

17. (1) The Village Council, unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer.

Duration of Village Councils

- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection (1), the members of any Council or body functioning under village tribal traditions immediately before the coming into force of this Regulation shall cease to exist from the date of election to the Village Council under section 11.
- (3) An election to constitute a Village Council shall be completed, -
  - (a) before the expiry of its duration specified in subsection (1); or
  - (b) before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution:

Provided that where the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Village Council would have continued is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election under this sub-section for constituting the Village Council for such remaining period.

- (4) A Village Council constituted upon the dissolution of a Village Council before the expiry of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Village Council would have continued under sub-section (1), had it not been so dissolved.
- **18.** (1) As soon as may be after the first meeting of the Village Council, every member thereof, including the First Captain and the Second Captain, shall take the oath of office before the Assistant Commissioner in the form set out in the First Schedule.
- (2) No member who has not taken such oath shall vote or take part in the proceedings of any meeting nor shall he be included as a member of any committee constituted by the Village Council.

Oath of office