings as the Zonal Council may, with the approval of the Central Government, lay down from time to time.

Staff of the Council.

- 19. (1) Each Zonal Council shall have a secretarial staff consisting of a Secretary, a Joint Secretary and such other officers as the Chairman may consider necessary to appoint.

- (2) The Chief Secretaries of the States represented in such Council shall each be the Secretary of the Council by rotation and hold office for a period of one year at a time.
- (3) The Joint Secretary of the Council shall be chosen from amongst officers not in the service of any of the States represented in the Council and shall be appointed by the Chairman.

Office of the Council.

20. (1) The office of the Zonal Council for each zone shall be located at such place within the zone as may be determined by the Council.
- (2) The administrative expenses of the said office, including the salaries and allowances payable to or in respect of members of the secretarial staff of the Council other than the Secretary, shall be borne by the Central Government out of monies provided by Parliament for the purpose.

Functions of the Councils.

21. (1) Each Zonal Council shall be an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the States represented in that Council, have a common interest and advise the Central Government and the Government of each State concerned as to the action to be taken on any such matter.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), a Zonal Council may discuss, and make recommendations with regard to :
 - (a) any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning;
 - (b) any matter concerning border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport; and
 - (c) any matter connected with, or arising out of, the reorganisation of the States under this Act.

Joint meetings of Zonal Councils.

22. (1) Where it is represented to the Zonal Council for any Zone that a matter in which a State included in that zone and one or more States included in any other zone or zones have a common interest should be discussed at a joint meeting, it shall be lawful for the Zonal Councils concerned :

- (a) to meet at such time and place as the Chairman thereof may, in consultation with each other, appoint in this behalf; and
 - (b) to discuss the said matter at such joint meeting and make recommendation to the Governments concerned as to the action to be taken on that matter.
- (2) The Central Government may make rules for regulating the procedure at joint meetings of the Zonal Councils.
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**Inserted by Section 85 of the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 (Act 29 of 2000)*

***Inserted by Section 77 of the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 (Act 28 of 2000)*

^ Inserted by Section 83 of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (Act 30 of 2000)

Inserted by Section 99 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 (Act 6 of 2014)