

INDORE MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL
NEW CONSTITUTION
MAJORITY OF ELECTED
MEMBERS
HOUSE-TAX AND WATER-RATES
TO BE DOUBLED

As far back as 1935, His Highness the Maharaja Holkar appointed a Committee to report on the causes of the unsatisfactory working of the Indore City Municipality and to suggest remedies to remove them. As, however, owing to His Highness's unavoidable absence abroad the report of the Committee could not be submitted until his return to Indore in November 1937, and as it did not deal with the question of introducing substantial reforms in the Municipal - constitution which His Highness had intended, a new Committee consisting of the Finance Minister, Home Minister and the Legal Remembrancer was appointed to examine the whole field of municipal administration, including the municipal finance.

On submission of the Committee's report with the Cabinet's opinion thereon, His Highness (says a Huzur Shree Shankar Order dated 13th March 1939) has decided that the present constitution of the municipality should be so modified as to make the Municipal Executive responsible to the Municipal Council and that the latter should, in its turn, be held responsible for the proper administration of municipal affairs. Accordingly, His Highness has been pleased to sanction the following modifications in the existing Constitution:-

1 CONSTITUTION.

1. The Municipal Council shall consist of 34 councillors, of whom 22 shall be elected and 12 nominated by the Government. Of these 12 not more than eight shall be officials and the remaining shall be chosen so as to represent various

fair representation at the elections. The qualifications of voters and elected members shall remain the same as at present, but the number of Wards shall have to be revised.

2. The President of the Municipal Council shall be appointed by the Council, provided he secures the votes of three-fourths of the total number of Councillors, that is, 25 votes. If no member is able to secure the required number of votes, the President shall be appointed by the Government from out of the Members of the Council.

3. The term of office of the President shall be one year. He shall be eligible for re-appointment.

4. The Municipal Commissioner and the other Executive Officers shall be appointed or removed by Government on the recommendation of the Municipal Council, provided the recommendation is supported by a three-fourths majority. If this requisite majority is not obtained, the appointment will be made by Government. These officers will be Municipal servants and not Government servants. The post of Deputy Commissioner shall be abolished.

5. All other appointments and dismissals shall rest with the Standing Committee. The Municipal Commissioner shall have the powers of a First Class Head of Department.

6. The Standing Committee shall exercise all its present functions and powers except in regard to building permissions. This power shall vest in the Municipal Commissioner.

7. The Municipal Council shall exercise general supervision and control over all the Municipal Officers.

8. The Municipal Council shall be empowered to pass the Municipal Budget, with the proviso that the salaries, allowances, etc., of Officers whose appointments do not lie within the powers of the Municipal Council will not be subject to any modifications by it, and provided further that the Budget is a balanced one. It will be open to Government to revise the Budget passed by the Municipal

the opinion of the Government it is deemed necessary to do so in the interest of the Municipal administration.

9. The Municipal Council shall appoint an Appeal Committee to hear and decide appeals from the orders of the Municipal Commissioner.

It shall consist of the President of the Municipal Council, two official Councillors and two nominated (non-official) or elected Members - all the four Members to be elected by the Council. The orders of the Appeal Committee will be subject to revision by the Minister in charge of the Municipality, that is, Government's inherent power of revision will continue.

10. In the event of gross abuse of powers of incompetenc or serious mal-administration of the Municipality, Government shall suspend the Constitution and make such arrangements for Municipal administration as it deems fit.

With a view to ensuring immediate improvement in the execution of Municipal work and to providing additional funds necessary for meeting the cost of the supply of water from Yeshwant Sagar and of other improvements which should, in the interest of public health and convenience, no longer be delayed, His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to sanction the following recommendations of the Cabinet:-

1. The services of Mr. Bhave are hereby terminated. He will receive gratuity to which he may be entitled according to rules.

Immediate steps should be taken to replace Mr. Bhate the Revenue Officer, and Mr. Datar, the Municipal Engineer.

2. Octroi shall be levied by the Municipality as per schedule given below:-

Name of the article	Rate per Maund.		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.
Pulses	0	0	6
Wheat, gram and flours thereof	0	0	6
Bajra and other food-grains.	0	0	3
Oil-seeds (Rameli, Tilli, Alsi Cotton-seeds, etc)	0	1	0
Kanar	0	1	0

Name of the article	Rate per Maund		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.
Ghee	0	1	0
Vegetable Ghee	2	0	0
Kirana	0	1	6
Coal and Coke	0	0	1½
Firewood	0	0	1½
Timber	0	0	3
Rice	0	1	0
Gur	0	0	9
Sugar	0	1	6
Unmanufactured Brass and Copper	0	0	3
Tinware, Brassware, Copperware and hardware of all kinds (except aluminiumware)	0	1	0
Glassware, Aluminium and Aluminiumware	0	1	6
Motor-cars, Cycles, Electric apparatus, Tubes and Tyres, Carpets of all kinds (Durries excluded)	0	1	6

List of exempted articles.

- (a) All head-loads,
- (b) Personal luggage of passengers.
- (c) The luggage of circus or Theatrical Companies or Travelling Exhibitions.

No wheel tax should be levied on articles on which the proposed Octroi is levied.

3. The existing rate of the House-tax, which is very low, shall be doubled.
4. The existing Water-rates shall also be doubled.
5. The vehicle tax of Rs. 36/- per annum on Motor cars and Re.1/- per annum on cycles shall be increased as shown below:-

Motor Cars (For private use)	Rs. 42/-
Motor Cars plying on hire	Rs. 48/-
Passenger Buses, for private use	Rs. 54/-
Buses (plying on hire) and Goods Lorries, both private and plying on hire.	Rs. 60/-
Cycles for private use.	Rs. 1/8/-
Cycles kept for or plying on hire.	Rs. 2/-

His Highness is further pleased to increase the present contribution which the State makes to the Municipal Fund by Rs. 50,000/-.