

RULES AS NOTIFIED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Company Secretaries (Nomination of Members to the Council) Rules, 2006

[Issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs, Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) on 19.8.2006 vide Notification No. GSR 489(E) dated 18.08.2006]

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of Sub-section (2) of Section 38A of, read with sub-section (2) of section 9 of, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules namely :—

1. Short title and commencement

(1) These Rules may be called the Company Secretaries (Nomination of Members to the Council) Rules, 2006.

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

2. Definitions

(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires “Act” means the Company Secretaries Act, 1980;

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

3. Field of consideration for nominations

The Central Government shall make nominations to the Council under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Act from amongst:

- (a) persons who are holding a position in Government of India not below the rank of a Director, or
- (b) persons of eminence from the fields of law, banking, economics, business, finance, industry, management, public affairs or in any other matter which in opinion of the Central Government may be useful for the profession of Company Secretaries:

Provided that the persons so nominated should not be a member of the Institute.

Explanation. – For the purpose of this rule, 'holding position under Government of India' shall also include a person holding position under the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Reserve Bank of India or any other Organization under the control of Government of India.

The Company Secretaries (Election to the Council) Rules, 2006

[Issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs, Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) vide Notification No. GSR 533(E), dated 5th September, 2006 at New Delhi]

In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (a) of Sub-section (2) of Section 38A read with Clause (a) of Sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely :—

1. Short title and commencement

(1) These Rules may be called the Company Secretaries (Election to the Council) Rules, 2006.

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

2. Definitions

(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Act" means the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980);

(b) "Approved Form" means form approved by the Council for use for a specific purpose under these Rules:

Provided that if any form has not yet been approved by the Council, after coming into force of these Rules, then the appropriate form laid down for the same purpose before coming into force of these Rules shall be the approved form;

(c) "Returning Officer" means the Secretary of the Council appointed under Section 16 of the Act, or, in case the post of Secretary is vacant, any officer of the Institute designated by the Council for the purpose of conduct of elections.

(2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these Rules and defined in the Act shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act.

3. Regional Constituencies

For the purpose of constitution of the Council in pursuance of Clause (a) of Sub-section (2) of Section 9, the regional constituencies shall comprise of such States or Union Territories as listed out in Schedule 1 to these Rules.

4. Dates of Elections

(1) The election to the Council shall be held on a date or dates to be determined by the Council, which shall, in any case, not be less than one month before the expiry of the term of the existing Council:

Provided that if elections cannot be conducted, in extraordinary circumstances, within the time period permitted under this sub-rule, the Central Government, on a specific request of the Returning Officer or otherwise, may postpone the date or dates of election, which in any case shall not be after the expiry of the term of the existing Council.

(2) Subject to provision of sub-rule (1), the Returning Officer shall notify in the Gazette of India at least three months before the date or dates of election so determined under sub-rule (1), the dates fixed for the following stages of election of members to the Council, namely:-

- (a) the last date and time for receipt of nominations, which shall not be less than 21 days from the date of the notification;
- (b) date or dates and place of scrutiny of nominations, the last day of which shall not be more than fifteen days from the last date for receipt of nominations fixed under clause (a);
- (c) the last date and time for withdrawal of nominations, which shall be ten days from the last date for scrutiny of nominations fixed under clause (b);
- (d) the date or dates of polling;
- (e) the last date for receipt of applications for permission to vote by post under rule 28;
- (f) the last date and time for receipt by post of ballot papers back from voters;
- (g) the date or dates of counting;
- (h) the date of declaration of results.

(3) If, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, it becomes necessary to change for compelling reasons any date or dates notified under sub-rule (2), he may notify a fresh date or dates, subject to provisions of sub-rule (1), in the Gazette of India:

Provided that such a notification shall be issued at least ten days before the revised date or dates, except for change in dates under sub-clauses (g) and (h) of sub-rule 2.

(4) If any of the last date so notified in sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3), not being the date or dates of polling, is subsequently declared as a holiday by the Central Government, the last date so fixed shall be construed as the immediately next working day.

5. Members eligible to vote

Subject to other provisions of these rules, a member, whose name is borne on the Register on the 1st day of April of the financial year in which the election to the Council is to take place, shall be eligible to vote in the election from the regional constituency within whose territorial jurisdiction his professional address falls on the said date:

Provided that his name has not been removed from the Register on the date of publication of the list of voters:

Provided further that if the professional address is not borne on the Register on the relevant date, the residential address borne on the Register shall determine his regional constituency:

Provided also that, in the case of members having their professional addresses outside India and eligible to vote, their regional constituencies shall be determined according to their professional addresses in India registered immediately before they went abroad or the residential addresses in India borne on the register of members on the relevant date, whichever is later.

6. List of voters

(1) At least three months before the date of election, the Returning Officer shall publish a list of members eligible to vote, as defined in rule 5, as per Schedule 2 to these Rules.

(2) Subject to the provisions of these Rules, the address of a member published in the list of voters shall be final for determining

the manner in which he shall be entitled to cast his vote, the constituency and the polling booth to which he shall belong for the purpose of casting his vote.

(3) The list of members eligible to vote shall be made available at the Headquarters, relevant Regional Councils and their relevant chapters on payment of such price as may be fixed by the Council.

(4) The inclusion of the name of a member in the list of members eligible to vote shall not confer an absolute right to vote at the election which shall be subject to the other provisions of these Rules, Regulations or the Act.

(5) An announcement about the availability of the list, as per sub-rule (3), shall be put on the web-site of the Institute, Notice Board of the Council, the Notice Board of the Regional Council concerned, as well as the Notice Board(s) of the chapters of Regional Council concerned, wherever these exist.

(6) If a clerical mistake or omission is detected in the list of members eligible to vote, the Returning Officer may rectify the same at any time by issue of a suitable corrigendum.

7. Members eligible to stand for election

Subject to other provisions of these Rules, a member who is a fellow on the first day of April of the financial year in which an election is to take place and whose name continues to be borne on the Register on the last date of scrutiny of nominations under sub-rule (2) of rule 4, shall be eligible to stand for election to the Council from the regional constituency in which he is eligible to vote:

Provided that no person shall be eligible to stand for election to the Council, if—

- (a) he has been found guilty of any professional or other misconduct and his name is removed from the register or he has been awarded penalty of fine as provided in proviso to clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act;
- (b) he is holding a post under the Central or State Government as provided in sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the Act;
- (c) he has been auditor of the Institute during the last three year as provided in sub-section (4) of Section 9 of the Act;

- (d) he has held the office for more than two consecutive terms as provided in first proviso to Section 10 of the Act; or
- (e) he has been elected as President under sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the Act as provided in second proviso to Section 10 of the Act.

For the purpose of this rule—

- (i) the penalties awarded to a person before coming into force of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2006 or penalties awarded to a person after coming into force of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2006 for offences committed before the coming into force of the same, shall also be taken account for the purpose of attracting disqualification under clause (a) of the proviso above.
- (ii) a person drawing salary from the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of a State, as the case may be, or from any body corporate or any organization where the Central Government or the state government own individually or jointly a majority stake, shall be deemed to be a person holding a post under the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, for the purpose of attracting of disqualification under clause (b) of the proviso above.
- (iii) for a person who has been the auditor of the Institute before coming into force of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2006, the three year period limitation provided under Sub-section (4) of Section 9 of the Act shall also include the period between his ceasing to be an auditor and the coming into force of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2006.
- (iv) the number of term(s) of Office held by a person as a member of the Council either under clause (a) or under clause (b) or partly under clause (a) and partly under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act, prior to coming into force of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2006, shall not be taken into account for reckoning of the two consecutive terms for the purpose of disqualification under clause (d) of the proviso above.
- (v) the holding of the office of the President of the Institute of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the Act, prior to coming into

force of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2006, shall also be taken into account for the purpose of attracting disqualification under clause (e) of the proviso above.

8. Number of members to be elected

The number of members to be elected from each regional constituency shall be calculated as per the procedure described in Schedule 3.

9. Nominations

(1) At least 3 months before the date of election, the Council shall publish in the Gazette of India a notice stating the number of members to be elected from each regional constituency and calling for nominations of candidates for election by the date and time notified vide sub-rule (2) of Rule 4.

(2) The maximum number of nominations that can be submitted by a candidate shall be 10 only:

Provided that in the event of receipt of more than 10 nominations, the first 10 nominations determined, on the basis of date and time of receipt, shall be taken into consideration.

(3) The nomination of a candidate shall be:

- (i) in the approved form duly signed by the candidate and by one proposer and one seconder both of whom shall be persons entitled to vote in the election in the relevant regional constituency; and
- (ii) delivered along with requisite fee(s), security deposit and other papers as are laid out in these Rules to the Returning Officer by name not later than 6 P.M. on the notified date:

Provided that an acknowledgement of delivery shall be issued by the Returning Officer or by a person authorized by him on receipt of nomination form mentioning the time and date of receipt of nomination form.

(4) The nomination shall be valid only if it is accompanied by a statement signed and verified by the candidate containing information as provided in Schedule 4.

10. Fee for election

(1) A candidate for election shall pay such fee as may be fixed by the Council from time to time which shall not in any case exceed Rs.50,000/-, irrespective of the number of nominations.

(2) The fee shall be paid by demand draft in favour of Secretary of the Institute and payable at New Delhi.

(3) A candidate whose nomination is held to be invalid shall be entitled to the refund of fifty percent of the fee payable.

11. Security Deposit

(1) A candidate for election, in addition to fee as provided in rule 10, shall pay, irrespective of the number of nominations filed or specified under rule 9, an amount of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) as security deposit, which shall be forfeited if he fails to secure not less than 2% of the original votes as defined in rule 35 polled in the concerned regional constituency.

(2) The method of payment of security deposit shall be specified in the notification issued under sub-rule (1) of Rule 9.

12. Scrutiny of nominations

(1) The Council shall appoint for each election a Panel for the scrutiny of the nomination papers of all the candidates.

(2) The Panel shall consist of three persons of whom one shall be the Returning Officer and the other two shall be persons nominated by the Council, from among the members of the Council referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act, of which one shall be an officer of the Central Government and the other shall not be a member of the Institute, provided that if one or more of such members are not available or are unwilling to act, then any other officer or officers of the Central Government, as the Central Government may nominate for the purpose.

(3) A notification containing the names of the members of the Panel shall be issued before the last date for the receipt of nomination for the election for which it is appointed.

(4) The term of the Panel shall end with the conclusion of the polling for which it is appointed.

(5) The Panel shall have the power to regulate its procedure in such manner as it considers just and expedient.

(6) The quorum of the panel for the transaction of its business shall be two.

(7) In case a vacancy arises in the Panel by reason of one or more members of the Panel being unable to act for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled up by the Returning Officer from among the members of the Council referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act, provided he is not a member of the Institute, and provided that if one or more of such members are not available or are unwilling to act, then by any other officer or officers of the Central Government, as the Central Government may nominate for the purpose.

(8) The Panel shall scrutinize the nomination papers of all the candidates and shall endorse on each nomination paper its decision, whether it accepts or rejects the nomination.

(9) The Panel shall record a brief statement of its reasons, if it rejects a nomination.

- (10) (a) The Panel shall reject a nomination, if it is satisfied that:
- (i) the candidate was ineligible to stand for election under rule 7; or
 - (ii) the proposer or the seconder was not qualified to subscribe to the nomination of the candidate in the approved Form; or
 - (iii) the signature of the candidate or of the proposer or the seconder is not genuine; or
 - (iv) there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of rule 9, rule 10 or rule 11.
- (b) The Panel shall not reject a nomination paper on the ground of a technical defect which is not of a substantial character.
- (c) The rejection of the nomination of a candidate by reason of any irregularity in respect of that nomination shall not be a bar to the acceptance of another nomination submitted under rule 9 and is also valid in respect of the same candidate.

- (d) If a proposer or a seconder incurs a disability by reason of the operation of the provisions of the Act, Rules or Regulations made thereunder subsequent to the date of signing the nomination, it shall not invalidate the nomination.

(11) In a case where the nomination or, if more nominations than one were filed, all the nominations of a candidate has or have been refused or rejected, the Returning Officer shall give notice of the decision of the Panel together with a brief statement of the reason(s) therefor to the candidate concerned by registered/speed post.

13. Preparation of lists of valid nominations

(1) On completion of the scrutiny of the nominations, the Returning Officer shall forthwith prepare a list of valid nominations for each constituency and cause a copy of the list to be sent by registered/speed post to each candidate from that constituency who had filed his nomination:

Provided that such list should sent at least ten days before the last date of withdrawal of nominations fixed under clause (c) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 4.

(2) The list shall contain full names in alphabetical order and the addresses, as published in the list of voters, of the validly nominated candidates for each constituency:

Provided that if the names of two or more candidates are same, then person with earlier date of enrollment as a member shall be included in the list before other person or persons having the same name but having a subsequent date of enrollment.

14. Withdrawal of candidature

(1) A candidate may withdraw his candidature by giving a notice in his own hand and duly signed by him and have it delivered to the Returning Officer anytime before 6.00 P.M. of the last date notified vide sub-rule (2) of Rule 4.

(2) No candidate who has given a notice of withdrawal of his candidature under sub-rule (1) shall be allowed to cancel or withdraw that notice.

(3) Within five days of the last date notified vide sub-rule (2) of Rule 4, the list of such candidates who have withdrawn their candidature from a regional constituency shall be intimated by the

Returning Officer to the other candidates standing for election from the same constituency.

(4) A candidate who has withdrawn his candidature in accordance with sub-rule (1) shall be entitled to the refund of fifty percent of the fee paid by him under sub-rules (1) and (2) of rule 10 and the full security deposit under rule 11.

15. Intimation of final list of nominations to candidates and voters

(1) The Returning Officer shall omit from the list of valid nominations the names of candidates who have withdrawn their candidature and send the final list of nominations for each constituency to all the candidates for that constituency by registered or speed post and to the voters of the constituency by ordinary post.

(2) The list shall be put on the Notice Board of the Institute, Website of the Institute, the Notice Board of the Regional Council concerned as well as the Notice Boards of chapters of Regional Council concerned, wherever these exist.

(3) The list shall also be accompanied by such particulars of all contesting candidates of that constituency as compiled, prepared and presented in accordance with Schedule 5 by the Returning Officer from the particulars to the extent supplied by the candidates under sub-rule (4) of Rule 9:

Provided he may correct any manifest errors in the particulars furnished that may have come to his notice.

(4) The particulars required to accompany the list of nominations, as aforesaid shall prominently indicate that they are compiled on the basis of the particulars furnished by the candidates under sub-rule (4) of rule 9 and that no responsibility is accepted as to the veracity of the said particulars.

16. Election Code of Conduct

(1) With a view to maintain a healthy and peaceful atmosphere during the election process for ensuring a free and fair election, the Returning Officer, shall issue a Election Code of Conduct for candidates, as approved by the Council before issue of notification under sub-rule (2) of Rule 4, and which shall be published on the web-site of the Institute.

(2) The Election Code of Conduct shall contain instructions and norms to be followed by candidates and their authorized representatives appointed under these Rules during the entire election process including at the polling booth and counting centre.

(3) The Election Code of Conduct shall come into force from the date of issue of notification under sub-rule (2) of Rule 4.

(4) The Election Code is deemed to be a guideline of the Council under item (1) of Part II of the Second Schedule of the Act and it is obligatory for each candidate to comply with the Election Code of Conduct.

17. Death of a candidates

(1) If a candidate dies before the date of election but after the date fixed for the withdrawal of candidature under rule 14 and his nomination is or has been accepted as valid, the election in his constituency shall be conducted among the remaining candidates and no fresh proceedings with reference to the election of members in the constituency in which such member was a candidate shall be commenced.

(2) The votes cast in favour of any such candidate shall be deemed to have been cast in favour of the candidate, if any, next in order of preference in the ballot paper.

(3) If a candidate dies after the date of election but before the commencement of the counting, the votes cast in favour of any such candidate shall be deemed to have been cast in favour of the candidate, if any, next in order of preference in the ballot paper.

(4) If the candidate dies after commencement of the counting and before declaration of result, counting of votes would continue as if the person has not died, and, if as a result of such counting he is found to be in a position to be declared elected, then the entire ballot papers would be recounted afresh, with the votes cast in favour of the candidate deemed to have been cast in favour of the candidate, if any, next in order of preference in the ballot paper.

(5) If a candidate dies after declaration of results in which he has been declared elected, then the resultant vacancy would be deemed to be a casual vacancy under Section 13 of the Act.

18. Candidates deemed to be elected if their number is equal to or less than the number of members to be elected

(1) Where the number of candidates validly nominated from any constituency is equal to or less than the number of members to be elected from that constituency on the date of issue of the final list of nominations to the candidates, or where the number of candidates from any constituency becomes equal to or less than the number of members to be elected from that constituency, by reason of the death before the date of election, such candidates shall be deemed to be elected and the Returning Officer shall declare all such candidates duly elected.

(2) Where the number of such candidates from the constituency is less than the number of members to be elected from that constituency, the Returning Officer shall commence fresh proceedings for the election of the remaining member or members to be elected from that constituency.

19. Mode of election

(1) The election shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

(2) Except as otherwise provided, at every election where a poll is taken, vote shall be given by secret ballot and every voter in any election, shall cast his vote personally in the booth provided for the purpose, unless a voter is allowed in respect of any election to cast his vote by post as hereinafter provided.

Explanation: For purpose of clarity it is reiterated that a voter desiring to record his vote, shall do so in person and not by proxy.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules or the Regulations, the giving or recording of votes through voting machines or internet in such manner as may be determined by the Council, and with the approval of the Central Government, may be adopted in such constituency or constituencies as the Returning Officer may, having regard to the circumstances of each case, specify.

Explanation: For the purposes of this sub-rule, the approval of the Central Government should be sought and obtained prior to publication of notification in the Gazette of India required under sub-rule (2) of rule 4.

20. Admissible number of votes to a voter

(1) A voter shall have one vote only, and he shall have as many preferences as there are candidates.

(2) The voter in order to cast his vote:

- (a) shall place on his ballot paper the number 1 (in Arabic or Roman numerals or in words) in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom he desires to vote; and
- (b) may, in addition, place on his ballot paper the number 2, or the numbers 2 and 3 or the numbers 2, 3 and 4 (in Arabic or Roman numerals or in words) and so on in the squares opposite the names of other candidates in the order of his preference, upto the maximum number of preferences available to him under sub-rule (1).
- (c) may put 'X' against whom he has not mentioned any preference.

21. Polling booths

(1) The Returning Officer shall set up such number of polling booths at such places as he deems necessary:

Provided that no polling booth shall be set up in any place having less than 25 members eligible to vote in accordance with rule 5 in the said place or within a distance of 50 kilometers thereof:

Provided further that if, in the opinion of the Returning Officer for compelling reasons, it becomes necessary to change the address of one or more polling booths, he may do so and inform by post or e-mail of the change to all voters who are affected by such a change and to all candidates of the constituency in which the polling booth is situated, in addition to publishing the same on the web-site of the Institute.

(2) In a place having less than 2500 voters, there shall be one polling booth for every 500 voters or part thereof, though the allocation of voters among different polling booths in the same place need not necessarily be in groups of 500 and the polling shall be held on one day.

(3) In a place having more than 2500 voters each polling booth shall be allotted 1000 voters or part thereof and the polling shall be held on two consecutive days.

22. Polling Officer

(1) The Returning Officer shall appoint a Polling Officer, preferably a officer serving under the Central or any State Government, for each polling booth and may also appoint such other persons as he may deem necessary to assist the polling officer:

Provided that no member of the Institute shall be appointed as Polling Officer.

(2) The Polling Officer shall, in addition to performing the duties imposed upon him by these Rules, be in general in charge of all arrangements at the polling booth and may issue orders as to the manner in which persons shall be admitted to the polling booth and generally for the preservation of peace and order at or in the vicinity of the polling booth.

(3) Where the Polling Officer appointed by the Returning Officer is unable to conduct the polling on one or more of the day or days fixed for the polling, he may intimate the same to the Returning Officer or any other officer nominated by the Returning Officer for the purpose, who shall appoint another person, subject to proviso of sub-rule (1), as polling officer in his place.

23. Appointment of Election Observers

(1) The Returning Officer shall appoint such number of election observers, who shall not be members of the Institute, for all or any of the polling booths and for counting venue or venues, as may be deemed appropriate by him and such observers shall perform such duties as may be decided by the Council.

(2) The duties of the Election observers so decided by the Council be given due publicity among candidates and voters.

24. Secret Chamber

(1) There shall be a secret chamber or chambers in each polling booth.

(2) The chamber shall be so arranged that no person may be able to see how a voter has recorded his vote.

25. Ballot paper

(1) The ballot paper shall contain, in alphabetical order in

English, a list of the candidates validly nominated for a constituency and shall be printed on one side only.

(2) Each such ballot paper shall contain the Institute's emblem printed in such manner, as may be decided by the Returning Officer having regard to the security considerations of the ballot paper.

26. Presence of the candidates and their authorised representatives at the polling booths

(1) A candidate for election from a constituency shall be entitled to be present at the polling booths in that constituency.

(2) He may appoint any two members as his authorised representatives for each polling booth, only one of whom shall be entitled to be present at a time on his behalf at that particular polling booth.

(3) No appointment of an authorised representative shall be valid unless the candidate has issued a letter of authority to such a representative. The letter of authority shall be produced before the polling officer concerned, and shall include the full name, the membership number and the address of the authorised representative, as well as the number of polling booth at which he is authorised to be present.

(4) The polling officer shall keep a record of attendance of the candidates and/or their authorised representatives, which shall be forwarded to the Returning Officer after the polling is over.

27. Appointment of assistants

The polling officer may employ at the polling booth such persons not being members of the Institute as he thinks fit to assist him in identifying the voters or for any other purpose.

Provided that a person so appointed would not be entitled to discharge the duties of polling officer laid out in these Rules and would be there only to assist the Polling Officer.

28. Eligibility to vote by post

(1) A member whose name is included in the list of voters and whose name is not shown under any polling booth shall be permitted to vote by post.

(2) A member who is entitled to vote at a polling booth may be permitted at the discretion of the Returning Officer, to vote by post, if by reason of his suffering from any permanent infirmity or, in case of a member in service, a permanent change in address, he is unable to exercise his vote at the polling booth allotted to him:

Provided that in such a case he shall send an application in the approved Form for permission to vote by post under this sub-rule together with the medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner, not below the rank of a Surgeon in any Government Hospital, confirming such permanent infirmity, or, as the case may be, proof of permanent change in address duly signed by an authorized personnel of the organization where the member is employed, to the Returning Officer so as to reach him at least 60 days before the date of election and an application not received within the time specified shall not be considered.

Explanation: "Member in service" for the purpose of this section means members of the Institute who are employed in an organization not being a firm.

(3) A member who is residing outside India shall notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules be eligible to vote by post provided that his overseas address is registered with the Institute and has been published in the list of members eligible to vote.

(4) Any misuse of the concession under this rule or any misstatement or false verification in this behalf shall be deemed to have brought disrepute to the Council under item (2) of Part IV of the First Schedule of the Act if, in connection with an election to the Council of the Institute.

29. Procedure of voting at the polling booth

Voting at a polling booth shall take place as per procedure laid out in Schedule 6 to these Rules.

30. Procedure of voting by post

Voting by post shall take place as per procedure laid out in Schedule 7 to these Rules.

31. Grounds for declaring ballot papers invalid

A ballot paper shall be invalid:

- (a) if a voter signs his name or writes any word or figure upon it or makes any mark including a tick (✓) / cross (X), not being

a mark of 'X' put under clause (c) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 20, upon it by which the ballot paper becomes recognizable or by which the voter can be identified; or

- (b) if it is not print by or under the authority of the Council or it is different in any manner from the ballot papers printed under Rule 25; or
- (c) if number 1 (in Arabic or Roman numerals or in words) is not marked on it; or
- (d) if number 1 (in Arabic or Roman numerals or in words) is set opposite the name of more than one candidate; or
- (e) if number 1 (in Arabic or Roman numerals or in words) and some other numbers are put opposite the name of the same candidate; or
- (f) if it is unmarked or the marks made are void or cannot be unambiguously determined; or
- (g) if it is so damaged or mutilated that its identity as a genuine ballot paper cannot be established.

32. Appointment of time and date for the counting of votes

The Returning Officer shall, at least fifteen days before date of polling, appoint for each regional constituency, a date or dates, place and time for each such date for the counting of votes at the headquarters of the Institute and shall also give notice of such date or dates, place and time in writing to all the candidates.

33. Appointment of scrutinisers

The Returning Officer may appoint two or more persons who are neither members of the Council nor candidates for election to act as scrutinisers of the voting papers and to assist him generally in counting the votes.

34. Presence of candidates at the time of counting of votes

A candidate for election shall be entitled to be present in person or to appoint a member as a representative to be present on his behalf at the time of counting of votes.

35. Counting of votes and declaration of results

Counting of votes shall take place as per procedure laid down in Schedule 8.

36. Notification of the declaration of results

The names of all the candidates declared elected shall be notified by the Council in the Gazette of India.

37. Election not to be invalid due to accidental omission, etc.

No election shall be deemed to be invalid merely by reason of any accidental omission of the name of a member from the list of members eligible to vote or any accidental mistake in not allowing him to vote or the accidental inclusion of name of a person not entitled to vote in the list of members eligible to vote or allowing him to vote or any accidental irregularity or informality in the conduct of the election, including accidental omission to send or delay in sending the voting paper to a voter or the accidental non-receipt of, or delay in receipt of a voting paper, by voter.

38. Duties of the Returning Officer

(1) The Returning Officer shall conduct the elections in accordance with these Rules.

(2) The Returning Officer may delegate any of the duties to be performed by him as Returning Officer to any of the other Officer or Officers of the Institute, as he may deem fit.

39. Decision of the Returning Officer to be final

Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, the decision of the Returning Officer or of the officer authorised by him under these Rules shall be final in all matters pertaining to conduct of election, interpretation of these Rules and the procedure adopted for such matters which are not specifically covered by these Rules.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule, the conduct of election shall also include the process of counting of votes and declaration of results.

40. Vacancy in any seat not to hold up constitution of the Council

If for any reason any seat or seats to a regional constituency or constituencies is not filled up after the election, it would not be deemed to hold up the constitution of the Council under Section 9 of the Act.

41. Election Expenses

(1) No candidate, whose name has been included in the final list of nominations under Rule 15, shall incur an expenditure above an amount to be fixed by the Council for this purpose.

(2) Every such candidate shall file an account of expenses incurred for the election in a format approved by the Council, within fifteen days of notification issued under Rule 36.

(3) A member shall be deemed to have brought disrepute to the Council under item (2) of Part IV of the First Schedule of the Act if, in connection with an election to the Council of the Institute, he is found to have contravened the provisions of sub-rule (1) or sub-rule (2).

42. Disciplinary action against member in connection with conduct of election

(1) A member shall be deemed to have brought disrepute to the Council under item (2) of Part IV of the First Schedule of the Act if, in connection with an election to the Council of the Institute, he is found to have contravened the provisions of sub-rule (2) or all or any of the clauses of sub-rule (3) or sub-rule (4) of this rule.

(2) Only one manifesto or circular shall be issued by a candidate in relation to the election in the period commencing from the date of issue of final list of nominations to the candidates.

(3) A manifesto or circular issued shall conform to the following requirements in the interest of maintaining dignity in the election, namely:—

- (a) A manifesto or circular shall contain information regarding the candidate himself and shall not make any reference, directly or indirectly, to any other candidate;
- (b) The information, which a candidate may furnish in a manifesto or circular regarding himself, shall not differ in any material respect from the information furnished by the Institute to the voters under rule 9. A candidate may, however, include in such manifesto or circular, any additional information not contained in the information furnished under rule 9;
- (c) A manifesto or circular shall neither contain any appeal to the voters on the basis of caste or on communal, religious, regional or sectional lines nor any tall claim;

- (d) The distribution of a manifesto or circular shall be restricted only to the members of the constituency concerned;
- (e) A certified copy of such manifesto or circular shall be sent to the Returning Officer by speed/registered post within 15 days of its issue;
- (f) While a candidate may repeat, in any form, the manifesto or circular issued under sub-rule (2) of this rule without changing its contents, however, he shall not issue more than one manifesto or circular.

(4) A member shall not adopt or more of the following practices with regard to the election to the Council, namely:—

- (i) Bribery, that is to say, any gift, offer or promise of any gifts or gratification to any person by a candidate or any other person, with his connivance, with the object directly or indirectly of:—
 - (a) inducing a member to stand or not to stand as a candidate at an election or rewarding him for act or omission; or
 - (b) inducing to withdraw his candidature or rewarding such withdrawal; or
 - (c) inducing a voter to vote or not to vote at an election, or as a reward for act or omission;

Explanation: For the purpose of this clause, the term “gratification” is not restricted to pecuniary gratification or gratifications estimable in money, and it includes organizing parties or providing any other form of entertainment, and all forms of employment for reward; but it does not include the payment of any expenses bonafide incurred at or for the purpose of any election;

- (ii) undue influence, that is to say, any direct or indirect interference or attempt to interfere on the part of a candidate or any other person, with his connivance, with the free exercise of any electoral right;
- (iii) the publication by a candidate or by any other person, with his connivance, of any statement of fact which is false, and which he either believes to be false or does not believe to be true, in relation to the personal character or conduct of any candidate or in relation to the candidature or withdrawal of

any candidate, being a statement reasonably calculated to prejudice the prospects of that candidate's election;

- (iv) the obtaining or procuring or abetting, or attempting to obtain or procure, by a candidate or by any other person, with his connivance, any assistance for the furtherance of the prospects of the candidate's election from any person serving under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than the giving of vote by such person, if he is a member entitled to vote;
- (v) the hiring or procuring, whether on payment or otherwise, of a vehicle by a candidate or by any other person, with his connivance, for the conveyance of voters;
- (vi) resorting to disorderly behaviour or misbehaviour within the zero tolerance zone to be determined by the Returning Officer of the polling booth and/or venue for counting of votes;

Explanation: For the purpose of this clause, canvassing for votes, distribution of visiting cards, pamphlets, manifestos, letters, hand-outs, circulars and the like, erection of any stall and display of any banner shall be treated as disorderly behaviour or misbehaviour;

- (vii) exhibiting or placing any notice or sign board relating to the election by a candidate or by any other person with the connivance of the candidate at any time and any where during the election period including on the date/s of polling within a distance of 200 meters from the polling booth;
- (viii) non-compliance with any of the directives or circulars or instructions issued by the Returning Officer under these Rules in any matter relating to elections;
- (ix) contesting the election representing a political party or on political lines;
- (x) any act specified in clause (i) to (ix) when done by a member, who is not a candidate, but is acting with the concurrence or connivance of a candidate;
- (xi) the receipt by a member or an agreement by a member to receive any gratification:
 - (a) as an inducing or reward for standing or not standing as a candidate; or

- (b) as an inducement or reward for withdrawing his candidature; or
 - (c) as an inducement or reward for himself or any other person for voting or refraining from voting; or
 - (d) as an inducement or reward for inducing or attempting to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; or
 - (e) inducing or attempting to induce any candidate to withdraw his candidature;
- (xii) Contravention or misuse of any of the provisions of these Rules or making of any false statement knowing it to be false or without knowing it to be true, while complying with any of the provisions of these Rules.

SCHEDULE 1

Regional Constituencies

(see rule 3)

The electorate for the purpose of election to the Council, shall be constituted into four regional constituencies as follows:

(i) **Western India Regional Constituency:—**

Comprising the States of Chattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu;

(ii) **Southern India Regional Constituency:—**

Comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry;

(iii) **Eastern India Regional Constituency:—**

Comprising the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal;

(iv) **Northern India Regional Constituency:—**

Comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi.

SCHEDULE 2**List of Voters**

(see sub-rule (1) to (6) of rule 6)

(1) The list of voters shall be prepared separately for each regional constituency.

(2) The list so prepared under clause (1) above shall show distinctly and separately:—

- (i) whether the voter is an associate or a fellow;
- (ii) the address of each member as determined under rule 5 for deciding the eligibility of the member to vote;
- (iii) in the case of voters residing outside India, in addition to their address in India under clause (ii), their respective addresses outside India if furnished to the institute by the voters concerned;
- (iv) details of internet address or e-mail address as furnished by a voter to the Institute, provided an express consent is given by the voter for its inclusion in the list of voters;
- (v) the manner in which the voter shall exercise his franchise; and
- (vi) in case the voter is to exercise his franchise at a polling booth, the number and address of the polling booth, at which the franchise shall be exercised.

(3) In respect of place having more than one polling booth located at different addresses, the Returning Officer shall do the following to decide the polling booth to be published in the list of voters vide sub-clause (vi) of clause (2) above:

- (i) He shall publish a notice containing the addresses of different polling booths at a place where there are more than one polling booth, at least two months before publication of the list of voters, in the Journal of the Institute and the Newsletter of the Regional Council concerned, and also upload the same on the Institute's website;
- (ii) Any voter in such a place wishing to vote at a particular polling booth published under clause (i) above may send a request to the Returning Officer within one month from the date of publication of such a notice;

- (iii) The Returning Officer may, at his discretion, permit such a voter to vote at the polling booth of his choice, and accordingly include the details of the said polling booth in the List of Voters;
- (iv) In case it is not possible for the Returning Officer to permit a voter to vote at the polling booth requested, the Returning Officer may decide to permit him to vote at any other polling booth at the place and accordingly include the details of the said polling booth in the List of Voters.

SCHEDULE 3

Number of members to be elected

(see rule 8)

(1) Subject to provision of clause (5) below, the number of members to be elected from each regional constituency shall be one member for such number of members in the constituency as may be determined by dividing the total number of members as determined in accordance with clause (4) below by the maximum number of members to be elected to the Council as provided in sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act.

(2) In case the resultant number of members for each constituency, after being added up in terms of the absolute number without considering the fraction, is less than the maximum number as provided in sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act, the fraction in respect of the region with the highest fraction will be counted as one. In case the total is still less than the maximum number, the fraction in respect of the region with the next highest fraction will be counted as one. This process be continued, subject to provision of clause (5) below, until the total is equal to the maximum number of members to be elected under sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Act.

(3) In case the resultant number of members for each constituency, after being added up, is less than the maximum number of members and there are more than one regional constituency with exactly the same fraction, the constituency with a higher number of members will have precedence in the matter of conversion of the fraction into one, subject to provision of clause (5) below.

(4) The total number of members referred to in clause (1), shall be determined with reference to the number of members in the list of

members published under sub-section (3) of Section 19 of the Act in the financial year in which the election is to take place.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in clauses (1) to (3), each constituency shall have at least two persons elected therefrom to the Council.

SCHEDULE 4

Information to be included in the Statement accompanying the Nomination (see sub-rule (4) of rule 9)

(1) Nomination of a candidate shall be accompanied by a statement signed and verified by the candidate containing following information:

- (a) Name, membership No., Professional Address and voter's serial number as published in the List of Voters;
- (b) Date of birth;
- (c) Whether Fellow and the date on which became Fellow;
- (d) Date of Enrolment as an Associate member;
- (e) Whether citizen of India;
- (f) Whether found guilty of any professional or other misconduct and consequently whether he has been reprimanded or the name has been removed from the Register or has been awarded penalty of fine as on the date of nomination;
- (g) If the answer to (f) above is in affirmative, to provide the following details, wherever applicable (separately for each misconduct for which found guilty):
 - (i) the offence for which found guilty
 - (ii) the date of reprimand
 - (iii) the date from which the name was removed on account of above disqualification from the Register
 - (iv) the total period of removal
 - (v) the date on which the period of removal expires
 - (vi) whether the removal was on account of misconduct falling under the First Schedule or Second Schedule
 - (vii) the date on which the penalty of fine was awarded
 - (viii) amount of penalty of fine

- (ix) the date on which the payment was made for penalty of fine awarded;
- (h) (i) Whether appointed as the auditor of the Institute and, if so, whether a period of three years had already expired after he has ceased to be the auditor of the Institute, along with dates of appointment and cessation as auditor;
- (ii) If the period has not yet expired, the date on which it shall expire;
- (i) Details of past and present membership of the Council including the Office of the President and/or Vice-President of the Institute;
- (j) Whether holding a post under the Central or State Government as defined in sub-rule II to rule 7.

(2) The statement referred to in clause 1 may also contain, at the option of the candidate, information concerning the candidate in respect of the following:

- (a) Academic qualification (diplomas including post qualification diploma(s) and degrees recognized by Government or Council and membership of professional bodies recognized by the Council);
- (b) Merit awards (limited upto first three positions) in the examinations of recognized universities and the examinations conducted by the Institute;
- (c) Particulars of occupations:
 - (i) Employment (designation with name of present employer)
 - (ii) Practice (sole proprietor or in partnership including the name of the firm)
 - (iii) Particulars of other occupation/engagement, if not covered by (i) and (ii) above;
- (d) Past and present membership of Regional Councils and Managing Committees of chapters of Regional Councils and office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer in the case of Regional Councils and/or chapters of Regional Councils.

SCHEDULE 5

Particulars of contesting candidates to be including in the final list of valid nominations

(see sub-rule (3) of rule 15)

The final list of valid nominations shall be accompanied by following particulars of contesting candidates to the extent they have been supplied by the candidates under sub-rule (4) of rule 9:

- (a) Name, membership No., Professional Address and voter's serial number, as published in the List of Voters
- (b) Date of birth
- (c) Whether Fellow and the date on which became Fellow
- (d) Date of Enrolment as an Associate member
- (e) Whether citizen of India
- (f) Whether found guilty of any professional or other misconduct and consequently has been reprimanded or the name has been removed from the Register or has been awarded penalty of fine, as on the date of nomination, with details thereof
- (g) Details of past and present membership of the Council including the Office of the President and or Vice-President of the Institute
- (h) Academic qualifications (diplomas including post qualification diploma(s) and degrees recognized by Government or Council and membership of professional bodies recognized by the Council)
- (i) Merit awards (limited upto first three positions) in the examinations of recognized universities and the examinations conducted by the Institute
- (j) Particulars of occupation:
 - (i) Employment (designation with name of present employer)
 - (ii) Practice (sole proprietor or in partnership including the name of the firm)
 - (iii) Particulars of other occupation or engagement, if not covered by (i) and (ii) above
- (k) Past and present membership of Regional Councils and Managing Committees of chapters of Regional Councils and

office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer in the case of Regional Councils and or chapters of Regional Councils.

SCHEDULE 6

Procedure for polling at the polling booth (see rule 29)

1. Identification of voters and Tendered Ballots

(1) Every person claiming to be a voter shall be required to sign the copy of the list of members eligible to vote provided by the Returning Officer and his identity or signature shall be verified by the polling officer in such manner as may be advised by the Returning Officer from time to time.

(2) At any time before a ballot paper is delivered to a person claiming to be a voter, the polling officer may, on his own accord, if he has reason to doubt the identity of the person or his right to vote at the polling booth or if his specimen signatures are not available with the polling officer, and shall, if so required by a candidate or his authorised representative, satisfy himself in any manner as he may deem advisable as to his identity.

(3) If the polling officer is not satisfied as to the identity of the person claiming to be voter, he may issue a ballot paper to such person but instead of getting the ballot paper inserted in the ballot box, he shall place the same in a separate sealed cover superscribed as "Tendered ballot" and send it to the Returning Officer along with a letter from the person concerned together with his own observations thereon, for the Returning Officer's decision which shall be final and conclusive.

(4) In deciding the right of a person to obtain a ballot under this schedule, the Polling Officer at any polling booth may interpret any entry in the list of members eligible to vote so as to overlook merely clerical or printing error, provided that he is satisfied that such person is same as the voter to whom such entry relates.

2. Record to be kept by the polling officer

The polling officer shall, at the time of delivery of the ballot paper place against the name of the voter in the list of members

eligible to vote, a mark to denote that the voter has received a ballot paper.

3. Ballot Box

The ballot box shall be so constructed that a ballot paper can be inserted there into during the poll but cannot be withdrawn therefrom, without the box being unlocked or the seals being broken.

4. Manner of recording of votes after receipt of ballot paper

On receiving the ballot paper, the voter shall forthwith proceed into the secret chamber set apart for the purpose and shall record his vote on the ballot paper in the manner specified in rule 20. He shall thereafter fold the ballot paper, leave the secret chamber and insert the ballot paper in the ballot box provided for the purpose, in the presence of the polling officer.

5. Return of Ballot paper by voter

(1) Where a voter, after obtaining a ballot paper, chooses not to vote, he shall return the ballot paper to the polling officer and the ballot paper so returned shall then be marked as "cancelled-returned" and kept in a separate envelope set apart for the purpose and a record shall be kept by the polling officer of all such ballot papers.

(2) Where any ballot paper, which was delivered to a voter, is found, with or without any writing thereon, in the secret chamber, it shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (1), as if it had been returned to the polling officer.

6. Procedure at the polling booth

(1) A polling booth shall be kept open on the day or days appointed for recording of votes from 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. unless otherwise directed by the Council.

(2) If the polling at any polling booth cannot take place on the day or days appointed for recording of votes or is interrupted or obstructed by any sufficient cause or the ballot box used at the booth is tampered with or is accidentally or deliberately destroyed, lost or damaged, the polling officer with the prior approval of the Returning Officer, may adjourn the polling to a subsequent date or the Returning Officer may declare the polling at the booth void and order a fresh polling.

(3) If a polling is adjourned or declared void under sub-clause (2), the Returning Officer shall, as soon as possible, appoint the place where the polling shall be subsequently conducted and the time, date or dates, as the case may be, for the said polling.

(4) The place, date or dates and the time of polling appointed under sub-clause (3), shall be notified individually to all the voters affected as well as in the Gazette of India.

(5) The Returning Officer shall not proceed to count the votes cast at the election until the polling at all the polling booths in the constituency has been completed.

(6) The polling officer shall close the polling booth at the end of the day, or if the polling is for more than one day, at the end of each day, at the hour appointed under sub-clause (1), and no voter shall be admitted thereto after that hour:

Provided that any voter present in the polling booth before it is closed, shall be entitled to have his vote recorded.

(7) The polling officer shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the poll or after its close on each day, if the polling is for more than one day, in the presence of any candidates or their authorised representatives who may be present, seal the ballot box or boxes with his own seal and the seals of such candidates or authorised representatives as may desire to affix their seals thereon.

Explanation: Where the polling is conducted over more than one day, the ballot box or boxes used on a day shall be sealed at the end of each day, and a new ballot box shall be used on the next day for the purpose of casting of votes.

(8) The polling officer shall, at the close of the poll or after its close on each day make up into separate packets:

- (i) the unused ballot papers;
- (ii) the returned ballot papers;
- (iii) the tendered votes;
- (iv) the marked copy of the list of members eligible to vote; and
- (v) any other paper directed by the Returning Officer to be kept in a sealed cover

and seal each such packet with his own seal and the seals of

such candidates or authorised representatives as may desire to affix their seals thereon.

(9) Where the polling is arranged to take place for more than one day, the polling officer shall arrange for the safe custody of the ballot box and such packets after the end of polling on one day and start of polling on the next day.

(10) Where the polling is arranged to take place for more than one day, just before the polling booth is opened to the voters on the following day the polling officer shall, in the presence of any candidates or their authorised representatives who may be present, remove the seal or seals affixed in accordance with sub-clause (8), after the seals are examined by him and by the candidates or authorised representatives, for use during the course of that day.

(11) The ballot box and packets, referred to earlier, shall be accompanied by an account of ballot papers showing the total number of ballot papers received, issued and un-issued, returned, as also the number of ballot papers which should be found in the ballot box and packets. This account shall be forwarded to the Returning Officer.

7. Transport of ballot boxes etc. and their custody

(1) The Returning Officer and the polling officer shall make adequate arrangements for the safe custody of the ballot boxes and other papers and for the safe transport to the headquarters of the Institute of all the packets or boxes and other papers referred to in rule 6.

(2) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the safe custody of the articles referred to in sub-clause (1), until the commencement of the counting of votes.

SCHEDULE 7

Procedure for polling by post

(see rule 30)

1. Returning Officer to send ballot papers by post

Not less than twenty one days before the last date and time notified for receipt of ballot papers by post, the Returning Officer shall send by Speed or registered post to the voters permitted to vote by post, the ballot paper, together with a letter explaining the manner

in which the vote shall be recorded thereon, the manner in which the recorded ballot papers shall be returned and specifying the date and hour by which it shall reach the Returning Officer:

Provided that in the case of voters residing outside India, the ballot papers shall be sent by speed or registered post at least thirty days before the last date and time notified for receipt of ballot papers by post.

2. Issue of undelivered and fresh ballot papers

Where a ballot paper and other connected papers sent by post under sub-clause (1) are damaged in transit or are for any reason returned undelivered or the Returning Officer is satisfied that the ballot papers have been sent incorrectly by post, the Returning Officer may reissue the same by speed or registered post or deliver them to the voter on his applying for the same, and submitting sufficient proof of damage or non-delivery.

3. Postal Ballot papers to be returned after recording votes

(1) The postal ballot paper received under clause 1 above shall, if he desires to vote, be returned by the voter, in the manner mention herein below:

- (a) for a voter residing within India, after recording his vote thereon in the manner specified in rule 20 and in the pre-stamped envelope provided for the purpose and in the manner specified by the Returning Officer under clause 1 from the place to which the ballot paper was sent by the Returning Officer under clause 1 so as to reach the Returning Officer before the date and time specified in this behalf. The cover containing the recorded ballot paper shall be accompanied by a declaration of the voter in the approved Form;
- (b) for a voter residing outside India, after recording his vote thereon in the manner specified in rule 20 and by ordinary post or speed or registered post and in the manner specified by the Returning Officer under clause 1 but from the country to which the ballot paper was sent by the Returning Officer under clause 1 so as to reach the Returning Officer before the date and time specified in this behalf. The cover containing the recorded ballot paper shall be accompanied by a declaration of the voter in the approved Form;

(2) A cover containing ballot paper which does not reach the Returning Officer either in the manner specified by him under clause 1 on or before the date and time specified shall not be taken into consideration in the counting of votes. The Returning Officer shall note on all such covers the manner in which each was received back by him including use of the envelope other than the one provided for the purpose, dispatch by a mode other than required mode and the date and time of receipt and keep all such covers together in a packet.

(3) In regard to covers where the postal stamp or place of posting is not clear or decipherable, the decision taken by the Returning Officer on ascertaining or determining the place or country from which the cover containing the ballot papers is sent shall be final.

(4) The Returning Officer shall disregard all covers containing the voting papers relating to two or more members and posted in one and the same envelope.

(5) If the signature of the voter as appended in the envelope and Form referred to in clause (3) of this schedule does not tally with any of his signature as available in the Institute's records, the Returning Officer shall disregard such cover containing the voting paper.

(6) The Returning Officer shall keep in safe custody all covers containing postal ballot papers received by him until commencement of the counting of votes.

SCHEDULE 8

Procedure for counting of votes and declaration of results (see rule 35)

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this schedule, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "continuing candidate" means any candidate not elected and not excluded from the poll at any given time at the time of counting;
- (b) "exhausted paper" means a ballot paper on which no further preference is recorded for a continuing candidate at the time of counting;

Provided that a paper shall also be deemed to be exhausted in any case in which:—

- (i) the names of two or more candidates, whether continuing or not, are marked with the same figure and are next in order of preference; or
- (ii) the name of the candidate next in order of preference, whether continuing or not, is marked by a figure not following consecutively after some other figures on the ballot paper or by two or more figures;
- (c) “First preference” means number 1, “second preference” means number 2 and “third preference” means number 3 (in Arabic or Roman numerals or in words) as the case may be, set opposite the name of any candidate, and so on;
- (d) “original vote” in regard to any candidate means a vote derived from a ballot paper on which a first preference is recorded for such candidate;
- (e) “transferred vote” in regard to any candidate means a vote, the value or part of the value of which is credited to such candidate at the time of counting and which is derived from a ballot paper on which a second or subsequent preference is recorded for such a candidate;
- (f) “surplus” means the number by which the value of the votes of any candidate, original or transferred, exceeds the quota at the time of counting;
- (g) “unexhausted paper” means a ballot paper on which a further preference is recorded for a continuing candidate.

2. Counting of votes

(1) On the date and at the time and place, appointed under rule 32 the Returning Officer shall, for the purpose of counting of votes in respect of a constituency, shall follow the following steps in the order mentioned:

- (a) (i) open only the covers containing the postal ballot papers received by him in accordance with rule 30 and schedule 7 and shall take out the ballot papers from each cover and shall record the number thereof in a statement; and shall make a separate packet of those ballot papers;
- (ii) set aside the covers containing the ballot papers not received by him in accordance with rule 30 and schedule

7 or in respect of which he has taken a decision under sub-clause (3) of clause 3 of schedule 7:

Provided the Returning Officer shall allow the candidates or their authorized representatives present at the counting a reasonable opportunity to inspect the covers containing the ballot papers received by post for satisfying themselves that they are in order but shall not allow them to handle those covers.

- (b) allow the candidates and their authorised representatives, present at the counting, an opportunity to inspect the ballot boxes and packets received from the polling officers and their seals for satisfying themselves that they are in order; and
- (c) proceed as follows:—
 - (i) If he is satisfied that the ballot boxes and packets which have been received are in order, he shall take up the counting of the ballot papers contained in the ballot boxes.
 - (ii) If he finds any of the ballot boxes has been tampered with he shall not count the ballot papers contained in such box for the purposes of election and keep a record of such ballot papers separately.
 - (iii) The ballot boxes found to be in order shall be opened and the ballot papers shall be taken out from them and shall be counted and the number thereof recorded in a statement. To these shall be added the postal ballot papers taken into consideration under sub-clause (1)(a).
 - (iv) The ballot papers shall be examined and any invalid ballot papers shall be rejected.
 - (v) Before rejecting any ballot paper, the Returning Officer shall allow each candidate or his representative present a reasonable opportunity to inspect the ballot paper but shall not allow him to physically touch or handle it or any other ballot paper.
 - (vi) The Returning Officer shall endorse on every ballot paper which he rejects the word “Rejected” and the grounds of rejection in abbreviated form either in his own hand or by means of rubber stamp and shall initial such endorsement.

- (vii) All ballot papers rejected under this rule shall be bundled together.
- (viii) He shall divide the remaining ballot papers into parcels according to the first preferences recorded for each candidate.
- (ix) He shall then count the number of papers in each parcel.

(2) In complying with clauses hereinafter enacted, the Returning Officer shall:-

- (a) disregard all fractions;
- (b) ignore all preferences recorded for candidates already elected or excluded from the poll.

(3) For the purpose of facilitating the processes specified in the sub-clauses hereinafter enacted, each valid paper shall be deemed to be of the value of one hundred.

(4) The Returning Officer shall add together the values of the papers in all the parcels and divide the total by a number exceeding by one the number of vacancies to be filled and the quotient increased by one shall be the number sufficient to secure the return of a candidate (hereinafter called the quota).

(5) If at any time, a number of candidates equal to the number of persons to be elected has obtained the quota, such candidates shall be treated as elected, and no further steps shall be taken.

- (6) (i) Any candidate, the value of whose parcel, on the first preference being counted is equal to or greater than the quota, shall be declared elected.
- (ii) If the value of the papers in any such parcel is equal to the quota, the papers shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
- (iii) If the value of the papers in any such parcel is greater than the quota, the surplus shall be transferred to the continuing candidates indicated on the voting papers as next in the order of the voters' preference, in the manner specified in the following sub-clause.

- (7) (i) If and when, as the result of any operation specified in these sub-clauses a candidate has a surplus, that

surplus shall be transferred in accordance with the provisions of this sub-clause.

- (ii) If more than one candidate has a surplus, the largest surplus shall be dealt with first and the others in order of magnitude.

Provided that every surplus arising on the first counting of votes, shall be dealt with before those arising on the second count and so on.

- (iii) Where two or more surpluses are equal, the Returning Officer shall decide, as hereinafter provided, which shall first be dealt with.
- (iv)
 - (a) If the surplus of any candidate to be transferred arises from only the original votes, the Returning Officer shall examine all the papers in the parcel belonging to the candidate whose surplus is to be transferred, and divide the unexhausted papers into sub-parcels according to the next preferences recorded thereon. He shall also make a separate sub-parcel of the exhausted papers.
 - (b) He shall ascertain the value of the papers in each sub-parcel and of all the unexhausted papers.
 - (c) If the value of the unexhausted papers is equal to or less than the surplus, he shall transfer all the unexhausted papers, at the value at which they were received by the candidate whose surplus is being transferred.
 - (d) If the value of the unexhausted papers is greater than the surplus, he shall transfer the sub-parcel of unexhausted papers, and the value at which each paper shall be transferred shall be ascertained by dividing the surplus by the total number of unexhausted papers.
- (v) If the surplus of any candidate to be transferred arises from transferred as well as original votes, the Returning Officer shall re-examine all the papers in the sub-parcel last transferred to the candidate, and divide the unexhausted papers into sub-parcels according to the next preferences recorded thereon. He shall thereupon deal with the sub-parcels in the same manner as is

provided in the case of the sub-parcels referred to in item (iv) of this sub-clause.

- (vi) The papers transferred to each candidate shall be added in the form of a sub-parcel to the papers already belonging to such candidate.
 - (vii) All papers in the parcel or sub-parcel of an elected candidate not transferred under this sub-rule shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
- (8) (i) If after all surpluses have been transferred, as hereinbefore directed, less than the number of candidates required has been elected, the Returning Officer shall exclude from the poll the candidate lowest on the poll and shall distribute his unexhausted papers among the continuing candidates according to the next preferences recorded thereon. Any exhausted papers shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
- (ii) The papers containing original votes of an excluded candidate shall first be transferred, the transfer value of each paper being one hundred.
- (iii) The papers containing transferred votes of an excluded candidate shall then be transferred in the order of the transfers in which and at the value of which he obtained them.
- (iv) Each of such transfers shall be deemed to be a separate transfer.
- (v) The process directed by this sub-clause shall be repeated on the successive exclusions, one after another, of the candidates lowest on the poll until the last vacancy is filled either by the election of a candidate with the quota or as hereinafter provided.
- (9) If as the result of a transfer under this clause, the value of the votes obtained by a candidate is equal to or greater than the quota, then transfer proceeding shall be completed, but no further papers shall be transferred to him.
- (10) (i) If after the completion of any transfer under this clause, the value of the votes of any candidate shall be equal to or greater than the quota, he shall be declared elected.
- (ii) If the value of the votes of any such candidate shall be

equal to the quota, the whole of the papers on which such votes are recorded shall be set aside as finally dealt with.

- (iii) If the value of the votes of any such candidate shall be greater than the quota, his surplus shall thereupon be distributed in the manner hereinbefore provided before the exclusion of any other candidate.
- (11)
- (i) When the number of continuing candidates is reduced to the number of vacancies remaining unfilled, the continuing candidates shall be declared elected.
 - (ii) When only one vacancy remains unfilled and the value of the votes of some one continuing candidate exceeds the total value of all the votes of the other continuing candidates, together with any surplus not transferred, that candidate shall be declared elected.
 - (iii) When only one vacancy remains unfilled and there are only two continuing candidates, and those two candidates have each the same value of votes and no surplus remains capable of transfer, one candidate shall be declared excluded under the next succeeding sub-clause and the other declared elected.

(12) If, when there is more than one surplus to distribute, two or more surpluses are equal, or if at any time it becomes necessary to exclude a candidate and two or more candidates have the same values of votes and are lowest on the poll, regard shall be had to the original votes of each candidate, and the candidate for whom fewest original votes are recorded shall have his surplus first distributed, or shall be first excluded as the case may be. If the values of their original votes are equal, the Returning Officer shall decide by lot which candidate shall have his surplus distributed or be excluded.

3. Procedure in case of a tie

(1) Where after counting of votes, a tie is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of one vote shall entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected, then the person who has received larger number of first preference votes shall be considered to have received an additional vote and shall be declared to be duly elected.

(2) If it is not possible to declare a candidate elected even after

operation of sub-clause (1) then lots shall be drawn between the candidates in a tie and the successful candidate shall be considered to have received an additional vote and shall be declared to be duly elected.

4. Provision for re-counts

Any candidate or, in his absence his authorized representative may, at any time during the counting of the votes either before the commencement or after the completion of any transfer of votes (whether surplus or otherwise) request the Returning Officer to re-examine and re-count the papers of all or any candidates (not being papers set aside at any previous transfer as finally dealt with) along with reasons for asking such a recount, and the Returning Officer may re-examine and re-count the same if he finds that the reasons given are sufficient for having a recount:

Provided that such a recount should be restricted to only the immediately previous count.

Provided further that recount shall be done only once at end of any round of count.

Appellate Authority (Allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and members and the manner of meeting expenditure of the Authority) Rules, 2006

[Issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs, Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) vide Notification No. GSR 711(E), dated 17.11.2006]

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 22C of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules in respect of allowances payable to Chairperson & members and other terms and condition of service thereof and manner of meeting the expenditure of authority, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement

(1) These rules may be called the Appellate Authority (Allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and members and the manner of meeting expenditure of the Authority) Rules, 2006.

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

2. Definitions

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -
- (a) "Act" means the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949
 - (b) "Authority" means Appellate Authority constituted under section 22A of the Act.
 - (c) "Chairperson" means a person appointed as Chairperson of the Authority under section 22A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
 - (d) "Member" means a person appointed as Member of the Authority under section 22A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, section 22A of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and section 22A of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, and any other person appointed as Member of the Authority under any other Act;
 - (e) "Rules" means the Appellate Authority (Allowances, other terms and conditions of service and the manner of meeting expenditure of the Authority) Rules, 2006.

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

3. Allowances

The Chairperson and the Members of the Authority shall be paid the following amount for each day of sitting, namely:—

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairperson | — Rupees Two Thousand. |
| Member | — Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred. |

4. Travelling and daily allowances

The Chairperson and Members of the Authority while on tour outside New Delhi shall be entitled to the traveling allowances and daily allowances at the same rates as are prescribed in the High Court Judge (Travelling Allowances) Rules, 1956.

Explanation: Chairperson and Members of the Authority shall not be eligible for payment of any travelling allowance or daily allowance for travel to Delhi from their home town or any other place, in connection with work related to the Authority, including attending the sitting of the Authority at Delhi.

5. Facility of conveyance

The Chairperson of the Authority shall be entitled to a staff car and one hundred and fifty litres of petrol, every month or actual consumption of petrol, whichever is less.

6. Accommodation

The Chairperson and other Members of the Authority shall not be eligible for accommodation or House Rent Allowance on account of their holding positions in the Authority.

7. Expenditure of the Authority

The expenditure of the Authority will be borne by the Councils of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and such other authorities as may be decided by the Central Government and in such proportion as may be decided by the Central Government from time to time.

8. Creation of a Fund

(1) A fund called the "Appellate Authority Fund" shall be created with the contributions under rule 7 from the Councils of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and such other authorities as may be decided by the Central Government from time to time.

(2) One official of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India made available to the Authority under sub-section (i) of section 22E of the Act shall be designated as the "Chief Accounts Officer" of the Fund.

(3) The fund shall be administered by a Committee consisting of one official from each of the participating institutes and other authorities made available to the Authority.

(4) Subject to sub-sections (2) and (3) above, the Authority will regulate the procedure for operation of the fund and incurring expenditure of the Authority and subject to such rules and regulations as may be in force;

(5) Annual Accounts of the fund shall be subject to audit by a Chartered Accountant in practice within the meaning of the Act to be appointed annually by the Authority.

(6) As soon as may be practical at the end of each year, but not later than 30th day of September of the year next following, the Chief Account Officer of the Fund shall forward the annual accounts to the participating institutes and other authorities alongwith the report of the auditor prepared under sub-rule (5).

9. Residuary provision

Matters relating to the conditions of services of the Chairperson and other Members of the Authority with respect to which no express provision has been made in these rules shall be referred in each case to the Central Government for its decision and the decision of the Central Government thereon shall be binding on the said Chairperson and other Members.

The Company Secretaries (Election Tribunal) Rules, 2006

[Issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs, Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) vide Notification No. GSR 709(E), dated 17.11.2006]

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (5) of sub-section (2) of section 38A, read with sub-section (3) of section 10B of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules namely :—

1. Short title and commencement

(1) These Rules may be called the Company Secretaries (Election Tribunal) Rules, 2006.

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

2. Definitions

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) “Act” means the Company Secretaries Act, 1980;
- (b) “aggrieved person” means a person who contested that election to the Council to which the dispute pertains;
- (c) “dispute” means a dispute raised by an aggrieved person arising out of the election to the Council of the Institute;
- (d) “election” means election to the Council held under sub-section (2) of section 9 of the Act;
- (e) “legal practitioner” means a person registered with Bar Council of India or any of the State Bar Councils and is eligible to appear before a Court of law;
- (f) “Tribunal” means the Tribunal formed under sub-section (1) of section 10B of the Act.

3. Constitution of Tribunal

(1) The Central Government shall establish a Tribunal by notification in official gazette, in accordance with the provisions of section 10B of the Act within, as far as practicable, 45 days of receipt of an application forwarded by the Secretary of the Institute under section 10A of the Act.

(2) The Presiding Officer or a member of the Tribunal may resign his office by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government.

(3) The Presiding Officer and each member of the Tribunal may cease to remain the Presiding Officer or member, as the case may be, due to any of the following reasons,—

- (a) death; or
- (b) resignation; or
- (c) becoming physically or mentally incapable of acting as the Presiding Officer or a member, as the case may be; or
- (d) his being no longer being eligible to be the Presiding Officer or a member, as the case may be; or
- (e) removal by the Central Government.

(4) A casual vacancy in the Tribunal shall be filled by the Central Government, by a notification, from out of the categories in which such vacancy occurs.

4. Terms and conditions of service of the Presiding Officer and Members of the Tribunal

The Presiding Officer and other members of the Tribunal would be part-time members and would be appointed for the term of the Tribunal.

5. Allowances

(1) The Presiding Officer and other members of the Tribunal would be paid the following amount as allowance for each day of sitting, namely,—

- (a) Presiding Officer — Rs. 500;
- (b) Members — Rs. 400.

(2) The Central Government may revise the sitting fee or honorarium from time to time, through notification in the Official Gazette.

(3) If the presiding officer or member is in employment with the Central Government or State Government, he would be eligible only for a lump sum honorarium of Rs. 5,000/- and would not be eligible for any sitting fee.

6. Travelling and daily Allowance

The Presiding Officer and other Members of the Tribunal, while on tour, shall be entitled to the travelling allowance and daily allowances as admissible to them in their official capacity and in case the member is not a Government Servant, he will be entitled to the travelling allowance and daily allowance as admissible to an officer holding a post carrying a scale of pay of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

7. Meetings of Tribunal

(1) All meetings of the Tribunal shall be held at the headquarters of the Institute:

Provided that, if the Tribunal is of the opinion that in the interest of justice it is expedient to hold a meeting at any other place than the headquarters of the Institute, it may hold a meeting at such a place.

(2) The date or dates and time of meetings shall be fixed by the Presiding Officer in consultation with other members of the Tribunal:

Provided that, a notice of not less than 15 days before the scheduled date of every such meeting shall be given by the Presiding Officer to the other members of the Tribunal, Secretary of the Institute and the parties involved.

(3) The quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of the Tribunal shall be two.

(4) The Presiding Officer shall chair all the meetings of the Tribunal:

Provided that in the absence of Presiding officer, the member appointed under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 10B of the Act shall chair the meeting.

(5) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Tribunal shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Presiding Officer or in his absence, the member presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

8. Procedure to be adopted by the Tribunal

(1) In the discharge of its functions, the Tribunal shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject to the other provisions of the Act and these Rules, the Tribunal shall regulate its own procedure:

Provided that, as far as practicable, the Tribunal shall try to ensure that a dispute is heard and decided by it within six months from the date of its constitution.

(2) Every party appearing before the Tribunal shall have the right to be represented before it by a legal practitioner or, with the permission of the Tribunal, by any other person.

(3) At the time of giving its decision, the Tribunal may,—

- (a) dismiss the application;
- (b) declare the election of all or any of the elected candidates to be void;

- (c) declare the election of all or any of the elected candidates to be void and the applicant or any other candidate to have been duly elected; and
- (d) may pass such order as to costs as it may consider appropriate.

(4) All orders and decisions of the Tribunal shall be authenticated by the Presiding Officer and other members of the Tribunal.

9. Powers of the Tribunal

(1) For the purpose of deciding a dispute under these Rules, the Tribunal shall have the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in respect of the following matters, namely:

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavit; and
- (d) cross-examining the witnesses produced before it.

10. Duration of the Tribunal

The term of the Tribunal shall be over within 15 days from the date of announcement of its decision on the dispute under reference.

11. Residuary provision

Matters relating to the terms and conditions of services of the Presiding Officer and other members of the Tribunal, the place of meetings and allowances, with respect to which no express provision has been made in these rules shall be referred in each case to the Central Government for its decision and the decision of the Central Government thereon shall be binding on the Tribunal, the Presiding Officer and other members.

Company Secretaries Procedures of Meetings of Quality Review Board, and Terms and Conditions of Service and Allowances of the Chairperson and Members of the Board Rules, 2006

[Issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs and Published in the

Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) vide Notification No. GSR 736(E), dated 27.11.2006]

In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (e) and (f) of Sub-section (2) of Section 38A, read with Section 29C and Sub-section (1) of Section 29D of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules namely:—

1. Short title and commencement

(1) These Rules may be called the Company Secretaries Procedures of Meetings of Quality Review Board, and Terms and Conditions of Service and Allowances of the Chairperson and Members of the Board Rules, 2006.

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

2. Definitions

(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) “Act” means the Company Secretaries Act, 1980;
- (b) “Board” means the Quality Review Board formed under Sub-section (1) of Section 29A of the Act;
- (c) “Council” means the Council constituted under Section 9 of the Act;
- (d) “Institute” means the Institute of Company Secretaries of India set up under the Act.

(2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these Rules and defined in the Act shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act.

3. Procedure for Meetings of the Board

(1) All meetings of the Board shall, ordinarily, be held at the headquarters of the Institute.

(2) The date and time of any meeting shall be fixed by the Chairperson:

Provided that a notice of not less than 15 days before the scheduled date of every such meeting shall be given by the

Chairperson or any person so authorised by him to the other members of the Board:

Provided further that the Chairperson, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may call for a meeting at a shorter notice.

Provided also that not more than six months shall elapse between any two meetings.

(3) The quorum for transaction of any business at a meeting of the Board shall be of three members, of which at least one must be nominated by the Central Government under Sub-section (3) of Section 29A of the Act.

(4) The Chairperson shall chair all the meetings of the Board:

Provided that in the absence of Chairperson, the members shall elect any of the members present on the day of the meeting to chair the meeting.

(5) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or in his absence, the member presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

4. Transaction of Business

The business of the Board shall ordinarily be transacted at a meeting of the Board.

5. Agenda for the Board meeting

(1) The agenda for a meeting of the Board shall be decided by the Chairperson.

(2) Any matter referred to it by the Central Government or the Council shall be included in the agenda for the meeting of the Board within time limits specified, if any, in such a reference.

(3) The Chairperson may, in appropriate cases, circulate the agenda note and related papers on any issue among members of the Board for resolution by circulation.

Provided that if three members of the Board require that any question be decided at a meeting, the Chairperson shall withdraw the papers from circulation and have the question determined at a meeting of the Board.

(4) A decision taken by the circulation of the papers shall be communicated to all the members and shall be noted at the next meeting of the Board.

6. Procedures to be followed by the Board

In the discharge of its functions, the Board may:

- (a) on its own or through any specialized arrangement set up under the Institute, evaluate and review the quality of work and services provided by the members of the Institute in such manner as it may decide;
- (b) lay down the procedure or evaluation criteria to evaluate various services being provided by the members of the Institute and to select, in such manner and form as it may decide, the individuals and firms rendering such services for review,
- (c) call for information from the Institute, the Council or its Committees, members, clients of members or other persons or organisations in such form and manner as it may decide, and may also give a hearing to them;
- (d) invite experts to provide expert/technical advice or opinion or analysis or any matter or issue which the Board may feel relevant for the purpose of assessing the quality of work and services offered by the members of the Institute;
- (e) make recommendations to the Council to guide the members of the Institute to improve their professional competence and qualifications, quality of work and services offered and adherence to various statutory and other regulatory requirements and other matters related thereto.

7. Assistance to the Board

The Institute shall set up a specialised technical unit to—

- (a) provide secretarial assistance, as required, to the Board in the discharge of its functions;
- (b) to assist the Board in carrying out review of quality of services provided by the Members.

8. Terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members of the Board

(1) The tenure of the Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be four years.

(2) The Chairperson and other members of the Board shall be part-time members.

(3) No Chairperson or member of the Board shall be removed or withdrawn except as provided under Rule 10.

9. Allowances

(1) The Chairperson and other Members shall be entitled to travelling and daily allowances as admissible to them in their official capacity, and in case, the member is not a Government Servant/he will be entitled to the travelling allowance and daily allowance as admissible to an officer holding a post carrying a scale of pay of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India for attending meetings of the Board at the headquarters of the Institute if their place of residence is different from the headquarters of the Institute.

(2) The Chairperson and other Members of the Board whose place of residence is the same as the venue of the meeting of the Board shall be provided local conveyance or allowance for the local journeys to be performed in connection with the meetings of the Board.

(3) The Chairperson and other Members of the Board, while on tour, shall be entitled to travelling and daily allowances at the above rates.

10. Resignation, Removal and filling up of casual vacancy

(1) The Chairperson and each Member of the Board shall cease to remain the Chairperson or Member, as the case may be, in case of his resignation or removal.

(2) The Chairperson or a Member of the Board may resign his office by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government which shall be effective from the date of resignation.

(3) The Central Government may remove a person from the post of Chairperson or Member, if—

- (a) he has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as the Chairperson or a Member, as the case may be;
- (b) he has not attended three consecutive meetings of the Board, without leave of absence;

- (c) he, being the Chairperson, has not called a meeting of the Board for more than six months;
- (d) he, in the opinion of the Central Government, is unable to discharge his function or perform his duties; or
- (e) he has been held guilty by any civil or criminal court for an offence which is punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months.

(4) A casual vacancy in the Board shall be filled by the Central Government, from out of the category in which such vacancy occurs.

11. Residuary provision

Matters relating to the terms and conditions of services and allowances of the Chairperson and other members of the Board, the place of meetings and the procedure to be adopted in meetings of the Board, with respect to which no express provisions has been made in these rules shall be referred in each case to the Central Government for its decision and the decision of the Central Government thereon shall be binding on the Board, the Chairperson and other members.

The Company Secretaries (Procedure of Investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007

[Issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs, Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) vide Notification No. GSR 111(E), dated 27th February, 2007 at New Delhi]

In exercise of the powers conferred by Clauses (c) and (d) of Sub-section (2) of Section 38A, read with Sub-section (4) of Section 21 and Sub-sections (2) and (4) of Section 21B of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely :—

1. Short title and commencement

(1) These rules may be called the Company Secretaries (Procedure of Investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007.

(2) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Chapter I
Preliminary

2. Definitions and Interpretations

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—
- (a) “Act” means the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980);
 - (b) “Committee” means the Disciplinary Committee or Committees constituted by the Council under Sub-section (1) of Section 21B of the Act;
 - (c) “Director” means the person appointed as Director (Discipline) by the Council under clause (b) of Sub-section (1) of Section 16 of the Act;
 - (d) “Directorate” means the Disciplinary Directorate established under Sub-section (1) of Section 21 of the Act;
 - (e) “Firm” means a firm registered with the Institute under the Regulations;
 - (f) “Institute” means the Institute of Company Secretaries of India constituted under the Act;
 - (g) “Member” means an associate or fellow member of the Institute and includes a person who was a member of the Institute on the date of the alleged misconduct, although he has ceased to be a member of the Institute at the time of filing the complaint, initiation of the inquiry or thereafter;
 - (h) “Presiding Officer” means the Presiding Officer of the Board of Discipline or Committee, as the case may be;
 - (i) “Professional Address” means—
 - (i) the last registered address where a member is carrying on his profession (or when he is carrying on his profession at more than one place, the principal place); or
 - (ii) the last registered place of employment or at his option, the place of his residence (if the member is employed); or

- (iii) the last registered place of residence, (if the member neither carried on the profession nor is employed); or
- (iv) the last registered overseas address or at his option, the place of residence in India which shall be deemed to be the professional address for the purposes of these rules.
- (j) "Regulations" means the Company Secretaries Regulations, 1982, made under the Act, as amended from time to time;
- (k) "Respondent" means a member or a firm against whom the complaint or information has been received;
- (l) "Schedule" means any Schedule or Schedules annexed to the Act.

(2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules and defined in the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980) shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

Chapter II

Procedures of Investigation related to Complaints and Information

3. Procedure for filing complaint

(1) A complaint under Section 21 of the Act against a member or a firm shall be filed in Form I, in triplicate before the Director in person or by post or courier:

Provided that the complaint sent by post or courier under this sub-rule shall be deemed to have been presented to the Director on the day on which it is received in the Directorate.

(2) A complaint filed by or on behalf of the Central Government or any State Government, shall be authorized by an officer holding a post not below the rank of a Joint Secretary or equivalent and shall be signed by an officer holding a post not below the rank of an Under Secretary or equivalent in the Central or State Government, as the case may be.

(3) A complaint filed by or on behalf of any statutory authority, such as Reserve Bank of India or Securities and Exchange Board of

India, shall be authorised by an officer holding a post equivalent to the post of Joint Secretary in the Government of India and shall be signed by an officer holding a post not below the rank of an Under Secretary or equivalent in the Central or State Government, as the case may be.

(4) A complaint filed by or on behalf of a company or a firm, shall be accompanied by a resolution, duly passed by the Board of Directors of the company or the partners of the firm, as the case may be, specifically authorizing an officer or a person to make the complaint on behalf of the company or the firm.

Explanation: In the case of a bank or financial institution, the general resolution or power of attorney authorizing an officer holding a particular position to file complaints on behalf of the bank or financial institution, shall be deemed to be the specific resolution passed by the bank or financial institution concerned, for the purposes of these rules.

(5) In case of complaints filed by any Government, statutory authority, bank or financial institution, a change in the name of complainant at any later stage, shall be duly supported by a specific authorization made by an officer holding a post equivalent to that of the original complainant.

(6) Every complaint received by the Directorate shall be acknowledged by ordinary post together with an acknowledgement number.

4. Fee for filing complaint

(1) Every complaint, other than a complaint filed by or on behalf of the Central Government or any State Government or any statutory authority, shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed by the Council through regulations.

(2) The fee shall be paid in the form of a demand draft drawn on any bank in India in favour of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India payable at the place where the Directorate is situated.

(3) The fee once paid shall not be refunded:

Provided that no additional fee shall be payable if the complaint is resubmitted after rectification of defect under sub-rule (5) of rule 5.

5. Registration of complaint

(1) The Director or an officer or officers authorized by the Director, shall endorse on every complaint the date on which it is received or presented and the Director or the officer or officers so authorized, shall sign on each such endorsement.

(2) The Director or an officer or officers authorized by him shall scrutinize the complaints so received.

(3) If, on scrutiny, the complaint is found to be in order, it shall be duly registered and a unique reference number allotted to it, which shall be quoted in all future correspondence, and shall be dealt with in the manner as prescribed in Chapter III of these rules.

(4) If the subject matter of a complaint is, in the opinion of the Director, substantially the same as or has been covered by any previous complaint or information received and is under process or has already been dealt with, he shall take any of the following action, as the case may be,—

- (a) if such a previous complaint is still under the examination of the Director, then the new complaint may be clubbed with the previous complaint and in such case the fact may be conveyed to the first complainant, new complainant and respondent respectively.
- (b) if *prima facie* opinion has been formed by the Director in such a previous complaint and the case is pending before the Board of Discipline or the Committee, then the Director shall bring the new complaint before the Board of Discipline or the Committee, as the case may be, and the latter shall either club the complaint with the previous complaint or close it or ask the Director to deal with it as a separate complaint, as it deems fit.
- (c) if orders have already been passed by the Board of Discipline or the Committee on such a previous complaint, then the Director shall present the new complaint before the Board of Discipline for its closure:

Provided that even in case where the new complaint is clubbed with a previous complaint under this sub-rule, only the first complainant would be the complainant for the purposes of investigation under these rules.

(5) If, the complaint, on scrutiny, is found to be defective, including the defects of technical nature, the Director may allow the complainant to rectify the same in his presence or may return the complaint for rectification and resubmission within such time as he may determine.

(6) If, the complainant fails to rectify the defect or defects within the time allowed under sub-rule (5), the Director shall form the opinion that there is no *prima facie* case and present the complaint before the Board of Discipline for its closure.

(7) The Board of Discipline may, after the presentation of the complaint by the Director under sub-rule (6), either,—

- (a) agree with the opinion of the Director and pass an order for the closure; or
- (b) disagree with the opinion of the Director and advise him to further investigate the matter.

6. Withdrawal of a complaint

The Director, on receipt of a letter of withdrawal of a complaint by the complainant, shall place the same before the Board of Discipline or the Committee, as the case may be, and the Board of Discipline or Committee, as the case may be, may, if it is of the view that the circumstances so warrant, permit the withdrawal, at any stage, including before or after registration of the complaint:

Provided that in case the Director has not yet formed his *prima facie* opinion on such a complaint, he shall place the same before the Board of Discipline, and the Board of Discipline may, if it is of the view that the circumstances so warrant, permit the withdrawal.

7. Information

(1) Any written information containing allegation or allegations against a member or a firm, received in person or by post or courier, by the Directorate, which is not in Form I under sub-rule (1) of rule 3, shall be treated as information received under Section 21 of the Act and shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

(2) On receipt of such an information, the sender of the information, including the Central Government, any State Government or any statutory authority, shall be, in the first instance,

asked whether he or it would like to file a complaint in Form I apprising him of, the following information,—

- (a) that relatively longer time is taken for disposal of any information than the complaint;
- (b) that the person giving information will not have the right to be represented during the investigation or hearing of the case;
- (c) that the Institute will be under no obligation to inform the sender the information of the progress made in respect of the information received under sub-rule (1) including the final orders:

Provided that where the sender of the information is the Central Government, any State Government or any statutory authority, a copy of final order shall be sent to such sender.

(3) An anonymous information received by the Directorate will not be entertained by the Directorate.

Chapter III

Procedure of Investigation

8. Procedure to be followed by Director on a complaint

(1) The Director or an officer or officers authorized by the Director, within sixty days of the receipt of a complaint under rule 3, shall,—

- (a) if the complaint is against an individual member, send particulars of the acts of commission or omission alleged or a copy of the complaint, as the case may be, to that member at his professional address;
- (b) if the complaint is against a firm, send particulars of the acts of the commission or omission alleged or a copy of the complaint, as the case may be, to the firm at the address of its head office, as entered last in the Register of Offices and Firms maintained by the Institute, with a notice calling upon the firm to disclose the name or names of the member or members concerned and to send particulars of acts of commission or omission or a copy of the complaint, as the case may be, to such members:

Provided that while disclosing the name or names of the member or members, the firm shall also send a declaration signed or, as the

case may be, jointly signed by the member or members concerned to the effect that he or she or they shall be responsible for answering the complaint and that the particulars of acts of commission or omission or the copy of the complaint sent to the firm by the Director had been duly received by him, her or them.

Explanation: A notice to the firm shall be deemed to be a notice to all the members who are partners or employees of that firm as on the date of registration of the complaint.

(2) A member whose name is disclosed by the firm shall be responsible for answer the complaint, provided such a member was associated, either as partner or employee, with the firm, against which the complaint has been filed, at the time of occurrence of the alleged misconduct:

Provided that if no member, whether erstwhile or present, of the firm, own responsibility for the allegation or allegations made against the firm, then the firm as a whole shall be responsible for answering the allegation or allegations and, as such, all the members who were partners or employees of that firm, as on the date of occurrence of the alleged misconduct, shall be responsible for answering the allegation or allegations as contained in the complaint.

(3) A member who has been informed of the complaint filed against him (hereinafter referred to as the respondent) shall, within 21 days of the service of a copy of the complaint, or within such additional time, not exceeding thirty days, as may be allowed by the Director, forward to the Director, a written statement in his defence.

(4) On receipt of the written statement, if any, the Director may send a copy thereof to the complainant and the complainant shall, within 21 days of the service of a copy of the written statement, or within such additional time, not exceeding thirty days, as may be allowed by the Director, forward to the Director, his rejoinder on the written statement.

(5) On perusal of the complaint, the respondent's written statement, if any, and rejoinder of the complainant, if any, the Director may call for such additional particulars or documents connected therewith either from the complainant or the respondent or any third party or parties, as he may consider appropriate:

Provided that if no reply is sent by the respondent within the time

allowed under sub-rule (3) or by the complainant within the time allowed under sub-rule (4), the Director shall presume that the respondent or the complainant, as the case may be, have nothing further to state and take further action as provided under this Chapter.

9. Examination of the Complaint

(1) The Director shall examine the complaint, written statement, if any, rejoinder, if any, and other additional particulars or documents, if any, and form his *prima facie* opinion as to whether the member or the firm is guilty or not of any professional or other misconduct or both under the First Schedule or the Second Schedule or both.

(2) (a) Where the Director is of the *prima facie* opinion that—

- (i) the member or the firm is guilty of any misconduct under the First Schedule, he shall place his opinion along with the complaint and all other relevant papers before the Board of Discipline;
- (ii) the member or the firm is guilty of misconduct under the Second Schedule or both the First and Second Schedules, he shall place his opinion along with the complaint and all other relevant papers before the Committee.

(b) If the Board of Discipline or the Committee, as the case may be, agrees with the *prima facie* opinion of the Director under clause (a) above, then the Board of Discipline or the Committee may proceed further under Chapter IV or V respectively.

(c) If the Board of Discipline or the Committee, as the case may be, disagrees with the *prima facie* opinion of the Director under clause (a) above, it shall either close the matter or advise the Director to further investigate the matter.

(3) Where the Director is of the *prima facie* opinion that the member or the firm is not guilty of any misconduct either under the First Schedule or the Second Schedule, he shall place the matter before the Board of Discipline, and the Board of Discipline,—

- (a) if it agrees with such opinion of the Director, shall pass order, for closure.
- (b) if it disagrees with such opinion of the Director, then it may

either proceed under chapter IV of these rules, if the matter pertains to the First Schedule, or refer the matter to the Committee to proceed under Chapter V of these rules, if the matter pertains to the Second Schedule or both the Schedules, or may advise the Director to further investigate the matter.

(4) The Director shall, after making further investigation as advised by the Board of Discipline under sub-rule (2) or (3) of this rule or by the Committee under sub-rule (2), shall further proceed under this rule.

10. Mode of Sending Notice

(1) Every notice or letter issued by the Director, Board of Discipline, or the Committee under these rules shall be sent to the member or the firm or any other person, by registered post with acknowledgement due or speed post, except where specified otherwise in any rule.

(2) If any notice or letter is returned unserved with an endorsement to the effect that the addressee had refused to accept the notice or letter, the notice or letter shall be deemed to have been served.

(3) If the notice or letter is returned with an endorsement to the effect that the addressee cannot be found at the address given, the Director shall ask the complainant or any other person who may be in a position to provide another address of the member or firm or person whose address is found to be not correct, and on production of the correct address, a fresh notice or letter shall be issued at such address.

(4) Where the notice or letter is returned under sub-rule (3), it may be served by fixing a copy thereof in some conspicuous place at the professional address or residence of the respondent which was last registered with the Institute or in such other manner as the Board of Discipline may think fit and such service shall be deemed to be sufficient service for the purposes of these rules.

11. Certain provisions relating to complaint also to be applicable for information relating to misconduct of members

The procedure laid down for dealing with complaints in sub-rule (6) of rule 3, sub-rules (1), (2), (3) and (4) of rule 5, sub-rules (1), (2),

(3) and (5) of rule 8, rule 9 and rule 10 shall also apply to information received by the Director relating to misconduct of members.

12. Time limit on entertaining complaint or information

Where the Director is satisfied that there would be difficulty in securing proper evidence of the alleged misconduct, or that the member or firm against whom the information has been received or the complaint has been filed, would find it difficult to lead evidence to defend himself or itself, as the case may be, on account of the time lag, or that changes have taken place rendering the inquiry procedurally inconvenient or difficult, he may refuse to entertain a complaint or information in respect of any misconduct made more than seven years after the same was alleged to have been committed and submit the same to the Board of Discipline for taking decision on it under sub-section (4) of Section 21A of the Act.

Chapter IV

Board of Discipline

13. Functioning of Board of Discipline

(1) All questions which come up before the Board of Discipline shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Presiding Officer or in his absence, the person presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

(2) The quorum for any meeting of the Board of Discipline shall be two members.

(3) In the event of the Presiding Officer not being able to attend a meeting of the Board of Discipline, the member of the Council appointed under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 21A of the Act shall act as the Presiding Officer.

14. Procedure to be followed by the Board of Discipline

(1) The Board of Discipline shall follow summary disposal procedure in dealing with all cases before it, as laid down in this Chapter.

(2) If the Board of Discipline decides to proceed further under clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of rule 9 or under clause (b) of sub-rule (3) of rule 9, it shall expeditiously cause to deliver to the respondent and

the complainant, a copy each of the following:

- (a) *prima facie* opinion formed by the Director; and
- (b) particulars or documents relied upon by the Director, if any, during the course of formulation of *prima facie* opinion.

(3) The Board of Discipline shall inform the respondent to file a written statement, within such time as may be specified:

Provided that the Board of Discipline may give him additional time for submitting his written statement on application by the respondent on his adducing sufficient reasons to the satisfaction of the Board of Discipline for seeking additional time:

Provided further that such additional time shall not be given more than once and if the respondent still does not submit a written statement, the Board of Discipline shall presume that he has no further submissions to make and shall proceed to decide the case on merits.

(4) The respondent shall send a copy of his written statement, along with supporting documents, to the Director and the complainant within the stipulated time.

(5) The complainant or the Director may, after receipt of the written statement, submit a rejoinder to the Board of Discipline, with a copy to the respondent, along with supporting documents, if any.

(6) The Presiding Officer of the Board of Discipline shall fix a date, hour and place of hearing, which shall not ordinarily be later than 45 days from the date of receipt of *prima facie* opinion and the Board of Discipline shall cause a notice to be sent of such date, hour and place to the Director, respondent and complainant and require them to appear before it in person to make oral submissions, if any.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule, the appearance includes, unless and otherwise directed, appearance by an advocate or through any authorized representative, who may be a Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant or Company Secretary.

(7) On the date of hearing, if the respondent, in spite of the service of notice, under sub-rule (6), does not appear either in person or through his authorized representative, the Board of Discipline may proceed *ex-parte* and pass such orders as it may think fit or direct fresh notice to be served.

(8) The Board of Discipline may, on such terms as it thinks fit, and at any stage of the proceedings, adjourn the hearing:

Provided that such adjournment shall not be given more than once at any stage of the proceedings.

(9) The Board of Discipline shall consider the written representations, including the written statements, rejoinder and supporting documents, and the oral submission, if any made by the Director, the complainant and the respondent, and arrive at a finding on whether the respondent is guilty or not of any professional or other misconduct.

15. Orders of the Board of Discipline

(1) On arriving at a finding under sub-rule (9) of rule 14 that the respondent is guilty of professional or other misconduct, the Board of Discipline shall give the respondent an opportunity to be heard before passing any order under sub-section (3) of section 21A of the Act:

Provided that if the respondent does not appear before the Board of Discipline at the time directed to do so when given such an opportunity to be heard, the Board of Discipline shall presume that he has nothing more to represent before it and shall pass orders under sub-section (3) of Section 21A of the Act.

(2) On arriving at a finding under sub-rule (9) of rule 14 that the respondent is not guilty of professional or other misconduct, the Board of Discipline shall pass orders closing the case.

(3) The Board of Discipline shall send, free of charge, to the Director, respondent and the complainant, a certified copy of the final order.

Chapter V

Disciplinary Committee

16. Constitution and functioning of Committee

(1) The Council may constitute a Committee and more than one Committee, if it considers necessary which may be located in one or more Regional Headquarters:

Provided that at least one Committee shall function at the place where the Directorate is situated.

(2) All questions which come up before the Committee shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Presiding Officer or in his absence, the person presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

(3) The quorum for meeting of the Committee shall be three members, of which at least one shall be a member nominated by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 21B of the Act.

(4) In the event of the Presiding Officer not being able to attend a meeting of the Committee, the seniormost member amongst the members nominated by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of Section 21B of the Act shall act as the Presiding Officer.

Explanation: The seniormost member is the member who has been nominated earlier by the Central Government, and in case both the members are nominated on the same date, then the Central Government shall indicate the name of the seniormost member, either at the time of nominating the members or on a written request for the same from the Secretary of the Institute.

(5) The Presiding Officer of the Committee constituted at place where the Directorate is situated, wherever considered appropriate, may transfer a matter from one Committee to another.

(6) The Committee shall, subject to the other provisions of the Act and these rules, regulate its own procedure for matters not covered under this Chapter.

17. Allowances to the members nominated by the Central Government

The members of the Committee nominated by the Central Government would be paid Rs. 1000/- as allowance for each day of sitting:

Provided that if such a member is holding position under the Central Government or State Government or any statutory authority, he would be not be eligible for any such allowances:

Provided further that the Central Government may revise the allowances from time to time, through notification in the Official Gazette.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule, holding position under

the Central Government shall also include a person holding position under the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Reserve Bank of India or any other organization under or controlled by Government of India, and holding position under a State Government shall also include holding position in an organization under or controlled by the State Government.

(2) The Presiding Officer and other Members of the Committee, while on tour, shall be entitled to the traveling allowance and daily allowance as admissible to them in their official capacity and in case the member is not a Government Servant, he shall be entitled to the traveling allowance and daily allowance as admissible to an officer holding a post carrying a scale of pay of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

18. Procedure to be followed by the Committee

(1) The Committee shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and shall follow the procedure in dealing with all cases before it, as laid down in this Chapter.

(2) If the Committee decides to proceed further under clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of rule 9 or if it receives a reference from Board of Discipline under clause (b) of sub-rule (3) of rule 9, it shall expeditiously cause to deliver to the respondent and the complainant, a copy each of the following—

- (a) *prima facie* opinion formed by the Director; and
- (b) particulars or documents relied upon by the Director, if any, during the course of formulation of *prima facie* opinion.

(3) The Committee shall inform the respondent, as the case may be to file a written statement, within such time as may be specified:

Provided that the Committee may give him additional time for submitting his written statement, on application by the respondent on his adducing sufficient reasons to the satisfaction of the Committee for seeking additional time:

Provided further that such additional time shall not be given more than once and if the respondent still does not submit a written statement, the Committee shall presume that he has no further submissions to make and shall proceed to decide the case on merits.

(4) The respondent shall send a copy of his written statement,

along with supporting documents and a list of witnesses, to the Director and the complainant within the stipulated time.

(5) The complainant or the Director may, after receipt of the written statement, submit a rejoinder to the Committee, with a copy to the respondent, along with supporting documents, if any.

(6) The Presiding Officer of the Committee shall fix a date, hour and place of hearing, which shall not ordinarily be later than 45 days from the date of receipt of *prima facie* opinion and the committee shall cause a notice to be sent of such date, hour and place to the Director, respondent and complainant and require them to appear before it in person to make oral submissions, if any.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule, the appearance includes, unless and otherwise directed, appearance by an advocate or through any authorized representative, who may be a Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant or Company Secretary.

(7) During the first hearing, the Committee shall read out the charge or charges to the respondent along with the summary of *prima facie* opinion arrived at by the Director, and ask the respondent whether he pleads guilty to the charge or charges made against him:

Provided that if the respondent does not appear for the first hearing even after one adjournment, the reading out of charge or charges along with the summary of *prima facie* opinion shall be made in his absence and the case proceeded with in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(8) If the respondent pleads guilty, the Committee shall record the plea and take action as per provisions under rule 19.

(9) If the respondent does not plead guilty, then the Committee shall fix a date for examination of witnesses and production of documents.

(10) The Committee may, on application of the Director, issue notice for appearance to any of his witnesses directing him to attend or to produce any other document or material evidence.

(11) On the date so fixed, the Committee shall proceed to take all such evidence as may be produced by the Director, including oral examination of witnesses and production of documents:

Provided that the Committee may permit the cross-examination of any witness to be deferred until any other witness or witnesses have been examined or recall any witness for further cross-examination.

(12) After the presenting of evidence by the Director is over, the complainant shall be given an opportunity, if present during the hearing, to present any additional evidence after satisfying the Committee that such evidence is relevant and has not been brought forward during the presentation by the Director.

(13) The respondent shall be then called upon to enter upon his defence and produce his evidence.

(14) If the respondent applies to the Committee to issue any notice for compelling attendance of any witness for the purpose of examination or cross-examination, or the production of any document or any material object, the Committee shall issue such notice unless it considers that such application should be refused on the ground that it is made for the purpose of vexation or delay or for defeating the ends of justice and such ground shall be recorded by it in writing.

(15) The witnesses summoned at the instance of the complainant under sub-rule (12) or the respondent under sub-rule (14) shall not be eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred for attending the hearing.

(16) After evidences have been presented, the Director and the respondent shall present their arguments before the Committee:

Provided that after the Director has presented his argument, if the complainant, provided he is present during the hearing, feels that any vital argument has been left out by the Director, may present the argument, after convincing the Committee of the same.

(17) The Committee shall consider the evidences and arguments produced before it and arrive at a finding on whether the respondent is guilty or not of any professional or other misconduct.

(18) The Committee may, at the request of any of the parties before it or due to other reasons, and on such terms as it thinks fit, and at any stage of the proceedings, adjourn the hearing:

Provided that such adjournment shall not be given more than once at any stage of the proceedings.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule, inability of the complainant, advocate, authorized representative or witness, to appear shall not be treated as a valid reason for adjournment of a hearing.

19. Orders of the Committee

(1) On arriving at a finding under sub-rule (8) or sub-rule (17) of rule 18 that the respondent is guilty of professional or other misconduct, the Committee shall give the respondent an opportunity to be heard before passing any order under sub-section (3) of section 21B of the Act:

Provided that if the respondent does not appear before the Committee at the time directed to do so when given such an opportunity to be heard, the Committee shall presume that he has nothing more to represent before it and shall pass orders under sub-section (3) of section 21B of the Act.

(2) On arriving at a finding under sub-rule (17) of rule 18 that the respondent is not guilty of professional or other misconduct, the Committee shall pass orders closing the case.

(3) The Committee shall send, free of charge, to the Director, respondent and the complainant, a certified copy of the final order.

Chapter VI

Miscellaneous

20. Attendance of hearings by the complainant, respondent and witness

(1) The complainant and the respondent shall have the right to attend the hearings of the Board of Discipline or the Committee, as the case may be, unless ordered otherwise by the Board of Discipline or Committee, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(2) The complainant and the respondent shall not be eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred for attending the hearing.

(3) A witness summoned before the Committee under sub-rule (11) of rule 18 shall be eligible for reimbursement of expenses, as determined through guidelines laid down by the Council.

21. Residuary provisions

Matters relating to the procedure of investigation, conduct of cases and allowances to nominated members with respect to which no express provision has been made in these rules shall be referred in each to the Central Government for its decision and the decision of the Central Government thereon shall be binding.

FORM I**[See sub-rule (1) of Rule 3]**

1.	Name of the Complainant: (with membership number, if member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India)	
2.	Name of the member/firm against whom complaint is being made: (with membership number/registration number of the firm, if known)	
3.	Latest address of the complainant for communication	 Pin Code:
4.	Last available professional address of the Member or the firm against whom the complaint is made	 Pin Code:
5.	Particulars of allegation(s) serially numbered together with corresponding clause/part of the relevant Schedule(s), or Particulars of allegation(s) serially numbered together with clause/part of the relevant Schedule(s) under which the alleged acts of commission or omission or both would fall	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6.	Particulars of evidence(s) adduced in support of the allegation(s) made	

7.	Name(s) of person who have knowledge of the facts of the case		
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Date:

Place:

Signature of the Complainant

VERIFICATION

I,, the Complainant, do hereby declare that what is stated above is true to the best of my information and belief.

Verified today the..... day of.....20... at.....

Date:

Place:

Signature of the Complainant