

**COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS AND  
WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILD**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILD**

**(INTERNAL WORKING)**



**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT**

**VIDHAN BHAVAN, MUMBAI**

**DECEMBER, 2020**

**COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS AND  
WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILD**

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## PREFACE

As per the resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament on 8th March, 1996 on the occasion of the International Women's Day, the "Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women" has been constituted on 29th April, 1997. This Parliamentary Committee considers issues that come under the purview of Central Government according to its Rules of Procedure. On the same lines, considering the necessity of consideration, in the context of the matters coming under the jurisdiction of State Government in respect of Women's' Rights and Welfare, an independent Committee was constituted by name Committee on "Rights and Welfare of Women" on 1st March, 1999 by making necessary amendments in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules and Maharashtra Legislative Council Rules on the basis of the motion passed by both the Houses of Legislature to make deep study as to whether or not the women get an opportunity of adequate representation in Educational and Statutory Institutions and other fields, to suggest measures in respect of making available adequate equal opportunity in all fields, by reviewing the measures adopted by State Government in order to achieve equality, appropriate status and dignity to the women in the society, similarly to suggest measures by examining as to whether the policies adopted on Government level in respect of the interests of the women are implemented or not.

An Amendment has been made in Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Rules that, for the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare of women" the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child " has been substituted vide a Notification in Government of Maharashtra Gazette dated 22nd and 25th March, 2018 respectively and accordingly changes to this effect were also made in the booklet of internal working of the Committee. A joint committee of both the Houses of Legislature has been constituted with a view to examine and inform both the House regarding measures adopted and implementation made by the Government in respect of matters falling within the purview of the State Government that are governed by Acts of Central Government namely Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Children) Act, 2015 which provides for health, education, protection and fundamental rights etc. of children as well as Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 Central Government and similarly prescribed rules incidental thereto; To inform both the Houses in respect of action taken on the Government level regarding implementation of the child policy as per Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Child) Act, 2015 adopted by the Government for the development of the children ; To examine various welfare schemes for children implemented by various Departments of the State Government and to make recommendations thereon ; To examine such of the matters as are specifically referred to the committee by the House or the Speaker /Chairman.

The Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child shall consist of fifteen members out of whom eleven members shall be nominated by the Hon. Speaker from amongst members of the Legislative Assembly and four members shall be nominated by the Hon. Chairman from amongst the members of the Legislative Council. Six out of the eleven members of Legislative Assembly and two out of the four members of Legislative Council are women members, out of six women members of the Legislative Assembly, one woman member is nominated as the Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee in its meeting held on 4th April, 2000 at Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai adopted the rules of procedure regarding the regulation of its internal working. The rules as adopted by the Committee and thereafter approved by Hon. Speaker as required under rule 189 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules have been included in this booklet.

The rules of procedure regulating the internal working of the committee as passed by Hon. Speaker and Chairman respectively is published in the Gazette dated 22nd and 25th March, 2018 at Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai and accordingly after Sub-rule 4 the Sub-rule 5, 6, 7 and 8 has been added newly in Rule 243 and 244 of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules accordingly changes are also made in the rules of internal working of the Committee.

The concern Rules regarding the constitution and working of the Committee etc. in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules and Maharashtra Legislative Council Rules and the General Rules regarding Committees in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules have been included in Appendix One, Two and Three and the motions passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council are included in Appendix Four, Five, Six and Seven respectively for reference.

Vidhan Bhavan  
Mumbai, 11th December, 2020

RAJENDRA BHAGWAT,  
Hon. Secretary  
Maharashtra Legislative Secretariat

## **COMMITTEE ON RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILD**

### **RULES OF PROCEDURE INTERNAL WORKING**

(As adopted by the Committee in its meeting held on 4th April, 2000 and approved by Hon. Speaker vide Rule 189 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules.)

#### **Rules regarding the internal working of the Committee on the Rights and Welfare of Women and Child**

The following Rules are supplemental to the provisions contained in the rules 243 and 244 of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules which relate to the constitution and scope of business of the Committee on the Rights and Welfare of Women and Child :-

**1. Short title and commencement** – (a) These Rules may be called the Rules for Internal working of the Committee on the Rights and Welfare of Women and Child.

(b) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Sittings of the Committee** - The Sittings of a Committee shall be held on such days as the Chairman of the Committee may fix :

Provided that there shall be no sitting on Sunday and other public holidays, unless the Chairman otherwise directs. Provided further that if the Chairman of the Committee is not readily available, the Secretary may fix the date and time of the sitting.

**3. Notice of Sittings of the Committee** - When the date and time of a sitting of the Committee have been fixed by the Chairman, notice thereof shall be given to the members of the Committee.

**4. Material to be furnished to the Committee** - (1) Women and Child Welfare Department will be asked by the Secretary of Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat or any officer authorized by him to furnish the necessary material in respect of the subjects coming under purview of the Committee.

(2) The Women and Child Welfare Department shall submit fifty copies of such material within 15 days to the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat for the use of the Committee.

**5. Circulation of Material to the Members** - The material shall be circulated to the members as soon as possible after its receipt in the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat.

**6. The papers circulated to the Committee to be treated as confidential** – The papers circulated to the Committee shall be treated as confidential and the contents thereof shall not be divulged to anyone nor shall any reference be made to them at any time outside the Committee. Reference may be made only to such information as is available in the documents or records laid on the Table of the House.

**7. Questions to asked by Members** – (1) The members may, after going through the papers, frame questions or points on which further information is required by them.

(2) These questions or points shall be sent by members to Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat by a date to be specified by the Chairman.

**8. Appointment of study groups and / or sub-Committees** - (1) The Committee may, from time to time, appoint one or more study groups and / or sub-committees for carrying out detailed study and examination of various subjects.

(2) The functions of the study groups and / or sub-committees shall inter-alia be as follows :-

(i) to study intensively the material obtained from Women and Child Welfare Department or concerned Secretariat Department.

(ii) to prepare the questionnaire to be issued after the approval of the Chairman to the Women and Child Welfare Department or the concerned department and to obtain the information in that respect from Women and Child Welfare Department or the concerned department.

(iii) to examine and consider replies received from Women and Child Welfare department or other concerned department.

(iv) to study and present a report to the House on any matter referred to by the Committee or the Chairman.

(v) to undertake study tours and prepare study notes thereof.

(vi) to indicate the broad points on which draft reports may be prepared.

(vii) to discuss the draft report before its circulation to the whole committee.

(viii) to scrutinize the replies received from the concerned department in respect of the recommendations contained in earlier reports.

(ix) to indicate the points on which draft reports may be prepared in regard to the recommendations contained in earlier reports.

(x) to discuss draft report before circulation to the whole committee in regard to the recommendations contained in earlier reports.

**9. Supplementary questionnaire to be sent to the Women and Child Welfare Department or concerned Department** – (1) After going through the information received from the department the members may, frame questions or points on which further information is required by them.

(2) These questions or points shall be sent by the members to the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat by a date to be specified by the Chairman.

(3) The questions or points suggested by the Members together with other relevant points concerning the subject under examination shall be consolidated in the form of supplementary questionnaire.

(4) The supplementary questionnaire shall be considered by the study group and / or sub-committee. After approval by the Chairman it shall be sent to the Women and Child Welfare Department or concerned department, which shall furnish to the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat 50 sets of replies thereto by a date to be specified by the Chairman.

(5) Copies of the Supplementary questionnaire as approved by the Chairman shall be circulated to the Members of the Committee.

(6) The replies received to the supplementary questionnaire from Women and Child Welfare Department or concerned department shall be circulated to the members in the manner prescribed in Rule 5 of these Rules.



**10. Points for oral Examination** – (1) The Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat shall prepare a list of points and / or questions for oral examination of the witnesses incorporating therein any suggestions that may be received from the members in this regard for approval by the Chairman.

(2) Copies of such list of points or questions may be circulated to the members of the committee, in advance.

**11. Programme of the sittings of the committee and circulation thereof** – The Secretary shall with the approval of the Chairman, draw up the detailed programme of the sittings of the Committee and circulate copies thereof to the members of the Committee and also to the Secretary to Government in Women and Child Welfare Department, the Secretary to Government Department concerned and Head of the concerned divisions in advance so that they may keep themselves in readiness to give evidence before the Committee.

**12. Invitation to Secretary to Government, Women and Child Welfare Department and Secretaries to Government Department concerned** – Secretary to Government, Women and Child Welfare Department and Secretaries to Government Departments concerned (accompanied by other Officers if necessary) may be invited to remain present at the sittings of the Committee, whenever the Committee so desires, to assist the Committee.

**13. Procedure when taking oral Evidence** – (1) The Chairman may first ask any question to a witness and thereafter he may call other members, one by one to ask questions to a witness. If a member desires to put a question, he shall do so with the permission of the Chairman. In case a witness is not in a position to elucidate any point immediately, he may be permitted by the Chairman to furnish a reply to the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat in writing, as soon as may be, thereafter.

(2) Relevant portions of proceedings will be forwarded to the Members and the witness giving evidence before Committee for correction and return within forty-eight hours of their receipt. If corrected copies of the proceedings are not received back from members, Reporters copy will be treated as authentic. Portions of proceedings sent to the witnesses must invariably be obtained from them.

**14. Points on which further information is required** – The Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat shall note down the points on which further information is required by the Committee and under the directions of the Chairman take such action in the matter as may be necessary.

**15. Recall of witnesses** – The Committee may recall any witness to give further evidence on any point which is under consideration of the Committee.

**16. Production of documents** – (1) The Committee may call persons to remain present before the Committee and ask to submit papers and records required in connection with the examination of any subject matter in terms of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules in this behalf. In the case of secret documents required by the Committee, such papers may be made available by Government / Concerned Department confidentially to the Chairman in the first instance unless it is certified by the Minister concerned that the documents could not be made available on the ground that its disclosure would be prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state.

(2) The Chairman may give due consideration to the wishes of the Women and Child Welfare Department of Government before making any secret documents available to the members of the Committee. Any difference of opinion between the Government, Women and Child Welfare Department and the Chairman may be settled by discussion and if no satisfactory agreement is arrived at, the matter shall then be placed before the speaker for his decision.

**17. Verbatim proceedings** – (1) The verbatim proceedings shall be for the use of the Committee only and only such papers as have been laid on the Table of the House will be open to public.

(2) Where the Committee decides to print the whole or any part of the evidence, the same shall be printed in the form of separate volume and shall form part of the Report of the Committee dealing with the subject.

**18. Minutes of the sittings** - The Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat shall draft minutes of the sittings of the Committee study group / sub-committee for approval of Chairman.

**19. Points for Report** – Immediately after the completion of the examination of the issues, the chairman shall announce the conclusion of the discussion and shall cause it to be recorded. The committee, shall, thereafter discuss this point and shall frame recommendations thereon.

**20. Preparation of draft Report** – The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the chairman a draft report of the recommendations made by the Committee. After it is approved by the chairman, it will be circulated to the members of the committee.

**21. Exclusion of minutes of dissent** – There shall be no minutes of dissent in the Report of the Committee.

**22. Presentation of Report** – Each Draft report or part thereof shall be taken into consideration at a sitting of Committee. Thereafter the Chairman shall sign it on behalf of the Committee and the same shall be printed and presented to the House.

**23. Distribution of Report** - As soon as possible, after presentation of the report to the House, copies of the report shall be made available to the members of Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council and other persons and authorities concerned.

**24. Attendance of persons other than members of the Committee at its sitting** – A member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council who is not a member of the Committee or any other person may with the permission of the Chairman, attend a sitting of the Committee. When evidence is being taken but not when the Committee is deliberating such person or member shall not, however, take part in any manner in the proceedings of the Committee nor sit in the body of the Committee.

**25. Incorporation of points of procedure in the Rules** – Any addition or alteration to these rules from time to time shall be incorporated in the rules after due approval.

**26. Points of conduct and etiquette to be followed by witness** – The witness appearing before the committee or sub-committee shall observe the following points of conduct and etiquette :-

- (1) Due respect to the Chairman and the Committee study group / sub-Committee shall be shown by the witness by bowing while taking or leaving the seat.
- (2) The witness shall take the seat opposite the chairman.
- (3) The witness should answer specific question put to him either by the Chairman or by a member of the Committee/any other person authorised by the chairman.

- (4) All submissions to the Chairman and the Committee shall be couched in courteous and polite language.
- (5) Subject to the provision of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, the witness shall note that the following acts shall constitute the breach of privilege and contempt of the committee -
  - (a) refusal to answer question, unless it be on the ground that the disclosure of the information sought for, would be prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state.
  - (b) prefabrication or wilfully giving false evidence or suppressing the truth or misleading the committee.
  - (c) trifling with the Committee or returning insulting answers.
  - (d) destroying or damaging a material document relative to the enquiry.

**\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Rules respectively by amending the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare Women" as the "Committee on 'Rights and Welfare of Women and Child'" vide a notification issued under Maharashtra Government Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

**\*\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Assembly Rules by amending the title of the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' as the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' vide a notification published in Maharashtra Government's Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. Accordingly, sub-rule 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been inserted after sub-rule no. 4 of Rule 243 and 244 and even the relevant rule of internal working of the Committee has also been amended.**

**APPENDIX – ONE**  
**Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules**

**Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child**

**Constitution of Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child**

**243.** (1) As soon as may be after the commencement of the first Session of the Legislative Assembly in every year or the first Session of the newly constituted Assembly, as the case may be, a Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child shall be constituted.

(2) This Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen members, of whom not more than eleven members shall be nominated by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Legislative Assembly and not more than four members shall be nominated by the Chairman of the Legislative Council. Out of the eleven members to be nominated from the Legislative Assembly, six shall be from amongst women members of the Legislative Assembly, out of them one woman member shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

(3) The members of the Committee shall hold office until a new Committee is constituted.

**244. Functions of Committee:** - The Functions of the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child shall be :-

(i) to consider the reports submitted by the State Commission for Women and to report on the measures that should be taken by the State Government for improving the status and conditions of women in respect of matters within the purview of the State Government and securing the prestige to them ;

(ii) to report to the House about the action taken by the State Government on the measures proposed by the committee with a view to secure equality, status and prestige to the women in the society ;

(iii) to make survey as to whether the policies adopted on Government level for the welfare of women and the implementation of various schemes formulated for improving their educational and social standard has been made or not and to report to the House in respect of measures thereon ;

(iv) to examine the measures taken by the State Government to secure representation to the women in due proportion in services under its control (including appointments in Public Undertakings, Statutory Semi-governmental Institutions) and to suggest measures in respect of implementation thereon ;

\*\* (v) to inform both the House regarding measures adopted and implementation made by the Government in respect of matters falling within the purview of the State Government that are governed by Acts of Central Government namely Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Children) Act, 2015 which provides for health, education, protection and fundamental rights etc. of children as well as Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 Central Government and similarly prescribed rules incidental thereto ;

\*\* (vi) to inform both the Houses in respect of action taken on the Government level regarding implementation of the child policy as per Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Child) Act, 2015 adopted by the Government for the development of the children ;

\*\* (vii) To examine various welfare schemes for children implemented by various Departments of the State Government and to make appropriate recommendations thereon ;

\*\* (viii) To examine such of the matters as are specifically referred to the committee by the House or the Speaker/Chairman.

**\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Assembly Rules by amending the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare Women" as the "Committee on 'Rights and Welfare of Women and Child'" vide a notification issued under Maharashtra Government Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.**

**\*\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Assembly Rules by amending title of the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' as the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' vide a notification published in Maharashtra Government's Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. Accordingly, sub-rule 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been inserted after sub-rule no. 4 of Rule 243 and 244 and even the relevant rule of internal working of the Committee has also been amended.**

**APPENDIX – TWO****Maharashtra Legislative Council Rules****Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child**

**214-A. Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child :-** As soon as may be after the commencement of the first Session of the Legislative Council in every year, the Chairman shall nominate not more than four members to represent on the "Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child" constituted under the Rules made by the Legislative Assembly. Out of these four members two members shall be from amongst women members of the Legislative Council.

**215. Procedure of Committee :-** The procedure in the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, the Committee on Public Accounts, the Committee on Estimates, the Committee on Public Undertakings, the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes, the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the Committee on Welfare of Vimukart Jatis and Nomadic Tribes, the Committee on Panchayati Raj, the Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child shall be regulated by the Rules made by the Assembly in this behalf.

\* An amendment is made to Legislative Council Rules by amending the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare Women" as the "Committee on 'Rights and Welfare of Women and Child'", vide a notification issued under Maharashtra Government Gazette dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

\*\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Council Rules by amending title of the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' as the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' vide a notification published in Maharashtra Government's Gazette dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Accordingly, changes were made in rule 205 (f), 214 (a) and line 4 of rule 215 that for words 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' the words 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' be substituted.

**APPENDIX – THREE**  
**Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules**  
**General Rules no. 163 to 193**

**163. Appointment of Committee :-** (1) The members of a Committee shall be appointed by the House either under, the Rules or on a motion made, or nominated by the Speaker as the case may be :

Provided that, except in the case of a Select Committee or Joint Committee on a Bill or the Committee on Rules or the Business Advisory Committee or such other Committees as the Speaker may from time to time specify, or as specifically otherwise provided by the rules, a Minister shall not be a Member of the Committee and that if a member after his appointment on a Committee is appointed as a Minister, he shall cease to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

(2) Casual vacancies in a Committee shall be filled by appointment by the House on a motion made, or nomination by the Speaker, as the case may be, and any member appointed or nominated to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term for which the member in whose place is appointed or nominated would have normally held office.

(3) During any vacancy in the Committee, the continuing members may act as if no vacancy has occurred.

**164. Nomination to be in proportion to the strength in the house, composition of committees.** (1) Where, under these rules, the Speaker has to nominate members on any Committee he shall take into account the relative strength of recognised parties or groups and nominate members, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the strength of such parties and groups in the Assembly and after consulting the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition and the Leader of each such groups:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-rule shall be construed as preventing the Speaker from nominating on any Committee any member not belonging to any such parties or groups.

(2) If any question arises as regards the number of members to be nominated on behalf of any such party or group, the decision of the Speaker shall be final.



**165. Term of office of Committee nominated by the Speaker.** (1) A Committee nominated by the Speaker shall, unless otherwise specified in the rules contained in this part, hold office for the period specified by him or until a new Committee is nominated.

(2) A member of a Committees shall be eligible for re-nomination.

**166. Resignation from Committee** - A member may resign his seat from a Committee by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker.

**167. Chairman of Committee.** - (1) The Chairman of a Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee:

Provided that, if the Deputy Speaker is a member of the Committee, he shall be appointed Chairman of the Committee

(2) If the Chairman is for any reason unable to act, the Speaker may appoint another Chairman in his place.

(3) If the Chairman is absent from any sitting, the Committee shall choose another member to act as Chairman for that sitting.

(4) Secretary of Committee.- The Secretary shall be ex-officio Secretary of every Committee other than a joint Committee appointed on the recommendations of the Council.

**168. Quorum.**- (1) The quorum to constitute a sitting of a Committee shall be, as near as may be, one-fourth of the total number of members of the Committee.

(2) If, at any time fixed for any sitting of the Committee, or if at any time during any such sitting, there is no quorum, the Chairman of the Committee shall either suspend the sitting until there is a quorum or adjourn the sitting to some future day.

(3) When the Committee has been adjourned in pursuance of sub-rule (2) on two successive dates fixed for sittings of the Committee, the Chairman shall report the fact to the House:

Provided that, where the Committee has been nominated by the Speaker, the Chairman shall report the fact of such adjournment to the Speaker:

**169. Discharge of members absent from sittings of Committee.-** If a member is absent from two or more consecutive sittings of a committee without the permission of the Chairman, a motion may be moved in the House for the discharge of such member from the Committee:

Provided that, where the members of the Committee are nominated by the Speaker, such Member may be discharged by the Speaker.

**170. Voting in Committee. -** All questions at sitting of a Committee shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Members present and voting.

**171. Casting vote of Chairman.-** In the case of an equality of votes on any matter, the Chairman, or the person acting as such, shall have a second or casting vote.

**172. Power to appoint Sub-Committee.-** (1) A Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees, each having the powers of the undivided Committee, to examine any matters that may be referred to them, and the reports of such sub-committees shall be deemed to be the reports of the whole Committee if they are approved at a sitting of the whole Committee.

(2) The order of reference to a sub-committee shall clearly state the point or points for investigation. The report of the sub-committee shall be considered by the whole Committee.

**173. Sittings of Committee.-** The sittings of a Committee shall be held on such days and at such hour as the Chairman of the Committee may fix :

Provided that, if the Chairman of the Committee is not readily available, the Secretary may fix the date and time of a sitting:

Provided further that in the case of Select Committee or Joint Committee on a Bill, if the Chairman of the Committee is not readily available the Secretary may, in consultation with the Minister concerned with the Bill, fix the date and time of a sitting.

**174. Committee may sit whilst House is sitting.-** A Committee may sit whilst the House is sitting provided that, on a division being called in the House, the Chairman of the Committee shall suspend the proceedings in the Committee for such time as will in his opinion enable the members to vote in the division.

**175. Sittings of Committee in private.-** The sittings of a Committee shall be held in private.

**176. Venue of sittings.-** The sittings of a Committee shall be held within the precincts of the Vidhan Bhavan, and if it becomes necessary to change the place of sitting outside the Vidhan Bhavan, the matter shall be referred to the Speaker whose decision shall be final.

**177. All strangers to withdraw when Committee deliberates.-** All persons other than members of the Committee and officers of the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat shall withdraw whenever the Committee is deliberating.

**178. Power to send for persons, papers and records.-** A Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records :

Provided that, if any question arises whether the evidence of a person or the production of a document is relevant for the purposes of the Committee, the question shall be referred to the Speaker whose decision shall be final:

Provided further that Government may decline to produce a document on the ground that its disclosure would be prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State.

**179. Procedure for examining witnesses.-** The examination of witnesses before a Committee shall be conducted as follows :-

(i) The Committee shall, before a witness is called for examination, decide the mode of procedure and the nature of questions that may be asked of the witness.

(ii) The Chairman of the Committee may first ask the witness such question or questions as he may consider necessary with reference to the subject matter under consideration or any subject connected therewith according to the mode of procedure mentioned in clause (i) of this rule.

(iii) The Chairman may call other members of the Committee one by one to ask any other questions.

(iv) A witness may be asked to place before the Committee any other relevant points that have not been covered and which a witness thinks are essential to be placed before the Committee.

(v) A verbatim record of proceedings of the Committee shall, when a witness is summoned to give evidence, be kept.

(vi) The evidence tendered before the Committee may be made available to all members of the Committee.

**180. Record of decisions of Committee.-** A record of the decisions of Committee shall be maintained and circulated to members of the Committee under the direction of the Chairman.

**181. Evidence, report and proceedings treated as confidential.** (1) A Committee may direct that the whole or a part of the evidence or a summary thereof may be laid on the Table.

(2) No part of the evidence, oral or written, report or proceedings of a Committee which has not been laid on the Table shall be open to inspection by anyone except under the authority of the Speaker.

(3) The evidence given before a Committee shall not be published by any member of the Committee or any other person until it has been laid on the Table.

Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, direct that such evidence be confidentially made available to members before it is formally laid on the Table.

**182. Special reports.-** A Committee may, if it thins fit, make a special report on any matter that arises or comes to light in the course of its work which it may consider necessary to bring to the notice of the Speaker or the House, notwithstanding that such matter is not directly connected with, or does not fall within, or is not incidental to, its terms of reference.

**183. Reports of Committee. -** (1) Where the House has not fixed any time for the presentation of a report by a Committee, the report shall be presented within one month of the date on which reference to the Committee was made :

Provided that the House may at any time on a motion being made, direct that the time for the presentation of the report by the Committee be extended to a date specified in the motion.

(2) Reports may be either preliminary or final.

(3) Reports of a Committee shall be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee:

Provided that, in case the Chairman is absent or is not readily available, the Committee shall choose another member to sign the report on behalf of the Committee.

**184. Availability of report to Government before presentation.-** A Committee may, if it thinks fit, make available to Government any completed part of its report before presentation to the House. Such report shall be treated as confidential until presented to the House.

**185. Presentation of report. -** (1) The report of a Committee shall be presented to the House by the Chairman or, in his absence, by any member of the Committee.

(2) In presenting the report the Chairman or, in his absence, the member presenting the report shall, if he makes any remarks, confine himself to a brief statement of fact, but there shall be no debate on that statement at this stage.

**186. Printing, Publication or circulation of report prior to its presentation to House.-** The Speaker may, on a request being made to him and when the House is not in session, order the printing, publication or circulation of a report of a Committee although it has not been presented to the House. In that case the report shall be presented to the House during its next session at the first convenient opportunity.

**187. General control and supervision of Speaker on working of the Committee.-** A Committee shall function under the general control and supervision of the Speaker, who may, from time to time, issue such instructions, as he may consider necessary for the efficient working of the Committee.

**188. Power to make suggestions on procedure.-** Subject to the rules, a Committee shall have power to pass resolutions on matters of procedure relating to that Committee for the consideration of the Speaker, who may make such variations in procedure as he may consider necessary.

**189. Power of Committee to make detailed rules.-** A Committee may, with the approval of the Speaker, make detailed rules of procedure to supplement the provisions contained in the rules in this Part.

**190. Power of Speaker to give directions.-** (1) Subject to the rules, the Speaker may from time to time issue such directions to the Chairman of a Committee as he may consider necessary for regulating its procedure and the organization of its work.

(2) If any doubt arises on any point of procedure or otherwise, the Chairman may, if he thinks fit, refer the point to the Speaker whose decision shall be final.

(3) Power of Chairman of Committee to regulate procedure in Committee. - The procedure in a Committee shall, subject to these rules, supplementary rules and resolutions made by the Committee, and directions or other instructions issued by the Speaker, be regulated by its Chairman.

**191. Business before Committee not to lapse on prorogation of House.-** Any business pending before a Committee shall not lapse by reason only of the prorogation of the House and the Committee shall continue to function notwithstanding such prorogation.

**192. Unfinished work of Committee.-** A Committee, which is unable to complete its work before the expiration of its term or before the dissolution of the House, may report to the House that the Committee has not been able to complete its work. Any preliminary report, memorandum or note that the Committee may have prepared or any evidence that the Committee may have taken shall be made available to the new Committee.

**193. Applicability of general rules to Committee.-** Except for matters for which special provision is made in the rules relating to any particular Committee, the general rules in this Part shall apply to all Committees; and if and so far as any provision in the special rules relating to a Committee is inconsistent with the general rules, the former rules shall prevail.

**APPENDIX – FOUR****The Motion Passed by Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs pertaining to constitution of a joint committee of both Houses of the Legislature namely ‘Committee on Women’s Rights and Welfare’****(Motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1998)**

**Shri. Liladhar Dake, Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the following motion with your permission:-

A joint committee of both the Houses of Legislature by name "Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women" be constituted to make deep study as to whether or not the women get an opportunity of adequate representation on educational and statutory institutions and other fields by reviewing the measures adopted by Central and State Government in order to secure equality, appropriate status and dignity to the women in the society, to suggest measures in respect of making available adequate equal opportunities in all other fields to women and similarly to suggest measures by examining as to whether the policies adopted on Government level for the welfare of women are implemented or not.

The said Committee shall consist of total 15 Members out of which 11 members shall be from amongst the members of Legislative Assembly and out of them 6 shall be from amongst women members and 4 members shall be from amongst the members of Legislative Council, and out of them 2 shall be from amongst women members. Out of these members woman member of the Legislative Assembly shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

The matter of determining the functions and the rules of the Committee shall be entrusted to the Rules Committee of Legislative Assembly.”

**APPENDIX – FIVE****Motion by Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs pertaining to constitution of a joint committee of both Houses of the Legislature namely ‘Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women’****(Motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1998)**

**Shri. Liladhar Dake, Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move the following motion with your permission.

A joint committee of both the Houses of Legislature by name "Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women" be constituted to make deep study as to whether or not the women get an opportunity of adequate representation on educational and statutory institutions and other fields by reviewing the measures adopted by Central and State Government in order to secure equality, appropriate status and dignity to the women in the society, to suggest measures in respect of making available adequate equal opportunities in all other fields to women and similarly to suggest measures by examining as to whether the policies adopted on Government level for the welfare of women are implemented or not.

The said committee shall consist of total 15 Members out of which 11 members shall be from amongst the members of Legislative Assembly and out of them 6 shall be from amongst women members and 4 members shall be from amongst the members of Legislative Council, and out of them 2 shall be from amongst women members. Out of these members woman member of the Legislative Assembly shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

The matter of determining the functions and the rules of the committee shall be entrusted to the Rules Committee of Legislative Council.”



## APPENDIX – SIX

### Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child

#### Motion by Hon. Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to amend the title and scope of the "Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women"

(Motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017)

**Shri. Haribhau Bagde, Hon. Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly:** Committee of the Legislature on Rights and Welfare of Women has been constituted in order to examine the women's rights and welfare and make recommendations to the State Government thereupon. However, the subject of children's rights and their protection has not been included in the scope of the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women. The State Government has its own Women and Children's Development Department. Considering these facts, I move the following motion in order to include the subject of children's rights and their protection in the scope of the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women –

“The title of the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women be amended as **Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child** and the scope of the said committee be extended to include the following issues relevant to children's interests –

“A joint committee titled as **Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child** of both the Houses of Legislature be constituted with a view to examine and inform both the Houses regarding measures adopted and implementation made by the Government in respect of matters falling within the purview of the State Government that are governed by Acts of Central Government namely Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Children) Act, 2015 which provides for health, education and fundamental rights etc. of children as well as Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012 Central Government and similarly prescribed rules incidental thereto; To inform both the Houses in respect of action taken on the Government level regarding implementation of the child policy as per Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Child) Act, 2015 adopted by the Government for the development of the children; To examine various welfare schemes for children implemented by various Departments of the State Government and to make recommendations thereon; To examine such of the matters as are specifically referred to the Committee by the House or the Speaker /Chairman.

The matter of determining the functions and the rules of the Committee and the matter of **\*\*amending the rules of the Committee in accordance with the amendment shall be entrusted to the Rules Committee of Legislative Assembly.**”

**\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council Rules respectively by amending the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare Women" as the "Committee on 'Rights and Welfare of Women and Child'" vide a notification issued under Maharashtra Government Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.**

**\*\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Assembly Rules by amending title of the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' as the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' vide a notification published in Maharashtra Government's Gazette dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. Accordingly, sub-rule 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been inserted after sub-rule no. 4 of Rule 243 and 244 and even the relevant rule of internal working of the Committee has also been amended.**

## **Appendix – SEVEN**

### **Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child**

#### **Motion by Hon. Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council to amend the title and scope of the "Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women"**

**(Motion passed by the Legislative Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017)**

#### **Shri. Ramraje Nimbalkar, Hon. Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council:**

I move the following motion to revise the title and scope of the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women –

“The title of the Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women be amended as **Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child** and the scope of the said committee be extended to include the following issues relevant to children’s interests –

“A joint committee titled as **Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and \*Child** of both the Houses of Legislature be constituted with a view to examine and inform both the Houses regarding measures adopted and implementation made by the Government in respect of matters falling within the purview of the State Government that are governed by Acts of Central Government namely Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Children) Act, 2015 which provides for health, education and fundamental rights etc. of children as well as Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, 2012 Central Government and similarly prescribed rules incidental thereto; To inform both the Houses in respect of action taken on the Government level regarding implementation of the child policy as per Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of Child) Act, 2015 adopted by the Government for the development of the children; To examine various welfare schemes for children implemented by various Departments of the State Government and to make recommendations thereon; To examine such of the matters as are specifically referred to the Committee by the House or the Speaker / Chairman.

The matter of determining the functions and the rules of the Committee and the matter of **\*\*amending the rules of the Committee in accordance with the amendment shall be entrusted to the Rules Committee of Legislative Assembly.**”

**\* An amendment is made to Legislative Council Rules by amending the words "Committee on Rights and Welfare Women" as the "Committee on 'Rights and Welfare of Women and Child", vide a notification issued under Maharashtra Government Gazette dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

**\*\* An amendment is made to the Legislative Council Rules by amending title of the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' as the 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' vide a notification published in Maharashtra Government's Gazette dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Accordingly, changes were made in rule 205 (f), 214 (a) and line 4 of rule 215 that for words 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women' the words 'Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Child' be substituted.**