

NORTH EAST AND THE SIXTH SCHEDULE

The Sixth Schedule and Autonomous District Councils

The Sixth Schedule with its prescription of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and Regional Councils (RCs) is applicable in 4 states of north-eastern region i.e. Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. The districts which have been covered by the Sixth Schedule are the North Cachar Hills and the Karbi Aglong in Assam; Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills in Meghalaya; Chakma, Mara and Lai in Mizoram and Tripura Tribal Areas in the state of Tripura. The Sixth Schedule confers a good measure of autonomy in the legislative, judicial, executive and financial spheres on the ADCs. The autonomy has been so significant as to induce a former Chief Justice of India, Justice Hidayatullah, to describe the Sixth Schedule as "a constitution within the constitution". The ADCs may be regarded as a mini-Assembly of predominantly elected tribal representatives from amongst whom an executive council (corresponding to a state cabinet) is constituted. The Schedule lists out subjects with regard to which ADCs exercise powers.	The sixth schedule of the constitution is not applicable to the tribal area of this UT.
2. If the Sixth Schedule is applicable in your state, please outline the manner in which each of the clauses (a) to (f) of Para 3 of the Schedule have been utilized in the state.	Not applicable.
3. According to clause (3) of Para 3, all laws made under this paragraph have to be submitted forthwith to the Governor and have effect after obtaining his assent. In practice, the assent of the Governor has come to mean assent of the State Government. Sometimes the complaint has been that legislative measures sent to the Governor have been subject to long delays, in some cases for as long as 1520 years. What is the situation in your state? Please explain.	-do-