



## Forum for Good Governance

Regd. No. 653/2009

Hyderabad  
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### PRESS NOTE

#### Functioning of Ward Committees in GHMC

To empower the third tier of three tier system of governance, the Indian Parliament has amended the constitution of India (73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment). As per the 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment certain provisions were made for people's participation at grass roots level in urban governance.

Article 243-S of the amendment stipulates

1. There shall be constituted Ward Committees
2. The legislature of state may, by law make provision with respect to
  - a) Composition and territorial area of a Ward Committee
  - b) The manner in which such seats in such committees shall be filled
  - c) The functions relating to planning and Co-ordination for Metropolitan area which may be assigned to such committees.

The state Government in response to the constitutional amendment has enacted A.P. municipal laws (Act 7 of 2008) which stipulates for constitution of Ward Committees for each ward of Municipal Corporation which consist of (up to) 10 members representing the civil society to be nominated by the Municipal Corporation.

As per the Act, the civil society means an N.G.O. or association of persons registered under any law and working for social welfare and includes any community based organization, Resident Welfare Associations, professional institutions, social or cultural body etc.

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**The Act 7 of 2008 further stipulates the functions of Ward Committees :** Supervision over sanitation, drainage, water supply, street lights, repairs to roads, maintenance of markets, parks and play grounds. Assistance in Implementation of poverty alleviation programme collection of Taxes and non Tax revenues, preparation of annual Ward development plan, preparation of list of beneficiaries, pensions and subsidies.

Each ward is divided into Areas with about 5000 population and Area Sabha representative has to be nominated by Municipal Corporation.

The Act further provides for disclosure of information to the general public at quarterly, half yearly and yearly intervals through news papers, internet, by placing on notice boards, printed material and any other means. The information such as financial statements of balance sheet, income and expenditure and cash flow on quarterly basis, service levels provided by corporation namely water supply, drainage, sewerage solid waste management, roads, parks, street lights etc. and the expenditure on major services provided or activities performed. Details of subsidy programmes, and the list of beneficiaries, details of major works, cost and time of completion and details of contracts. List of defaulters of property tax, grants released by government, revenue transferred from state i.e. entertainment tax, surcharge on stamp duty, professional tax etc. budget allocation for slum improvement and their utilization.

While the Act 7 (of 2008) says for greater participation of civil societies at ward level in decision making, transparency and accountability in working of urban governance, in actual implementation very few members from civil societies are nominated in Ward Committees. Corporator and M.L.A.s are advocating for their party workers and relatives in ward committees in utter disregard to the Act. During the year 2009 to 2014 the Ward Committees in GHMC were filled with kith and kin of Corporators and party workers. During this period the Ward Committees rarely met and discussed any local problem nor was any ward development plan prepared.

After the elections to GHMC in 2016, attempts are being made to constitute new Ward Committees. It is reported that lot of tussle is going on between Legislators and Corporators to get their people appointed as Ward Committee members in gross violation of the Act.

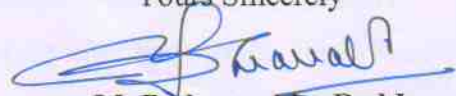
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Further, the disclosure of information by civic bodies is not being done, with the result the citizens are unaware of what is going on in the corporations except some statements now and then by politicians. Lack of transparency is the main cause for rampant corruption in GHMC leading to bad civic amenities.

Forum for Good Governance requests the government to kindly issue suitable instructions for implementation of the Act 7 in its letter and spirit.

Yours Sincerely



**M. Padmanabha Reddy**

Secretary

Forum for Good Governance