

Complaint No.LA/COM/1551/2022 (T-1)
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Shri A. Mashhood Mugis Mohammadi

Hearing on 18.04.2023

Present : (1) Shri Kuldeep Jangam, Assistant Collector, Sillod, District Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar; (2) Shri Santosh V. Gawde, Deputy Secretary, Revenue & Forests Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai; (3) Shri Bhaskar Bansode, Under Secretary, Urban Development Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai

The complainant is absent.

2. Both these complaints have been filed by the same complainant – one pertains to grant of Additional Tahsil status and second is for establishment of Nagar Panchayat for Ajantha City. It is his contention that taking into consideration the increase in the population of the city, traffic, financial status and yearly income of Grampanchayat under the provisions of Section 4 and 13, sub section (3) of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, Ajantha City should get Additional Tahsil status.

3. A report was called for from the Collector, Aurangabad. The matter was heard on 08.08.2022, 17.11.2022 and 09.02.2023. According to the reports submitted by the Revenue & Forest Department dated 04.11.2022 and 24.01.2023, the Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad by his letter dated 11.03.2022 has given a proposal to the Government for grant of Additional Tahsil status. The Government has sought for all other information regarding annual expenditure, no. of posts, pay scales, office expenditure incurred on telephone and internet. It is stated in the report that after the said information is

obtained, the papers would be sent to the Finance Department. In the report dated 10.04.2023, it is stated that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has granted approval and the matter has been placed before the High Power Committee and the Finance Department. I am satisfied with the progress of the matter.

4. In the second case, the complainant is seeking that Nagar Panchayat should be established in Ajantha City under Section 341(a) of the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Township Act, 1965. It is stated that though in the Maharashtra Legislative Council on 02.07.2019, a star question was raised and the resolution passed by the Ajantha Grampanchayat dated 31.01.2018 was approved, Nagar Panchayat has not been established. In the letter dated 10.04.2023 written by the Revenue & Forests Department, in order to establish Nagar Panchayat in Ajantha City, it is necessary to sanction 7 posts and for that purpose, the proposal for grant of recurring expenses of Rs.43.80 lakhs and non-recurring expenses of Rs.77 lakhs has to be placed before the High Power Committee and a request to that effect has been made to the Finance Department on 29.03.2023.

5. Ajantha Caves are an UNESCO World Heritage. Millions of tourists come from South-Asia and all over the world and it is a source of revenue for the Government of Maharashtra. The caves at Ajantha are excavated out of a vertical plateau above the left bank of river Waghur in the Ajantha. It is an unique artistic achievement.

6. Taking into consideration the above stated facts, in my view, it is appropriate to give Additional Tahsil status and provide Nagar Panchayat establishment to the Ajantha City so

that better facilities can be provided. I request the Revenue & Forests Department to expedite the process of grant of Additional Tahsil status and establishment of Nagar Panchayat to Ajantha City.

7. Adjourned to 04.07.2023 at 11.15 a.m.

(Justice V. M. Kanade)
Lokayukta
18.04.2023