THE GOA PANCHAYAT RAJ (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023  
(BILL NO. 7 OF 2023)

A

BILL

further to amend the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act 14 of 1994)

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1.  **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2023.

   (2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Government may, by Notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2.  **Amendment of section 47.** - In section 47 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act No. 14 of 1994) (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”),-

   (i) clauses (ii) and (iii) shall be re-numbered as clauses (iv) and (v) respectively and before clause (iv) as so re-numbered the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

   “(ii) to issue the permission/license for trade, business, industry, hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government) or a dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water or any other permission/license under section 68, 69, 70 or 71 of this Act, in pursuance of the resolution of the Panchayat;

   (iii) upon an order of the Block Development Officer to issue permission/license for construction, repairs, modification, alteration, or to issue permissions/license for trade, business, industry, hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government) or a
dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water or any other permission/license under section 66, 68, 69, 70 or 71 of this Act, or an occupancy certificate.

3. **Amendment of section 66.**- In section 66 of the principal Act,-
   (i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

   “(1) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, no person shall erect any building or alter or add to any existing building or reconstruct any building without the written permission of the Panchayat. The permission may be granted after an application for the purpose is made and on payment of such fees as prescribed.”;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(2) If a Panchayat does not, within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the application under sub-section (1), determine whether such permission should be given or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, the Secretary shall forward the application to the Block Development Officer on expiry of such period of thirty days and the applicant may also file an appeal within a period of thirty days from the date of expiry of aforesaid period to the Block Development Officer. The Block Development Officer shall immediately upon receipt of such application from the Secretary or appeal from the applicant, whichever is earlier, proceed to determine whether such permission should be given or not. If the Block Development Officer fails to determine whether such permission should be given or not and communicate his decision to the applicant within a period of thirty days from the date of intimation by the Secretary or receipt of appeal, immediately upon expiration of such period of thirty days, such permission shall be deemed to have been granted to the applicant to execute the work strictly in accordance with the technical clearance and plans as approved by the Town and Country Planning Authorities and in conformity with conditions laid down by all other statutory authorities and not so as to contravene any of the provisions of this
Act or any rules or bye-laws made under this Act or of any other law for the

time being in force;”;

(iii) after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:-

“(2A) Where the permission under sub-section (1) is deemed to have been

granted under sub-section (2), before proceeding with execution of the work,
the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed, to the
Panchayat, the Block Development Officer and the Town and Country
Planning Authorities within a period of fifteen days from the date on which
such permission is deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2) and
he shall also deposit with the Secretary the fees payable under sub-section
(1). The Secretary shall be duty bound to accept such fees and issue proper
receipt to the applicant and credit such fees to the Panchayat Fund.

(2B) The applicant after complying with the provisions of sub-section (2A), shall
be entitled to execute the work strictly in accordance with the technical
clearance and plans approved by the Town and Country Planning
Authorities and in conformity with conditions laid down by all other
statutory authorities and the applicant shall follow the procedure as may be
applicable for obtaining the completion certificate within the validity period.

(2C) Subject to such rules as prescribed, no building erected, re-erected or altered
in pursuit of sub-section (1), (2) or (2B), shall be occupied in whole or
part until an occupancy certificate is issued by the Panchayat after
confirming that such building is in conformity with approved plans.

(2D) The occupancy certificate shall be issued by Panchayat on payment of such
occupancy fees as prescribed.

(2E) If a Panchayat does not, within thirty days from the date of receipt of
application for occupancy certificate, determine whether such occupancy
certificate should be issued or not and communicate its decision to the
applicant, such occupancy certificate shall be deemed to have been issued, if
the applicant has obtained necessary completion certificate from the Town
and Country Planning Authorities as per the provisions of the Goa
(Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction) Act, 2008 (Goa Act 6 of 2008) and the Regulations framed thereunder.

(2F) Where the occupancy certificate is deemed to have been issued under sub-section (2E), before proceeding to occupy the premises, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed to the concerned Panchayat and the Block Development Officer within a period of fifteen days from the date on which such occupancy certificate is deemed to have been issued under sub-section (2E) and he shall also deposit with the Secretary the occupancy fees as payable under sub-section (2D). The Secretary shall be duty bound to accept the occupancy fees and issue a proper receipt to the applicant and credit such fees to the Panchayat Fund."

4. **Amendment of section 68.**- In section 68 of the principal Act, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2), (2A), (2B), (2C), (2D), (2E), (2F), (3), (4), (5), (6) and Explanation to section 66 of this Act shall apply mutatis mutandis, to this section.”.

5. **Amendment of section 72**- In section 72 of the principal Act,-

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(1) A permission under section 68 or the licence under section 69, 70 or 71, shall be granted or renewed only after an application for the purpose is made and on payment in advance of such fee as prescribed.”;

(ii) after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted namely:-

"(2A) If a Panchayat does not, within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the application under sub-section (1), determine whether such licence under section 69, 70 or 71 should be granted or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, the Secretary shall forward the application to the Block Development Officer on expiry of such period of
thirty days and the applicant may file an appeal within a period of thirty
days from the date of expiry of aforesaid period to the Block Development
Officer. The Block Development Officer shall, immediately upon receipt of
such application from the Secretary or appeal from the applicant, whichever
is earlier, proceed to determine whether such licence should be granted or
not. If the Block Development Officer fails to determine whether such
licence should be granted or not and communicate his decision to the
applicant within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such
application from Secretary or appeal, immediately upon expiration of such
period of thirty days, such licence shall be deemed to have been granted to
the applicant, subject to the condition that the applicant obtains all the
requisite other permissions from other statutory authorities for the purpose
of carrying out the activity by virtue of such licence, but not so as to
contravene any of the provisions of this Act or of any rules or bye- laws
made under this Act or of any other law for the time being in force.

(2B) Where such licence under section 69, 70 or 71 is deemed to have been
granted under sub-section (2A), before proceeding to carry out any activity
by virtue of such licence, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such
form as prescribed, to the Panchayat and the Block Development Officer
within a period of fifteen days from the date on which such license is
deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2A) and he shall also
deposit with the Secretary the fee payable under sub-section (1). The
Secretary shall be duty bound to accept such fee and issue proper receipt to
the applicant and credit such fee to the Panchayat Fund."
STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

The Bill seeks to amend sections 47, 66, 68 and 72 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act 14 of 1994) so as to create transparent an efficient mechanism to streamline the process of grant of permissions, licenses and occupancy certificates under the said Act.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

No Financial implications are involved in this Bill.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 1(2) of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to issue Notification to appoint the date for bringing into force the Act in the Official Gazette.

Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to frame rules for specifying the fees payable for permission for erection of buildings and issue of occupancy certificate.

Clause 5 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to frame rules for specifying the fees payable for license under sections 69, 70 and 71 of the said Act.

These delegations are of normal character.

Assembly Hall, Porvorim - Goa. Shri Mauvin Godinho Minister for Panchayats

Assembly Hall, Porvorim - Goa. Smt. Namrata Ulman Secretary to the Legislative Assembly of Goa
Clarification regarding objective and aims for proposing amendments to The Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing provisions of the act</th>
<th>Proposed Amendments</th>
<th>Clarifications &amp; justification for proposing amendments</th>
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</table>
| “47. Executive powers and functions of the Secretary.- Not withstanding anything contained in this Act and rules framed thereunder, the Secretary shall also exercise the powers on the following matters, namely:- to issue the license for construction, repairs, modification, alteration, so also occupancy certificate in pursuance of the resolution of the Panchayat; to initiate action for stopping and or demolishing an unauthorized structure/building constructed without the permission of the Panchayat after resolution is passed to that effect; to execute the resolution passed by the Panchayat body.”. | **Amendment of Section 47.**—In Section 47 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act No. 14 of 1994), (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”).—

(i) clauses (ii) and (iii) shall be re-numbered as clauses (iv) and (v) respectively and before clause (iv) as so re-numbered the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(ii) to issue the permission/license for trade, business, industry, hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government) or a dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water or any other permission/license under section 68, 69, 70 or 71 of this Act, in pursuance of the resolution of the Panchayat;

(iii) upon an order of the Block Development Officer to issue permission/licence for construction, repairs, modification, alteration, or to issue permissions/license for trade, |

The Bill seeks to amend sections 47, 66, 68 and 72 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act 14 of 1994) so as to create transparent an efficient mechanism to streamline the process of grant of permissions, licenses and occupancy certificates under the said Act.
| 66. Regulation of the erection of buildings.— (1) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, no person shall erect any building or alter or add to any existing building or reconstruct any building without the written permission of the Panchayat. The permission may be granted on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.  

(2) If a Panchayat does not, within thirty days from the date of receipt of application, determine whether such permission should be given or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, the applicant may file an appeal within thirty days from the date of expiry of aforesaid period, to the Deputy Director who shall dispose of the same within thirty days from the date of filing of such appeal. If the Deputy Director fails to dispose of the appeal within thirty days, such permission shall be deemed to have been given and the applicant may proceed to execute the work, but not so as to contravene any of the | business, industry, hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government) or a dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water or any other permission/license under section 66, 68, 69, 70 or 71 of this Act, or an occupancy certificate. |
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| 3. Amendment of section 66.- In section 66 of the principal Act,-  
(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-  
“(1) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, no person shall erect any building or alter or add to any existing building or reconstruct any building without the written permission of the Panchayat. The permission may be granted after an application for the purpose is made and on payment of such fees as prescribed.”;  

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-  
"(2) If a Panchayat does not, within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the application under sub-section (1), determine |
provisions of this Act or any rules or bye-laws made under this Act.

(3) Whenever any building is erected, added to or reconstructed without such permission or in any manner contrary to the rules prescribed under sub-section (1) or any conditions imposed by the permission granted, the Panchayat may,—

direct that the building, alteration or addition be stopped; or
by written notice require within a reasonable period to be specified therein, such building alteration or addition to be altered or demolished.

(2) In the event of non-compliance with terms of any notice under clause (b) of sub-section (3) within the period specified in the notice, it shall be lawful for the Panchayat to take such action as may be necessary for the completion of the act thereby required to be done, and all the expenses therein incurred by the Panchayat shall be paid by the person or persons upon whom the notice was served and shall be recoverable as if it were a tax imposed under this Act.

(5) Where the Panchayat fails to demolish the building which is erected, added to or reconstructed without the permission of the

whether such permission should be given or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, the Secretary shall forward the application to the Block Development Officer on expiry of such period of thirty days and the applicant may also file an appeal within a period of thirty days from the date of expiry of aforesaid period to the Block Development Officer. The Block Development Officer shall immediately upon receipt of such application from the Secretary or appeal from the applicant, whichever is earlier, proceed to determine whether such permission should be given or not. If the Block Development Officer fails to determine whether such permission should be given or not and communicate his decision to the applicant within a period of thirty days from the date of intimation by the Secretary or receipt of appeal, immediately upon expiration of such period of thirty days, such permission shall be deemed to have been granted to the applicant to execute the work strictly in accordance with the technical clearance and plans as approved by the Town and Country Planning Authorities and in conformity with conditions laid down by all other statutory authorities and not so as to contravene any of the provisions of this Act or any rules or bye-laws made
Panchayat, or in any manner contrary to the rules made under the Act or any conditions imposed in the permission, within a month from the date of knowledge, the Deputy Director shall assume the powers of the Panchayat under sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) and take such steps as may be necessary for the demolition of such building.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions, the Block Development Officer concerned may, by notice addressed to the person responsible, stop any construction which is being constructed in violation of the provisions of the Act or rules or bye-laws made thereunder and refer the case to the Deputy Director of Panchayat. On receipt of the notice, such person shall forthwith stop the same.

(7) An appeal shall lie to the Director, within a period of thirty days from any order of direction or notice issued under any of the provisions of this section and the decision of the Director on such appeal shall be final.

Explanation:— For the purpose of this section, failure to communicate the decision by the Panchayat under sub-section (2) and failure to demolish the building under sub-sections (3) and (4) shall be deemed to be ‘remiss’ in the performance of duties by the Panchayat, or in any manner contrary to the rules made under the Act or of any other law for the time being in force;’’;

(iii) after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:

“(2A) Where the permission under sub-section (1) is deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2), before proceeding with execution of the work, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed, to the Panchayat, the Block Development Officer and the Town and Country Planning Authorities within a period of fifteen days from the date on which such permission is deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2) and he shall also deposit with the Secretary the fees payable under sub-section (1). The Secretary shall be duty bound to accept such fees and issue proper receipt to the applicant and credit such fees to the Panchayat Fund.

(2B) The applicant after complying with the provisions of sub-section (2A), shall be entitled to execute the work strictly in accordance with the technical clearance and plans approved by the Town and Country Planning Authorities and in conformity with conditions laid down by all other statutory authorities and the applicant shall follow the procedure as may be applicable.
(2C) Subject to such rules as prescribed, no building erected, re-erected or altered in pursuance of sub-section (1), (2) or (2B), shall be occupied in whole or part until an occupancy certificate is issued by the Panchayat after confirming that such building is in conformity with approved plans.

(2D) The occupancy certificate shall be issued by Panchayat on payment of such occupancy fees as prescribed.

(2E) If a Panchayat does not, within thirty days from the date of receipt of application for occupancy certificate, determine whether such occupancy certificate should be issued or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, such occupancy certificate shall be deemed to have been issued, if the applicant has obtained necessary completion certificate from the Town and Country Planning Authorities as per the provisions of the Goa (Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction) Act, 2008 (Goa Act 6 of 2008) and the Regulations framed thereunder.

(2F) Where the occupancy certificate is deemed
to have been issued under sub-section (2E), before proceeding to occupy the premises, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed to the concerned Panchayat and the Block Development Officer within a period of fifteen days from the date on which such occupancy certificate is deemed to have been issued under sub-section (2E) and he shall also deposit with the Secretary the occupancy fees as payable under sub-section (2D). The Secretary shall be duty bound to accept the occupancy fees and issue a proper receipt to the applicant and credit such fees to the Panchayat Fund.".
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<td>(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and Explanation to section 66 of the Act shall apply mutatis mutandis, to this section.</td>
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suspend or cancel a licence granted or renewed, under sections 69, 70 and 71 for default of any of the conditions subject to which the licence was granted.

(3) Any person aggrieved by the refusal to grant permission under section 68 or to grant or renew licence, or by the suspension or cancellation of a licence under subsection (2) may, within thirty days of the date of communication of the order, appeal to the 48[Director] and his decision on such appeal shall be final.

| for the purpose is made and on payment in advance of such fee as prescribed.| (ii) after sub-section (2), the following sub-sections shall be inserted namely:-

"(2A) If a Panchayat does not, within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the application under sub-section (1), determine whether such licence under section 69, 70 or 71 should be granted or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, the Secretary shall forward the application to the Block Development Officer on expiry of such period of thirty days and the applicant may file an appeal within a period of thirty days from the date of expiry of aforesaid period to the Block Development Officer. The Block Development Officer shall, immediately upon receipt of such application from the Secretary or appeal from the applicant, whichever is earlier, proceed to determine whether such licence should be granted or not. If the Block Development Officer fails to determine whether such licence should be granted or not and communicate his decision to the applicant within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such application from Secretary or appeal, immediately upon expiration of such period of thirty days, such licence shall be
deemed to have been granted to the applicant, subject to the condition that the applicant obtains all the requisite other permissions from other statutory authorities for the purpose of carrying out the activity by virtue of such licence, but not so as to contravene any of the provisions of this Act or of any rules or bye-laws made under this Act or of any other law for the time being in force.

(2B) Where such licence under section 69, 70 or 71 is deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2A), before proceeding to carry out any activity by virtue of such licence, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed, to the Panchayat and the Block Development Officer within a period of fifteen days from the date on which such license is deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2A) and he shall also deposit with the Secretary the fee payable under sub-section (1). The Secretary shall be duty bound to accept such fee and issue proper receipt to the applicant and credit such fee to the Panchayat Fund."
47. Executive powers and functions of the Secretary.— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the rules framed thereunder, the Secretary shall also exercise the powers on the following matters, namely:—

(i) to issue the licences for construction, repairs, modification, alteration, so also occupancy certificate in pursuance of the resolution of the Panchayat;

(ii) to initiate action for stopping and or demolishing an unauthorized structure/building constructed without the permission of the Panchayat after resolution is passed to that effect;

(iii) to execute the resolution passed by the Panchayat body.
66. Regulation of the erection of buildings.— (1) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, no person shall erect any building or alter or add to any existing building or reconstruct any building without the written permission of the Panchayat. The permission may be granted on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(2) If a Panchayat does not, within thirty days from the date of receipt of application, determine whether such permission should be given or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, the applicant may file an appeal within thirty days from the date of expiry of aforesaid period, to the Deputy Director who shall dispose of the same within thirty days from the date of filings of such appeal. If the Deputy Director fails to dispose of the appeal within thirty days, such permission shall be deemed to have been given and the applicant may proceed to execute the work, but not so as to contravene any of the provisions of this Act or any rules or bye-laws made under this Act.

(3) Whenever any building is erected, added to or reconstructed without such permission or in any manner contrary to the rules prescribed under sub-section (1) or any conditions imposed by the permission granted, the Panchayat may,—

(a) direct that the building, alteration or addition be stopped; or

(b) by written notice require within a reasonable period to be specified therein, such building alteration or addition to be altered or demolished.

(4) In the event of non-compliance with terms of any notice under clause (b) of sub-section (3) within the period specified in the notice, it shall be lawful for the Panchayat to take such action as may be necessary for the completion of the act thereby required to be done, and all the expenses therein incurred by the Panchayat shall be paid by the person or persons upon whom the notice was served and shall be recoverable as if it were a tax imposed under this Act.

(5) Where the Panchayat fails to demolish the building which is erected, added to or reconstructed without the permission of the Panchayat, or in any manner contrary to the rules made under the Act or any conditions imposed in the permission, within a month from the date of the knowledge, the Deputy Director shall assume the powers of the Panchayat under sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) and take such steps as may be necessary for the demolition of such building.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions, the Block Development Officer concerned may, by notice addressed to the person responsible, stop any construction which is being constructed in violation of the provisions of the Act or rules or bye-laws made thereunder and refer the case to the Deputy Director of Panchayat. On receipt of the notice, such person shall forthwith stop the same.
(7) An appeal shall lie to the Director, within a period of thirty days from any order of direction or notice issued under any of the provisions of this section and the decision of the Director on such appeal shall be final.

Explanation:— For the purpose of this section, failure to communicate the decision by the Panchayat under sub-section (2) and failure to demolish the building under sub-sections (3) and (4) shall be deemed to be ‘remiss’ in the performance of duties by the Panchayat.]
68. Permission for the construction of factories and the installation of machinery.— 46[(1)] No person shall, without the permission of the Panchayat and except in accordance with the condition specified in such permission,—

(a) construct or establish any factory, workshop or workplace in which it is proposed to employ steam power, water power; or other mechanical power or electrical power; or

(b) install in any premises, any machinery or manufacturing plant driven by any power as aforesaid, not being machinery or manufacturing plant exempted by rules made by the Government under this Act.

(2) The provisions of sub-sections (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and Explanation to section 66 of the Act shall apply mutatis mutandis, to this section.]
69. Prohibition of offensive or dangerous trades without licence.— No place within the jurisdiction of Panchayat shall be used for the purpose of any trade, business or industry which the Government may, by notification declare to be offensive or dangerous, except under a licence granted or renewed by the Panchayat and subject to such conditions as may be imposed in the licence.
70. Control of hotels etc.— No place within the jurisdiction of a Panchayat shall be used as a hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government), or a dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water except under a licence granted or renewed by the Panchayat and except in accordance with condition specified therein.
71. Licensing of shops.— No place within the jurisdiction of a Panchayat shall be used as a shop whether permanently or temporarily, except under a licence granted or renewed by the Panchayat and except in accordance with the conditions specified therein.
72. **Provisions applicable to permission and licences.**— (1) A permission shall be granted under section 68 and the licence under sections 69, 70 and 71 shall be granted or renewed, only on payment in advance of such fee as may be prescribed.

(2) The Panchayat may, for reasons to be recorded in writing refuse to grant the permission under section 68 or to grant or renew a licence or suspend or cancel a licence granted or renewed, under sections 69, 70 and 71 for default of any of the conditions subject to which the licence was granted.

(3) Any person aggrieved by the refusal to grant permission under section 68 or to grant or renew licence, or by the suspension or cancellation of a licence under sub-section (2) may, within thirty days of the date of communication of the order, appeal to the 1[Director] and his decision on such appeal shall be final.