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Statement - I

- Section 33.** (a) Every contract or agreement entered into by a Village Council shall be in writing and shall be signed by the 1st 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;
 - (vi) The power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors;
 - (vii) The power to control over local plans and resources for such plans.