

Kullu town is located on the right bank of river Beas and was the capital of Rupi-State in the pre independence days. The town has been the seat of government of erstwhile Kullu state since 1660 AD. The Kullu town is located in the middle of the picturesque Kullu valley, known for the abode of god, is known for Dussehra-the international folk dance festival and is surrounded by apple orchards. Kullu town, which was established as an administrative center has acquired multifunctional character due to coming up to district head quarter, regional offices, trade and commerce, increasing tourist footfalls, establishment of colleges, hospitals and financial institutions. It is an old town and since it is located at the centre of Kullu-Manali valley, so it serves as a hub to the economic and religious activities.

Kullu Municipal Council is one of the oldest municipalities of India. The town got its first local governing body as Notified Area Committee in September 1942, which became a Municipal Committee in April 1955. The Historical Dussehra festival, which attracts hoards of visitors from the Nation as well as abroad, is celebrated at Dhalpur ground, which is located at the centre of the town. The Council plays a pivotal role along with Distt. Administration in organizing the Dussehra festival.

ELECTED BODY

The elected body of Kullu Municipal Council has 15 councillors out of which 11 are directly elected and 4 are nominated by GoHP. Out of 11 elected members one is president and other one is vice president. The tenure of the council is five years. Last elections were held in year of 2016 and next elections are due in Jan 2021. The elected Councillors elect President and Vice President. The House comprising of elected and nominated members takes all policy decisions. The House meets at least once every month. The Council has several statutory and non-statutory functional committees represented by Councillors to set out the obligatory and discretionary functions bestowed upon the council by the 74th CAA.

ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP

The Executive Officer MC Kullu is the administrative head of the Council. All executive and administrative powers for the purpose of carrying out day to day functions are vested in him. He is appointed by the State Govt. for a particular period of time. In addition the Municipal Council has its own permanent cadre of the officers who look after independent branches.

FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES

General powers of municipalities. –

1. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rule, regulations and bye-laws made thereunder, the municipal administration of a smaller urban area and transitional area shall vest in the Municipal Council and a Nagar Panchayat respectively.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), it shall be the duty of the municipality to consider all periodical statements of the receipts and disbursements and all progress reports and pass such resolutions thereon as it thinks fit.

Powers and authorities of municipalities.-

1. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 47, the State Government shall, by notification endow the municipalities with such powers and authorities as may be necessary from time to time to enable them to function as institutions of Local Self Government, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to,-
 - i. the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice ;
 - ii. the performance of functions and implementation of the schemes which may be entrusted to them including the following, namely:-
 - 1) urban planning including town planning ;
 - 2) regulation of land-use and construction of buildings ;
 - 3) planning for economic and social development ;
 - 4) roads and bridges ;
 - 5) water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes ;
 - 6) public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management;
 - 7) fire services ;
 - 8) urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects;
 - 9) safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded ;
 - 10) slum improvement and up gradation ;
 - 11) urban poverty alleviation ;

12) provisions of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens and playgrounds;

13) promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects;

14) burials and burial grounds, cremations, cremation grounds and electric crematoriums;

15) cattle ponds and prevention of cruelty to animals ;

16) vital statistics including registration of births and deaths;

17) public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public conveniences ;

18) regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries :

Provided that the notification regarding devolution of powers under this sub-section shall be issued within three month from the date of commencement of this Act, in the first instance.

2. Nothing contained in the provisions of this section shall be construed to divest the municipalities of various powers and functions vested in them under various provisions of this Act, rules and bye-laws, made thereunder.

Standing Committees.-

1) The municipality shall have the following Standing Committees ;

- a) General Standing Committee;
- b) Finance, Audit and Planning Committee; and
- c) Social Justice Committee.

2) Each Standing Committee shall consist of not less than three and not more than five members including the President or Vice President, as the case may be, elected by the members of the municipality from amongst the elected members:

Provided that Social Justice Committee shall include at least one member who may be a woman or a member of a scheduled caste or of a scheduled tribe.

3) The President shall be the ex-officio member and also Chairman of the General Standing Committee and Finance, Audit and Planning Committee. The Vice

President shall be the Ex-officio member and Chairman of the Social Justice Committee:

Provided that if the Vice President acts as the President of the municipality, the members of the Social Justice Committee shall elect its Chairman from amongst themselves.

- 4) No elected member of the municipality shall be eligible to serve on more than two Standing Committees.
- 5) The Executive Officer or the Secretary of the municipality shall be the ex-officio Secretary of every Standing Committee.

Functions of the Standing Committees.-

- 1) The General Standing Committee shall perform functions relating to the establishment matters, communications, buildings, urban housing, relief against natural calamities, water supply and all residuary matters.
- 2) The Finance, Audit and Planning Committee shall perform the functions relating to the finance of the municipality, framing of budgets, scrutinising proposals for increase of revenue, examination of receipts and expenditure statements, consideration of all proposals affecting the finances of the municipality, general supervision of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality and co-operation, small saving scheme and any other function relating to the development of the municipal area.
- 3) The Social Justice Committee shall perform functions relating to-
 - a) promotion of education, economic, social, cultural and other interests of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and Backward Classes, Women and other weaker sections of the society;
 - b) protection from social injustice and all other forms of exploitation;
 - c) amelioration of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes, women and other weaker sections of the society; and
 - d) securing social justice to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and other weaker sections of the society.

e) The Standing Committees shall perform the functions referred to above to the extent the powers are delegated to them by the municipality.

Conduct of business by the Standing Committees.-

- 1) The municipalities may frame bye-laws relating to election of members of standing committees, conduct of business therein, and all other matters relating thereto.
- 2) The Chairman of every standing committee shall in respect of the work of the committee, be entitled to call for any information, return, statement, account or report from the office of the municipality and to enter on and inspect any immovable property of the municipality or work in progress connected with the work of the committee.
- 3) Each standing committee shall be entitled to require attendance at its meetings of any officer of the municipality who is connected with the work of committee. The Executive Officer or the Secretary, as the case may be, shall under instruction of the committee, issue notice and secure the attendance of such officer.

A. **Ward Sabha.**—All persons comprised in the electoral roll of a ward shall constitute the Ward Sabha for the purposes of this Act.

B. Meetings of Ward Sabha.—

- 1) There shall be two meetings of the Ward Sabha in a year. The meeting shall be convened by the elected ward Member at a public place after public notice alongwith agenda.
- 2) The officer, to be nominated by the Executive Officer or Secretary, as the case may be, shall be the Secretary of the Ward Sabha. The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Ward Sabha shall be recorded by the Secretary and a copy of minutes of the proceedings of each meeting shall be forwarded by him to the Executive Officer or Secretary, as the case may be.

C. Ward Committee —

- 1) There shall be a Ward Committee for each ward in the Municipality to be constituted within six months of the constitution of municipality.
- 2) Each Ward Committee shall consist of a President and not exceeding nine eminent members, to be nominated by the Ward Sabha.

3) The elected Ward Member representing that ward shall be the President of the Ward Committee:

Provided that at least fifty per cent seats of members of the Ward Committee shall be reserved for women.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, “eminent member” of Ward Sabha means any person or a representative of a non-government organization or an association or a community based organization working for or representing any section of civil society in fields such as environment, social welfare, rural development, health, culture, business, trade etc.]

4) A person shall be disqualified for being nominated as a member of the Ward Committee under sub-section (2) or to continue as such if, under the provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force, he is disqualified for being elected as a member of municipality.

5) The Secretary of the Ward Sabha shall also be the Secretary of the Ward Committee. The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Ward Committee shall be recorded by the Secretary and a copy of minutes of the proceedings of each meeting shall be forwarded by him to the municipality.

6) The term of office of the member of the Ward Committee shall be two and half years from the date of nomination and shall be eligible for renomination.

D. Meetings of Ward Committee.—It shall be the duty of the President to conduct meetings of the Ward Committee at least once in two months for discussing the developmental issues and plans of the ward concerned.

E. Agenda.—It shall be the duty of the President to set agenda for the meetings of the Ward Committee.

F. Procedure for conduct of Ward Committee meetings.—

Following procedure shall be followed while conducting meetings of the Ward Committee, namely:—

the minutes shall be presented at the next meeting of the Ward Committee for confirmation.

G. Disqualifications.—If a Member fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Ward Committee, then the President may bring a resolution before the Ward Sabha, for removal of such member, for its approval. On approval of such resolution, such member

shall stand removed from the Ward Committee and in his place, the Ward Sabha may nominate another person.]

H. **Duties and functions of the Ward Committee.**—The Ward Committee shall discharge and perform the following duties and functions, namely :—

- a) to prepare annual ward plan and forward the same to the municipality for its integration with annual plan of the municipality;
- b) to ensure proper implementation of various developmental schemes approved by the municipality for the concerned ward;
- c) to provide assistance in solid waste management in the ward;
- d) to supervise sanitation work in the ward;
- e) to provide assistance for the preparation and encouragement of the developmental scheme(s) for the ward;
- f) to encourage harmony and unity among various groups of people in the ward;
- g) to provide assistance in the implementation of developmental schemes relating to the ward;
- h) to provide assistance for identification of beneficiaries for the implementation of development and welfare schemes;
- i) to encourage art and cultural activities and sports activities and games;
- j) to ensure people's participation in the voluntary activities necessary for successful implementation of the developmental activities of the municipality;
- k) to suggest community water taps, public wells, public sanitation units, and such other public amenity schemes within the ward concerned;
- l) to identify the deficiencies in the water supply and street lighting arrangements in the ward and suggest remedial measures;
- m) to render necessary assistance to the municipality Authorities for timely collection of taxes/fees and other arrears due to the municipality;
- n) to generate proposals/plans and determine the priority of scheme and developmental programmes to be implemented in the ward;
- o) to improve/promote the overall environment situation by integrating environmental considerations more systematically within the ward Sabha; and
- p) to perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the municipality.]

I. **Right to seek information.**—

- 1) The President and the members of the Ward Committee shall have the right to seek information from the Executive Officer or Secretary, as the case may be, on any matter relating to the ward.
- 2) The Ward Committee shall submit periodical reports to the municipality in respect of the matters specified therein.

J. Functions of the Executive Officer and Secretary.—The Executive Officer or Secretary, as the case may be, shall bring to the notice of the municipality any act or resolution of the Ward Committee which is done or passed in contravention of any of the Government instructions or the provisions of this Act; provided that if such act or omission is not rectified within 15 days, the Executive Officer or Secretary, as the case may be, shall bring such omission or violation to the notice of the State Government.”.]