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PART IV—Bills introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Reports of Select Committees presented or to be presented to that Assembly; and Bills published before introduction in that Assembly.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**LAW DEPARTMENT****Legislative****NOTIFICATION**

No. 683-L.—23rd July, 2026.—The Governor having been pleased to order, under rule 66 of the Rules of

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the publication of the following Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons which accompanies it, in the *Kolkata Gazette*, the Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons are accordingly hereby published for general information:—

Bill No. 15 of 2026**THE WEST BENGAL PANCHAYAT (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026.****A
BILL**

to amend the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1973.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the West Bengal *Panchayat Act, 1973*, for the purposes and in the manner hereinafter appearing;

West Ben. Act
XLI of 1973.

It is hereby enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

Short title and
commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal *Panchayat (Second Amendment) Act, 2026*.

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

The West Bengal Panchayat (Second Amendment) Bill, 2026.

(Clauses 2–4.)

Amendment of
section 9 of
West Ben. Act
XLI of 1973.

2. In sub-section (6) of section 9 of the West Bengal *Panchayat* Act, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

(1) for the words and sign “as the case may be.”, the words and sign “as the case may be:” shall be substituted;

(2) the following proviso shall be added:—

“Provided that in case of non-availability of *Pradhan* and *Upa-Pradhan* for more than fifteen days, affecting the public services and unwillingness of any of the members to take the charge of *Pradhan* and *Upa-Pradhan*, the Prescribed Authority may appoint an officer, not below the rank of an Extension Officer, to be designated as Administrator for a period of thirty days at a time to remove the hardship of the people and stagnation of the *Gram Panchayat*.”;

(3) after the proviso, the following *Explanation* shall be inserted:—

“*Explanation*.— During the incumbency of the Administrator, the *Gram Panchayat* body and the *Upa-Samitis* will be in a state of temporary moratorium and all the powers, duties and functions of the *Pradhan*, *Gram Panchayat* or its *Upa-Samitis* shall be exercised, discharged or performed by Administrator.”.

Amendment of
section 16.

3. In sub-section (1) of section 16 of the principal Act,—

(1) in the third proviso, for the words and sign “as he thinks fit.”, the words and sign “as he thinks fit:” shall be substituted;

(2) after the third proviso, the following proviso shall be added:—

“Provided also that when meetings of *Gram Panchayat* could not be held under this section for two consecutive months due to absence of *Pradhan* and *Upa-Pradhan*, Secretary of the *Gram Panchayat* shall convene meeting and take necessary action after taking approval of the concerned Block Development Officer in writing and at such meeting the Block Development Officer may engage an observer not below the rank of an Extension Officer and the Executive Assistant shall attend the meetings of *Gram Panchayat* and participate in the deliberation thereof.”.

Amendment of
section 16B.

4. In sub-section (5) of section 16B of the principal Act, the following provisos shall be added :—

“Provided that a meeting of *Gram Sabha* shall be presided over by the *Pradhan* of the concerned *Gram Panchayat* or in his absence by the *Upa-Pradhan* and in absence of both *Pradhan* and *Upa-Pradhan* of *Gram Panchayat*, members present shall select one of the directly elected members to preside over the meeting:

Provided further that in absence of *Pradhan*, *Upa-Pradhan* and any of the elected representative, the Administrator, if appointed, will select one of the senior member of the *Gram Sabha* present in that meeting to preside over.”.

*The West Bengal Panchayat (Second Amendment) Bill, 2026.**(Clauses 5–8.)*Amendment of
section 34.

5. After clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 34 of the principal Act, the following *Explanation* shall be added:—

“Explanation.— For the purpose of discharging responsibility and exercising administrative supervision and control, the *Pradhan* shall rely on Executive Assistant as referred to in clause (8b) of section 2 and shall generally act through him.”.

Amendment of
section 45.

6. In section 45 of the principal Act,—

(1) in sub-section (5),—

(a) for the words “In accordance with the powers and functions conferred on the *Pradhan* under the Act and the rules made thereunder and subject to such general control as the *Gram Panchayat* may exercise from time to time, all orders for payment from the *Gram Panchayat* Fund shall be signed by the *Pradhan*, or in his absence, by the *Upa-Pradhan* and in pursuance of such orders of payment, cheque or cheques shall be signed jointly by the *Pradhan*, or in his absence, by the *Upa-Pradhan* and by the Executive Assistant of the *Gram Panchayat*.”, the words “Subject to such general control as the *Gram Panchayat* may exercise from time to time, all orders for payment from the *Gram Panchayat* fund shall be signed by the Executive Assistant and in pursuance of such order of payment, cheque or cheques shall be signed jointly by the Executive Assistant and the Secretary of the *Gram Panchayat*.” shall be substituted;

(b) for the first proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted:—

“Provided that the Secretary shall be responsible for writing the cheques.”;

(2) after sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be inserted:—

“(6) It will be the duty of the Executive Assistant to submit the monthly income and expenditure report to the *Pradhan* of *Gram Panchayat* and the *Pradhan* will be responsible to place it before the *Gram Panchayat* and the concerned Executive Assistant will be responsible to place it before the concerned Block Development Officer in a regular manner.”.

Amendment of
section 214.

7. In sub-section (1) of section 214 of the principal Act, for the words and figures “(ii) has exceeded or abused its powers,”, the following words and figures shall be substituted:—

“(ii) has exceeded or abused its powers, or

(iii) where more than two third of the total numbers of directly elected members of *Gram Panchayat*, *Panchayat Samiti* or *Zilla Parishad* for any reason resign.”.

Amendment of
section 215.

8. In clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 215 of the principal Act, for the words “by such authority, person or persons”, the words “by such authority, person or persons or Administrator” shall be substituted.

The West Bengal Panchayat (Second Amendment) Bill, 2026.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

It has been considered necessary and expedient to amend the West Bengal *Panchayat* Act, 1973 (West Ben. Act XLI of 1973), *inter-alia* in order to —

1. (a) ensure stability of *Panchayat* bodies for time-bound delivery of services to the public at large;
- (b) ensure holding of *Gram Panchayat* and *Gram Sabha* meetings in a regular manner for preparation of development plans;
- (c) ensure proper organizational dynamics of *Panchayat* bodies for their effective functioning.
2. The Bill has been framed with the above objects in view.
3. No expenditure is envisaged in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

KOLKATA,
The 23rd July, 2026.

DILIP GHOSH,
Member-in-charge.

By order of the Governor,

SUBHRADIP MITRA,
*Pr. Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal,
Law Department.*