

• THE UNION TERRITORY OF PONDICHERRY
LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY RULES, 1998

GOVERNMENT OF PONDICHERRY

LAW DEPARTMENT

(G.O.Ms.No.1/98- LD, dated 24th January 1998)

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 28 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (Central Act 39 of 1987), as amended by the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Central Act 59 of 1994), the Lieutenant-Governor, Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, makes the following Rules, namely:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*— (1) These rules may be called "The Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Services Authority Rules, 1998".

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Pondicherry Government Gazette.

2. *Definitions.*— In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Act" means the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (Central Act 39 of 1987); as amended from time to time;

(b) "Chairman" means the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Services Authority nominated under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Act, or as the case may be, the Chairman of the District Authority nominated under clause (a) of sub-section(s) of section 9 of the Act;

(c) "District Authority" means the District Legal Services Authority, constituted under section 9 of the Act;

(d) "Member" means a member of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Services Authority, appointed under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 6, a Member of the

District Authority appointed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Act or as the case may be, a Member of the Taluk Committee appointed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 11-A of the Act;

(e) "Member-Secretary" means the Member-Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Services Authority appointed under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Act; or as the case may be, the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority appointed under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Act;

(f) "Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority" means the Legal Services Authority constituted under section 6 of the Act;

(g) "Taluk Legal Services Committee" means a Taluk Legal Services Committee constituted under section 11-A of the Act;

(h) All other words and expressions used in these rules but not defined, shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in the Act.

3. *Qualifications and experience of Members of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*— A person shall not be qualified for nomination as a Member of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority unless he is—

(a) an eminent Social Worker who is engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children, Rural and Urban labour; or

(b) an eminent person in the field of law; or

(c) a person of repute who is professionally experienced or specially interested in the implementation of the Legal Services Schemes.

4. *Members of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*—

(a) The Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall consist of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, as Patron-in-Chief, an Executive Chairman, nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, the Member-Secretary and not more than fifteen persons as Members.

(b) The Government of Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, shall out of the fifteen Members referred to in sub-rule (a) of rule 4, nominate the following persons as *Ex-officio* Members of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authorities namely:—

- (i) The Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Pondicherry;
- (ii) The Secretary to Government, Law Department, Pondicherry;
- (iii) The Inspector General of Police, Pondicherry;
- (iv) The Chairman, Scheduled Castes Development Corporation, Pondicherry;
- (v) The Chairman of the District Authority, Pondicherry;
- (vi) The Principal, Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pondicherry.

(c) The Union Territory of Pondicherry Government, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, may nominate the remaining number of Members as Non-official Members from amongst those possessing the qualifications and experience prescribed in rule 3, subject to the conditions and terms stipulated in the Act and in these rules.

5. *Term of office of the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*— The Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority, whether a serving or retired Judge of the High Court, shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term.

6. *Terms of office and conditions relating to Members of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*— (1) The Members of Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority nominated by the Government of Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, shall continue for a period of three years and the nomination of official Members shall be by their designation only. They shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term.

(2) If any Member nominated for the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority ceases to be a Member of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority, for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled up in the same manner as the original nomination and the person so nominated shall continue to be a Member for the remaining term of the Member in whose place he is nominated.

(3) All Members nominated under sub-rule (b) of rule 4 shall be entitled to payment of travelling allowance and daily allowance in respect of the journeys performed in connection with the work of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and shall be paid by the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority in accordance with the rules, as are applicable to Grade-A Officers, as amended from time to time.

(4) If the nominated Member is a Government employee, he shall be entitled to only one set of travelling allowance and daily allowance either from his parent Department or, as the case may be, from the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.

7. *Removal of Members from office in certain circumstances.*—

(1) The Government of Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras may remove any Non-official Member from the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority nominated under sub-rule (c) of rule 4, who—

(a) fails, without sufficient cause, to attend three consecutive meetings of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority; or

(b) has been adjudged as an insolvent; or

(c) has been convicted of an offence which, involves moral turpitude; or

(d) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Member; or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority prejudicial to the public interest.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1), no Member shall be removed from the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority on the ground specified in clause (e) of that sub-rule unless the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court, Madras on a reference being made to him in this behalf by the Government of Pondicherry, on any inquiry held by him or under his directions, in accordance with such procedure as he may specify in this behalf, recommends that the Member ought, on such ground, to be removed.

(3) A Member may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Government of Pondicherry resign from the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which it is accepted by the Government of Pondicherry or on the expiry of thirty days from the date of tendering resignation, whichever is earlier.

8. *Special provisions for the Executive Chairman of Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*— (1) The Executive Chairman, in case he is a sitting Judge of the High Court, shall be entitled to payment of travelling allowance and daily allowance in respect of the journeys performed in connection with the work of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and paid by the said Authority in accordance with the provisions of the High Court Judges (Travelling Allowances) Rules, 1966, as amended from time to time.

(2) The Executive Chairman shall be provided with, if not provided, by virtue of his office of judgeship, a staff car with driver by the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and the expenditure

on account of the pay and allowances of the staff car driver as well as maintenance and repairs of the car shall be borne by the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.

(3) The ceiling for the petrol consumption for the car shall be 200 litres per month or as applicable to a sitting Judge of the High Court. If a sitting Judge is the Executive Chairman he shall not be entitled to a separate quota of petrol.

9. *Conditions of service of the Executive Chairman in case of a retired Judge of the High Court.*— Where the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority is a retired Judge of the High Court or retires as High Court Judge during his term of office as Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority:

(i) His terms and conditions shall be such as are specified in the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure O.M.No.19048/7/80. E.IV., dated 8th October, 1987 or such other relevant orders of the Government of Pondicherry, as may be applicable to the retired Judges of the High Court appointed on Commissions/Committees;

(ii) The term of office of the Executive Chairman shall be three years;

(iii) He (The Executive Chairman) shall be entitled to an honorarium of Rs. 5,000 (Rupees five thousand only) per month and paid by the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority besides extending all other facilities allowed to the serving Judges of the High Court.

10. *Terms and conditions of service of the Member-Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*— The Government of Pondicherry, shall in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras appoint a person in the cadre of District Judge, as the Member-Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority, as per section 6 (3) of the Act, who shall hold office for a term of three years:

Provided that a person functioning as Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Aid and Advisory Board immediately before the date of constitution of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority may be appointed as Member-Secretary of the Authority, even if he is not qualified to be appointed as such under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Act for a period as may be specified by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, but not exceeding five years.

The Member-Secretary nominated under sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Act, shall be a full-time employee on deputation from the Pondicherry Judicial Service in consultation with the High Court, Madras and shall draw his pay and other allowances, benefits and entitlements as admissible to the serving District Judges, and the expenditures on this account shall be debited to the Budget Head to which his pay and allowances are debited.

In all matters like age of retirement and disciplinary matters, the Member-Secretary shall be governed by the Pondicherry Judicial Service (Cadre and Recruitment) Rules, 1996.

11. *The powers and functions of the Member-Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority under sub-section (3) of section 6.*— The powers and functions of the Member-Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority, *inter alia*, shall be—

(a) to give free legal services to the eligible and weaker sections of the society;

(b) to work out modalities of the Legal Services Schemes and Programmes approved by the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and ensure their effective monitoring and implementation;

(c) to exercise the powers in respect of administrative, house-keeping finance and budget matters as a Head of the Department in the Government of Pondicherry;

(d) to manage, administer and maintain the properties, records and funds of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority;

(e) to maintain true and proper accounts of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority including checking and auditing in respect thereof periodically;

(f) to prepare annual income and expenditure account and balance-sheet of the said Authority;

(g) to liaise with the Social Action Groups and District and Taluk Legal Services Authorities;

(h) to maintain up-to-date and complete statistical information including progress made in the implementation of various Legal Services Programmes from time to time;

(i) to process proposals for financial assistance and issue utilisation certificate thereof;

(j) to organise various Legal Services Programmes as approved by the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and convene meetings, seminars and workshops connected with Legal Services Programmes and preparation of reports and take follow-up action thereon.

(k) to produce video/documentary films, publicity materials literature and publications to inform general public about the various aspects of the Legal Services Programmes;

(l) to lay stress on the resolution of Rural Disputes and take extra measures to draw schemes for effective and meaningful legal services for settling Rural Disputes at the door-steps of the rural people;

(m) to perform such of the functions as are assigned to him under the schemes formulated under section 4(b) of the Act; and

(n) to perform such other functions as may be necessary for expeditious and efficient functioning of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority and as may be directed by the Patron-in-Chief or the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority from time to time.

12. *The number of officers and other employees of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority under sub-section (5) of section 6 of the Act.*— The Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall have such number, class and category of officers and other employees for rendering secretarial assistance and for carrying on its day-to-day functions, as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry from time to time.

13. *Conditions of service, salary and allowances etc., of officers and other employees of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*—

(1) The conditions of service, salary and allowances, etc., of the officers and other employees of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall be at par with such of those employees holding similar or equivalent posts under the Government of Pondicherry, which shall be notified by the Government of Pondicherry.

(2) In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowances, benefits and entitlements and disciplinary matters, the officers and other employees of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall be governed by the rules in force and as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts under the Government of Pondicherry.

(3) The officers and other employees of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry from time to time.

14. *Meetings of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*—

(1) The Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall meet at least once in three months.

(2) The Member-Secretary, when so directed by the Patron-in-Chief or in his absence by the Executive Chairman, shall convene a meeting of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority at the place, date and time to be fixed in consultation with the Patron-in-Chief or in his absence, the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.

(3) Any five Members of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority may send their requisition addressed to the Member-Secretary of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority for consideration of the subject or matter specified in the requisition.

(4) On receipt of the requisition, the Member-Secretary shall, in consultation with the Patron-in-Chief or in his absence the Executive Chairman, convene a meeting of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority for consideration of the subject or matter specified in the requisition:

Provided that in case the meeting of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority is going to be held within a month from the date of receipt of the requisition, the subject or matter specified in the requisition shall be included for consideration in the agenda of such meeting with the approval of the Patron-in-Chief or in his absence the Executive Chairman.

(5) Any Member desiring consideration of any subject or matter at any meeting of Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority may intimate in writing such subject or matter to the Member-Secretary and if such intimation is received before notice for the meeting is issued, it shall be included in the agenda of the meeting with the approval of the Patron-in-Chief or in his absence the Executive Chairman, but if, however, such intimation is not received before the issue of the notice of the meeting, then, the subject or matter mentioned in the notice may be considered at the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

(6) The Member-Secretary shall give seven days notice to the Members for the meeting.

(7) The Patron-in-Chief of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority or in his absence the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall preside at the meeting of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.

(8) All questions at any meeting of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Members present and voting and the Patron-in-Chief or the Executive Chairman, as the case may be, presiding at the meeting, shall have a casting vote in cases of equality of votes.

(9) The quorum for the meeting shall be nine Members of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.

15. *Headquarters of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority.*— The Headquarters of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority shall be at Pondicherry.

16. *Qualifications and experience of Members of the District Authority.*— A person shall not be qualified for nomination as a Member of the District Authority unless he is,—

(a) an eminent Social Worker who is engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children, Rural and Urban Labour; or

(b) an eminent person in the field of law by name or *Ex-officio* ; or

(c) a person of standing who is professionally experienced or specially interested in the implementation of the Legal Services Schemes.

17. *Member of the District Authority.*— (1) The District Authority shall consist of the Chief Judge, Pondicherry as the Chairman and not more than eight persons as Members, in addition to the Chairman.

(2) The Government of Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, shall out of

the eight Members referred to in sub-rule (1) nominate the following persons as *Ex-officio* Members of the District Authority:—

- (i) The District Magistrate, Pondicherry;
- (ii) The Senior Superintendent of Police, Pondicherry;
- (iii) Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pondicherry;
- (iv) The Government Pleader, Pondicherry;
- (v) One of the serving Judicial Officers of the Union Territory of Pondicherry not below the rank of the Subordinate Judge, as Secretary of the District Authority.

(3) The Government of Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, may nominate not more than three persons as Non-official Members from amongst those possessing the qualifications and experience prescribed in rule 16.

18. *Term of office of the Members of the District Authority.*—

(1) The term of office of the Members of the District Authority nominated under rule 17 by the Government of Pondicherry in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term.

(2) If any member nominated under rule 17, ceases to be a Member of the District Authority for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled up in the same manner as the original nomination and the person so nominated shall continue to be a Member for the remaining term of the Member in whose place he is nominated.

19. *Removal of Members from office in certain circumstances.*—

(1) The Government of Pondicherry, in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, may remove any Member from the District Authority nominated under sub-rule (3) of rule 17, who,—

- (a) fails, without sufficient cause, to attend three consecutive meetings of the District Authority; or

(b) has been adjudged as insolvent; or

(c) has been convicted of an offence which involves moral turpitude; or

(d) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Member; or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in the District Authority prejudicial to the public interest.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1), no Member shall be removed from the District Authority on the ground specified in clause (c) and (e) of that sub-rule unless the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court, on a reference being made to His Lordship in this behalf by the Government of Pondicherry, on a inquiry held by him in accordance with such procedure as the Hon'ble the Chief Justice may specify in this behalf, recommends that the Member ought on such ground, to be removed.

(3) A Member may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Government of Pondicherry, resigned from the District Authority and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which it is accepted by the Government of Pondicherry or on the expiry of thirty days from the date of tendering resignation, whichever is earlier.

20. *Terms and conditions of Chairman and Members of the District Authority.*— The terms and conditions of service of the Chairman and Members of the District Authority, shall be as follows, namely:—

(a) all Members excepting the Chairman and the Secretary of the District Authority shall function in an honorary capacity;

(b) the Chairman and the Secretary of the District Authority shall be entitled to travelling allowance and daily allowance, as per their entitlement, in respect of the journeys performed in connection with the work of the District Authority and paid by the said Authority;

(c) all Members nominated under sub-rule (3) of rule 17 shall be entitled to the payment of travelling allowance and daily allowance in respect of journeys performed in connection with the work of the District Authority and paid by the said Authority as may be admissible to Grade-A Officers of the Government of Pondicherry;

(d) all Members nominated under sub-rule (2) of rule 17, shall be entitled to the payment of travelling allowance and daily allowance in respect of the journeys performed in connection with the work of the District Authority in accordance with the provisions of the rules applicable to them and paid by the officers where the concerned Members draw their pay and allowances and expenditure on this account shall be debited to the Budget Head to which their pay and allowances are debited.

21. Special Provisions for the Chairman of the District Authority.— (1) The Chairman of the District Authority shall be entitled to an honorarium of a sum of Rs. 500 (Rupees five hundred only) per month, in addition to the usual pay and allowances.

(2) The ceiling for the petrol consumption for the use of the official car by the Chairman of the District Authority for the work connected with the said authority shall be as admissible to the District Judges per month.

22. Appointment of the Secretary of the District Authority and his conditions of service.— (1) The Hon'ble the Chief Justice shall, in consultation with the Chairman of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Authority appoint a person belonging to the Judicial Service in the Union Territory of Pondicherry not lower in rank than that of a Subordinate Judge or Civil Judge posted at the seat of the District Judiciary as Secretary of the District Authority to exercise such powers and perform such duties under the Chairman of that Committee as may be assigned to him by such Chairman.

(2) The Secretary shall draw his pay and other allowances as admissible to the serving Sub Judges who shall also be entitled

for an honorarium of Rs. 500 (Rupees five hundred only) per month, as allowances for the work done by him, in this behalf.

23. *Meeting of the District Authority.*— (1) The District Authority shall meet at least once in three months;

(2) The Secretary may, or when so directed by the Chairman, convene a meeting of the District Authority at the place, date and time to be fixed in consultation with the Chairman of the District Authority;

(3) Any three Members of the District Authority may send their requisition addressed to the Secretary of the District Authority for convening a meeting of the District Authority for consideration of the subjects or matters specified in the requisition;

(4) On receipt of the requisition, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Chairman convene a meeting of the District Authority for consideration of the subject or matters specified in the requisition:

- Provided that in case the meeting of the District Authority is going to be held within a month from the date of receipt of the requisition, then the subject or matters mentioned in the requisition shall be included for consideration in the agenda of such meeting.

(5) Any Member desiring consideration of any matter or subject at any meeting of the District Authority may intimate in writing subjects or matters to the Secretary and if such intimation is received before notice for the meeting is issued, it shall be included in the agenda of the meeting but if, however, such intimation is not received before the issue of the notice of the meeting, then, the subject or matters mentioned in the notice may be considered at the meeting with the permission of the Chairman of the District Authority or in his absence, his nominee who presides over the meeting.

(6) The Secretary shall give seven days notice to the Members for the meeting.

(7) The Chairman of the District Authority or, in his absence his nominee, shall preside at the meetings of the District Authority.

(8) All questions at any meeting of the District Authority shall be determined by a majority vote of the Members present and voting. The Chairman or his nominee who may be presiding at the meeting, shall have a casting vote, in case of an equality of votes.

(9) The quorum for the meeting shall be one-third of the total Members of the District Authority.

24. *Number of officers and other employees of the District Authority under sub-section (5) of section 9.*— The District Authority shall have such class and number of officers and other employees for rendering secretarial assistance and for its day-to-day functions as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry.

25. *Conditions of service and the salary and allowances of the officers and other employees of the District Authority.*— (1) The officers and other employees of the District Authority shall be entitled to draw pay and other allowances in the scale of pay at par with the Government of Pondicherry employees holding similar posts,—

(a) The conditions of service, salary and allowances, etc., of the officers and other employees of the District Authority shall be at par with such of those employees holding similar or equivalent posts under the Government of Pondicherry, which shall be notified by the Government of Pondicherry.

(b) In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowance benefits and entitlements and disciplinary matters, the officers and other employees of the District Authority shall be governed by the rules in force and as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts under the Government of Pondicherry.

(c) The officers and other employees of the District Authority shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry from time to time.

(d) Retired persons appointed as officers of the District Legal Service Authority, shall be eligible only to the payment of travelling allowance and daily allowance in respect of journeys performed in connection with the work of the District Authority and paid by the said authority as may be admissible to Grade-A officers of the Government of Pondicherry.

(2) They are also entitled to an honorarium per month, fixed by the Government, in consultation with the District Authority, and the same shall be paid by the District Authority also.

26. *Headquarters of the District Authority.*— The Headquarters of the District Authority shall be the seat of the District Judiciary.

27. *Composition of the Taluk Legal Services Committee.*— The Taluk Committee shall consist of—

(a) The Civil Judge having the jurisdiction over the Taluk shall be the *Ex-officio* Chairman of the Taluk Legal Services Committee.

(b) The Taluk Legal Services Committee shall have not more than 5 persons as Members in addition to the Chairman and among them, the following shall be nominated as *Ex-officio* Members of the Taluk Legal Services Committee:

(i) Judicial Magistrate of that area or senior most among them, if there are more than one;

(ii) Inspector of Police;

(iii) President of the Bar Association of the place where the Court of the Civil Judge is situated.

(c) The Government of Pondicherry in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Madras, may nominate two other persons as Members from amongst those possessing the qualification and experience prescribed in these rules.

28. *Experience and qualifications of Members of Taluk Legal Services Committee.*— A person shall not be qualified for nomination as a Member of the Taluk Legal Services Committee unless he/she is:—

(a) an eminent Social Worker who is engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children, Rural and Urban Labour; or

(b) an eminent person in the field of law by name or, *Ex-officio*; or

(c) a person of repute who is specially interested in the implementation of the Legal Services Schemes.

29. *Number of officers and other employees of the Taluk Legal Services Committee.*— The Taluk Legal Services Committee shall have such class and number of officers and other employees for rendering assistance and for its day-to-day functions as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry.

30. *Conditions of service and the salary and allowances, etc., of officers and other employees of the Taluk Legal Services Committee under sub-section (4) of section 11-A of the Act.*—

(a) The conditions of service, salary and allowances, etc., of the officers and other employees of the Taluk Legal Services Committee shall be at par with such of those employees holding similar or equivalent posts under the Government of Pondicherry, which shall be notified by the Government of Pondicherry.

(b) In all matters like age of retirement, pay and allowances, benefits and entitlements and disciplinary matters, the officers and other employees of the Taluk Legal Services Committee shall be governed by the rules in force and as are applicable to persons holding equivalent posts under the Government of Pondicherry.

(c) The officers and other employees of the Taluk Legal Services Committee shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances and benefits as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry from time to time.

(d) The Chairman of the Taluk Legal Services Committee shall be entitled to an honorarium of a sum of Rs. 200 (Rupees two hundred only) per month in addition to the usual pay and allowances.

31. *Upper limit of annual income of a person entitling him to legal services under clause (h) of section 12 of the Act if the case is before a Court other than the Supreme Court.*— Any citizen of India whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 15,000 (Rupees fifteen thousand only) or such higher amount as may be notified by the Government of Pondicherry from time to time, shall be entitled to legal services under clause (h) of section. 12 of the Act.

32. *Experience and qualifications of other persons of the Lok Adalats other than those referred to in sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act.*— A person shall not be qualified to be included in the Bench of Lok Adalat unless he is—

(a) an eminent Social Worker who is engaged in the upliftment of the weaker sections of the people, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children, Rural and Urban Labour; or

(b) a lawyer of standing; or

(c) a person of repute who is specially interested in the implementation of the legal services schemes and programmes.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor)

K. PARTHASARATHY,
Secretary to Government.

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