



महाराष्ट्र शासन राजपत्र

असाधारण भाग चार-क

वर्ष १, अंक ३४]

शुक्रवार, ऑगस्ट २८, २०१५/भाद्रपद ६, शके १९३७

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असाधारण क्रमांक ६२

प्राधिकृत प्रकाशन

महाराष्ट्र शासनाव्यतिरिक्त इतर वैधानिक प्राधिकाऱ्यांनी तयार केलेले
(भाग एक, एक-अ व एक-ल यांमध्ये प्रसिद्ध केलेले वैधानिक नियम व आदेश यांमधीरिक्त इतर)
वैधानिक नियम व आदेश ; यात भारत सरकार, उच्च न्यायालय, पोलीस आयुक्त, आयुक्त (राज्य उत्पादन शुल्क),
जिल्हादंडाधिकारी व निवडणूक आयोग, निवडणूक न्यायाधिकरण, निवडणूक निर्णय अधिकारी व निवडणूक आयोगाखालील
इतर प्राधिकारी यांनी तयार केलेले वैधानिक नियम व आदेश यांचा समावेश होतो.

THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

APPELLATE SIDE

NOTIFICATION

No. Rule/P. 1605/2015.—The Hon'ble the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 227 of the Constitution of India and the directions of the Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (C) No. 162 of 2013 titled Ms. Binu Tamta and Anr. V/s. High Court of Delhi and others *vide* order dated 17th July 2013 and all other enabling provisions have been pleased to make the following Rules which shall be applicable to the District Courts in the State of Maharashtra and Goa :—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*—(1) These Regulations may be called the Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment of Women at the District Courts in the State of Maharashtra and Goa (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2014.

(2) They shall come into force on such date as the Chief Justice of High Court of Bombay may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

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

(a) “aggrieved woman” means, in relation to the District Court, any female, of any age, whether employed or not, who claims to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent in District Court precincts, but does not include any female who is already governed by the Maharashtra Civil Service (Conduct) Rules;

(b) “appropriate Authority” means in relation to the District Court, the Principal District Judge, District Judge-1 and the Chief Judicial Magistrate;

(१)

(c) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the District Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee(DGSICC);

(d) "Chief Justice" in context of the present Regulations means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay;

(e) "High Court" means the High Court of Judicature at Bombay;

(f) "habitual Respondent" is a person against whom a previous Complaint of sexual harassment has been received by the DGSICC on earlier occasion, irrespective of whether the matter was resolved with or without an inquiry and except where the Respondent has been exonerated in the previous complaint;

(g) "DGSICC" means the District Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee constituted under Regulation 4;

(h) "Internal Sub-Committee" means the Sub-committee set up under Regulation 9;

(i) "Member" means a Member of the DGSICC;

(j) "Prescribed" means prescribed by the present Regulations;

(k) "Principal District Judge" means the Principal District Judge of the District, Principal Judge of City Civil Court, Greater Bombay, Chief Judge Court of Small Causes at Bombay, Chairman of Motor Accident Claim Tribunal, Mumbai, President of Maharashtra State Co-operative Appellate Court, Mumbai, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mumbai and the Principal Judicial Officer of all other Courts and Tribunals over which the High Court exercises administrative control;

(l) "Respondent" means a person against whom the aggrieved woman has made a Complaint under the present Regulations;

(m) "Sexual harassment" includes anyone or more of the following unwelcome acts or behaviour (whether directly or by implication) namely :—

(i) physical contact and advances;

(ii) a demand or request for sexual favours;

(iii) making sexually coloured remarks;

(iv) showing or exhibiting pornography and/or sexually explicit material by any means;

(v) sending undesirable sexually coloured oral or written messages, text messages, e-mail messages, or any such messages by electronic, manual or other means;

(vi) stalking or consistently following aggrieved woman in the District Court precincts and outside;

(vii) voyeurism including overt or tacit observation by the Respondent by any means of the aggrieved woman in her private moments;

(viii) any conduct whereby the Respondent takes advantage of his position and subjects the aggrieved woman to any form of sexual harassment and seeks sexual favours specially while holding out career advancements whether explicitly or implicitly, as an incentive or a natural result of submitting to the insinuations/demands of the Respondent;

(ix) any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature;

(x) implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in her legal career with an intent to gain any sexual favour;

(xi) implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in her legal career with an intent to gain any sexual favour;

(xii) implied or explicit threat about her present or future legal career unless such aggrieved woman agrees to sexual favour;

(xiii) Interference with her work or creating an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment for her with an intent to gain any sexual favour or due to her refusal to extend any sexual favour; or

(xiv) any treatment having a sexual colour or content likely to affect her emotional and/or physical health or safety.

(n) "District Court" means the District Court of the District, City Civil Court, Greater Bombay, Court of Small Causes at Bombay, Motor Accident Claim Tribunal, Mumbai, Maharashtra State Co-operative Appellate Court, Mumbai, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Courts subordinate thereto and all other Courts and Tribunals over which the High Court exercises administrative control;

(o) "District Court precincts" means the whole premises of the District Courts and its subordinate Courts and includes the Court Block, administrative blocks, open grounds, parking, old and new chamber Blocks, libraries, canteens, bar-rooms, health centers and/or any other part of the premises under the control of the Principal District Judge, located within or beyond the campus of the District Court and its Subordinate Courts;

(p) "Volunteer" means lawyers or other persons enlisted by the DGSICC without any remuneration basis for carrying out the objects and purpose of these Regulations.

3. *Prevention of sexual harassment* .—No woman shall be subjected to sexual harassment at the District Court precincts.

CHAPTER II

COMPOSITION AND CONSTITUTION OF GENDER SENSITISATION AND INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

4. *Constitution of the Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee*.—(1) The District Court DGSICC is constituted herein to fulfill a very important public function of sensitizing the public to gender issues and to address any complaints made with regard to sexual harassment at the District Court precincts.

(2) The Principal District Judge shall, by an order in writing, constitute a Committee to be known as the "District Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee"(DGSICC) which shall consist of not less than 7 members and not more than 13 members and shall include the following as far as practicable :—

(a) one or two Judges in the cadre of District Judge, one of whom shall be the Chairperson of the Committee, to be nominated by the Principal District Judge;

(b) two senior members of the District Court Bar Association with at least 10 years of membership of such association to be nominated by the Principal District Judge, one of whom being a woman;

(c) District Government pleader;

(d) One woman member being a member of the District Court Employees association, to be nominated by the Principal District Judge;

(e) at least one and at the most two outside members to be nominated by the Principal District Judge, who is/are associated with the Social Welfare Department or non-government organization having experience in the field of social justice, women empowerment, and/or gender justice, out of whom at least one member shall be a woman;

(f) one woman officer of the rank of the Senior Civil Judge / Civil Judge, Junior Division working at the District Headquarter to be nominated by the Principal District Judge, who shall function as the Member Secretary of the DGSICC; and

(g) any other member that the Principal District Judge may deem fit to nominate :

Provided that the majority of the members of DGSICC shall preferably be women.

(3) The outside Member appointed under Clause 4(2)(e) shall be paid such fees or allowances from the allocated funds for holding the proceedings of the DGSICC as may be prescribed.

(4) Where the Chairperson or any Member of the DGSICC,—

(a) has been convicted for an offence or an inquiry into an offence under any law for the time being in force is pending against him/her;

(b) fails to constitute an Internal Sub-Committee to inquire into a particular Complaint;

(c) fails to take action under Regulation 11;

(d) contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets contravention of other provisions of these Regulations or any notifications/orders issued thereunder; or

(e) in the opinion of the Principal District Judge has so abused his/her position as to render his/her continuance in office prejudicial to the exercise of functions of the DGSICC; such Chairperson or Member, as the case may be, shall stand removed forthwith from the DGSICC by a written order of the Principal District Judge and the vacancy so created shall be filled by fresh nomination in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

5. *Term of District Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee members.*—The term of each member of the DGSICC shall be for two years, subject to the member being nominated for a maximum period of two terms, and a member who has been removed under Regulation 4(4) shall not be eligible for renomination.

6. *Meetings of The District Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee.*—(1) The DGSICC shall meet at least once in four months in a calendar year.

(2) Members shall be intimated of meetings and agenda in writing and/or by electronic communication by the Member Secretary.

(3) Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded, confirmed and adopted. The Member Secretary shall circulate the minutes of a meeting and the Resolutions so passed to all Members of the DGSICC within 7 days of the holding of the meeting or the passing of the Resolution.

(4) The Ordinary Meeting shall be called by the Chairperson with minimum seven days notice to all members.

Any member of the DGSICC may at any time request the Chairperson to call an Emergency Meeting with a notice of Forty-Eight hours. However, this will not prevent the Chairperson from convening an emergency meeting without 48 hours notice.

(5) The quorum for all Meetings shall be one-third of the members of the DGSICC. In the event the quorum is not completed for any meeting, an adjourned meeting shall be held within the next 10 days following, for which no quorum shall be required.

(6) All motions shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and voting at all meetings, except where it is otherwise specifically provided for.

Whenever a Complaint is received or a Report of the Internal Sub-Committee is submitted, the Member-Secretary shall within a period of 7 days request the Chairperson to call either an Ordinary or Emergency Meeting to take action on the same, and the Chairperson shall call a meeting for this purpose not later than 15 days from the date of the Complaint or the Report.

If a Member does not attend 3 consecutive meetings he/she shall be liable to removal forthwith by the Principal District Judge, and the vacancy so created shall be filled in accordance with Regulation.

7. *Functions of The Gender Sensitization & Internal Complaints Committee.*—(1) DGSICC shall be responsible for framing a Policy from time to time and its implementation with regard to gender sensitization and prevention and redressal of Sexual Harassment in the District Court;

(2) *Gender Sensitization and Orientation.*—DGSICC shall take the following steps with regard to gender sensitization and orientation:—

(i) DGSICC will ensure the prominent publicity of the Policy on gender sensitization and prevention and redressal of Sexual Harassment in the District Court precincts such as the Court Building, old and new Chamber Blocks, library, health center, canteens etc.

(ii) DGSICC will organize programmes for the gender sensitization of the District Court community through workshops, seminars, posters, film shows, debates, displays etc.

(iii) DGSICC shall submit an Annual Report by December 31 every year to the Principal District Judge which shall be made public outlining the activities undertaken by it and charting out a blueprint for the activities/steps to be taken up in the following year along with necessary budget allowances required by it. The DGSICC shall include in its Annual Report the number of cases filed, if any, and their disposal under these Regulations in the annual report.

(iv) DGSICC may enlist the help of NGO's, associations, volunteers, lawyers, lawyer's bodies, or the concerned legal services authorities to carry out these programmes.

(v) DGSICC will enlist and activate an adequately representative team of volunteers and shall ensure the widespread publicity of the contact details (both official and personal) of all its members and volunteers. The services of such volunteers shall be available at all times to any aggrieved woman or any person in need of consultation or guidance. Volunteers will also assist in the gender sensitization, crisis mediation and crises management duties of DGSICC, but shall not participate in the task of formal redressal of complaints under these Regulations and Procedures.

(vi) DGSICC will organize and train members and volunteers to equip them to handle sexual harassment cases including legal and medical aspects of aid.

(3) *Crisis Management and Mediation.*—DGSICC shall ensure that there is quick and responsive crises management, counselling and mediation available to all aggrieved women expeditiously which shall include the following activities :—

(i) DGSICC will assist in the mediation of crises arising out of incidents of sexual harassment at the District Court precincts.

(ii) No mediation shall conclude without approval of the DGSICC, and the mediated settlement shall be effected and be enforceable only upon it being duly approved by the DGSICC which shall satisfy itself that the said mediation settlement is voluntary, fair, unbiased, and free from any extraneous consideration or influence. DGSICC will coordinate with the District Court security services to devise ways and means by which a system of prevention of and crisis management that is both gender- sensitive as well as prompt and effective is put in place. It will maintain regular contact through the Member Secretary with the District Court security services to ensure that in crises arising out of incidents of sexual harassment, DGSICC members, and/or the volunteers identified by it, shall be intimated of such incidents without delay.

(4) *Complaint Redressal.*—The DGSICC shall ensure that every complaint of an aggrieved woman is adequately dealt with in accordance with the established procedure and with complete sensitivity. The DGSICC shall have the power to inquire into and pass orders against the Respondent/deviant/delinquent in a complaint made in relation to any form of sexual harassment in the entire precincts of the District Court.

CHAPTER III

COMPLAINT AND INQUIRY INTO COMPLAINT

8. *Complaint of Sexual Harassment.*—(1) Any aggrieved woman may make a complaint in writing of sexual harassment at the District Court precincts to the DGSICC through the Member Secretary :

Provided that where the aggrieved woman is unable to make such a complaint in writing due to any reason, the Member of the DGSICC or volunteer, as the case may be, shall render all reasonable assistance to the woman for making the complaint in writing.

(2) Where the aggrieved woman is unable to make a complaint on account of her physical or mental incapacity or death or for any other reason, her legal heir or such other person directly concerned with her interests may make a complaint under this Regulation.

9. *Inquiry into complaint.*—(1) On receiving a complaint and upon being satisfied with regard to the genuineness of the Complaint, the DGSICC shall constitute an Internal Sub-Committee to conduct a fact finding inquiry, which shall comprise of three members of the DGSICC itself, or such other persons as to be so nominated by the DGSICC in its meeting, with majority members being women, and at least one person being an outside member.

(2) The Internal Sub-Committee shall conduct an inquiry and shall hear and duly record the statements of the aggrieved woman, the Respondent, and any other person the said parties wish to examine, subject to the provisions of Regulation 13(2), and thereafter it shall prepare a Report and enclose therein the complete proceedings of the Inquiry.

(3) The fact finding inquiry into a Complaint shall be conducted and completed within 90 days of the Constitution of the Internal Sub-Committee :

Provided that the validity of any inquiry shall not be called into question upon the inquiry not being completed within the stipulated period due to reasons beyond the control of the Internal Sub-Committee.

10. *Inquiry Report.*—(1) On the completion of an inquiry under these Regulations, the Internal Sub-Committee shall provide the Inquiry Report of its findings alongwith the complete record of the inquiry proceedings including the pleadings and all the material on record to the DGSICC within a period of ten days from the date of completion of the inquiry and such Report shall also be made available to the concerned parties.

(2) Where the Internal Sub-Committee arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the Respondent has not been proved, it shall recommend to the DGSICC that no action is required to be taken in the matter.

(3) Where the Internal Sub-Committee arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the Respondent has been proved, it shall recommend to the DGSICC to take appropriate action for sexual harassment.

(4) Upon consideration of the material on record and the Inquiry Report of the Internal Sub-Committee, if more than two-thirds of the members of the DGSICC differ from the conclusion of the Internal Sub-Committee, the DGSICC shall after hearing the aggrieved woman and Respondent in person, record its reasons to so differ and take consequent action accordingly.

(5) The DGSICC shall pass orders either accepting or rejecting the Inquiry Report of the Internal Sub-Committee and thereafter pass consequent orders that may be appropriate and necessary for putting an end to the sexual harassment and take all steps to secure justice to the victim of sexual harassment within 45 working days of submission of the Inquiry Report of the Internal Sub-Committee, excluding the period of holidays, and/or vacation of the District Court :

Provided that the validity of the orders of the DGSICC shall not be called into question upon the same not being passed within the stipulated time.

11. *Orders on Inquiry Report.*—(1) Subject to Regulation 9(1) above, the DGSICC shall have the power to pass the following orders to secure justice to the victim of sexual harassment,—

- (a) admonition;
- (b) admonition with publication of such admonition in the Court precincts including cause lists and on the Website of High Court of Bombay /District Court;
- (c) prohibition from harassing the victim in any manner including, but not limited to, prohibition from communicating with her in any manner such as phones, messages, electronic means, physical or other means for a specified period; and
- (d) Subject to Regulation 11(2), pass all orders, directions, and/or direct taking steps necessary for putting an end to the sexual harassment of the aggrieved woman.

(2) DGSICC will also have the power to recommend to the Principal District Judge to pass orders against the Respondent including, but not limited, to the following

- (a) debarment of entry into the District Court and/or courts subordinate thereto for a specified period extending upto a maximum period of one year; and
- (b) in appropriate cases, to recommend filing of a criminal complaint and/ or a disciplinary complaint before the concerned disciplinary authority governing the Respondent (including the concerned Bar Council) for taking appropriate action, and the Principal District Judge may pass orders thereon subject to Regulation 12.

(3) The DGSICC shall pass orders on the Inquiry Report and/or shall make recommendations to the Principal District Judge within 45 working days of the submission of the Inquiry Report, excluding the period of vacation of the District Court and communicate the same to the parties forthwith.

(4) The DGSICC and the Internal Sub-Committee shall have the jurisdiction to inquire into a complaint and take any action thereon notwithstanding that any criminal complaint or any other complaint under any other law (including a disciplinary proceeding under the Advocates Act, 1961) may have been filed with respect to the same complaint/action.

(5) The orders of the Principal District Judge and the DGSICC shall be final and binding on the parties.

12. *Representation*—(1) Any person aggrieved by the order passed by the DGSICC under Regulation 11(1), or recommendation made by the DGSICC to the Principal District Judge under Regulation 11(2), or non-implementation of such orders or action may make a representation to the Principal District Judge who shall have the power to set aside or modify the orders passed or the recommendation made as the Principal District Judge may deem fit, and also have the power to issue such orders or directions that may be necessary to secure complete justice to the victim of sexual harassment.

The representation under Regulation 12(1) shall be preferred within a period of ninety days of communication of the order or recommendation.

13. *Restraint Order*—(1) On the receipt of a complaint and during the pendency of an Inquiry, on a written request made by the aggrieved woman, the DGSICC if it considers it fit and proper may recommend specific interim measures to be taken in a signed decision to the Principal District Judge, who on receipt thereof may pass such interim orders that may be required for the personal safety and for safeguarding the dignity of the aggrieved woman, and both the aggrieved woman and the Respondent shall be bound by the same.

(2) Upon disobedience, defiance or violation of the order passed under clause (1) above by the Respondent, the DGSICC shall close and /or strike off the defence of the Respondent and pass final orders under Regulation 10(5) and Regulation 11.

CHAPTER IV

POWERS AND DUTIES

14. *Powers of DGSICC & Internal Sub-Committee.*—(1) The DGSICC shall have the power to issue circulars/notifications prescribing its procedure and for the purpose of carrying out and implementing the provisions of the present Regulations in their spirit and intent.

(2) The DGSICC shall have the power to pass any orders to be able to carry out the objectives and mandate of the present Regulations including directing any party or person to take any suitable action.

(3) For the purpose of making an inquiry, the DGSICC and the Internal Sub-Committee shall have the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 when trying a suit in respect of the following matters, namely :—

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of documents; and
- (c) any other matter which may be prescribed.

(4) The DGSICC by Resolution to be passed by two-thirds majority may remove any member of the Internal Sub-Committee and appoint a new member in his/her place, only if it is of the view that such a member has acted prejudicially to the principles of natural- justice, fair play and has acted with bias in the conduct of the Inquiry.

(5) The DGSICC shall at all times have supervisory powers over the internal Sub-Committee and it may issue directions to the Internal Sub-Committee from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the present Regulations.

15. *Duties.*—The DGSICC in co-ordination with and with the assistance of the office of the District Court shall,—

- (a) take measures to provide a safe working environment at the District Court precincts ;
- (b) display at any conspicuous place in the District Court and on its web-site, the penal consequences of sexual harassments and the order constituting the Internal Committee under the present Regulations ;
- (c) display at any conspicuous place in the High Court of Bombay and on its web-site, the status and outcome of complaints of sexual harassment ;
- (d) Organize workshops and awareness programmes at regular intervals for sensitizing the persons carrying out work at the District Court premises with the provisions of the present Regulations and orientation programmes for the members of the Internal Committee in the manner as may be prescribed.
- (e) provide necessary facilities to the Internal Sub-Committee for dealing with the complaint and conducting an inquiry ;
- (f) assist in securing the attendance of respondent and witnesses before the Internal Sub-Committee ;
- (g) obtain such information for the Internal Sub-Committee as it may require having regard to the complaint ;
- (h) cause to initiate action, under the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force, against the Respondent and/or the perpetrator ;
- (i) monitor the timely submission of reports by the Internal Sub-Committee; and
- (j) take any other action and/or measures to ensure an effective and meaningful implementation of the present Regulations.

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

16. The Principal District Judge shall submit quarterly report of functioning / proceeding of DGSICC to the Registrar General, High Court of Bombay.

17. *Confidentiality.*—(1) The contents of the complaint made under the present Regulations, the identity and addresses of the aggrieved woman, respondent and witnesses, any information relating to the inquiry proceedings, recommendations of the DGSICC and the action taken by the DGSICC shall be confidential and shall not be published, communicated or made known to the public, press and media in any manner except upon the aggrieved woman submitting a specific request to do so in writing and upon the DGSICC acceding to the said request.

(2) Upon the Respondent being found guilty, information may be disseminated regarding the justice secured to any victim of sexual harassment under these Regulations without disclosing the name, address, identity or any other particulars calculated to lead to the identification of the aggrieved woman and witnesses.

18. *Protection of action taken in good faith.*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Principal District Judge, DGSICC and the Internal Sub-Committee or its members in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith in pursuance of these Regulations, and the circulars/orders/notifications issued thereunder.

19. *Allocation of funds.*—The Principal District Judge may, subject to the availability of financial and other resources allocate and provide suitable funds as may be prescribed,—

(a) for the effective implementation of the present Regulations ;

(b) for development of relevant information, education, communication and training materials, for organization of awareness programmes, and for advancement of the understanding of the public of the provisions of these Regulations; or

(c) for organizing orientation and training programmes for the members of the DGSICC, Internal Sub-Committees, volunteers, counselors etc.

20. *Regulations not in derogation of any other law.*—(1) The provisions of these Regulations shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

(2) The provisions of the present Regulations shall not bar any Court from taking cognizance of any offence punishable under any other enactment or law.

Mumbai,
dated 26th August 2015.

MANGESH S. PATIL,
Registrar General.