



- (ii) Where any functions or duties are entrusted to a Village Council under subsection (i), the Administrator shall pay to such Village Council collection charges at such rates as he may determine.

31 32.(i) Subject to the rules made under this Regulation, a Village Council may organize a Village volunteer force consisting of able bodied males residing in the village who are between the ages of 21 and 40 and who are willing to join the force and place such force under the command of a suitable person.

- (ii) The services of the village volunteer force may be utilised for general watch and ward purpose and in cases of emergency like fire, floods, outbreak of epidemic or any other natural calamity.

- (iii) No member of the force shall be held liable for damages on account of any act done by him in the bonafide discharge of his duties as a member of such force.

32 33. (a) Every contract or agreement entered into by a Village Council shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Ist Captain and, by two other members of the Village Council and sealed with the common seal of the Village General Body.

- (b) The village councils shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the villages for development projects and before re-settling or re-habilitating persons affected by such projects in the Villages: the actual planning and implementation of the projects in such areas shall be considered at the State level.

- (c) The Planning and management of minor water bodies in villages shall be entrusted to Village Councils and so also their recommendations shall be mandatory prior to grant of prospecting license or mining lease for minor minerals in those areas including grant of concessions for their exploitation by auction.

- (d) While endowing Village Councils with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government, a State Legislature shall ensure that the Village Councils are endowed specifically with: -

- (i) The power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant;
- (ii) The ownership of minor forest produce;
- (iii) The power to prevent alienation of land in the villages and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of Scheduled Tribes;
- (iv) The power to manage village markets by whatever name called;
- (v) The power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes;