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satisfied that on the basis of the affidavits filed and the documents produced in such enquiry by the parties concerned of their own accord, it cannot come to a decisive opinion on the matter which is being inquired into, the Commission shall have, for the purposes of such inquiry, the powers of a civil court, while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), in respect of the following matters, namely :-

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document or other material object producible as evidence;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisition any public record or a copy thereof from any court or office;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

(2) The Commission shall also have the power to require any person, subject to any privilege which may be claimed by that person under any law for the time being in force, to furnish information on such points or matters as in the opinion of the Commission may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject matter of the inquiry.

(3) Any proceeding before the Commission shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of section 193 and section 228 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

**156. Statements made by persons to the Commission :** No statement made by a person in the course of giving evidence before the Commission shall subject him to, or be used against him in, any civil or criminal proceeding except a prosecution for giving a false evidence by such statement;

provided that the statement —

- (a) is made in reply to a question which he is required by the Commission to answer; or
- (b) is relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry.

**157. Procedure to be followed by the Commission :** The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure (including fixing of places and times of its sittings and deciding whether to sit in public or in private).

**158. Protection of action taken in good faith :** No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Commission or any person acting under the direction of the Commission in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of the foregoing provisions of this Chapter or of any order made there under or in respect of tendering of any opinion by the Commission to the Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be, or in respect of the publication, by or under the authority of the Commission of any such opinion, paper or proceedings.

## CHAPTER – XXII

### MISCELLANEOUS

**159. Extension of time for completion of election :** It shall be competent for the Commission for reasons which it considers sufficient, to extend the time for the completion of any election by making necessary amendments in the notification issued by it.

**160. Requisitioning of premises, vehicles, etc, for election purposes :**