



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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URBAN AREAS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

At present the State of Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest and populous State in the country. It is also the fifth largest urbanized state in the country. As per the 2001 census Andhra Pradesh has 20.50 millions urban populations spread over in 173 towns, which account for 27.08 percent of the total population. The data shows that during 100 years period the number of towns. There were only 116 towns in 1901 and these towns were increased to 213 by 1991 and decreased to 173 in 2001. There was only one city in 1941. The number of class I cities increased to 39 in 2001. According to the 2001 census, the state has 20.50 million of urban population in the 173 towns of different sizes or classes, ranging from less than 5,000 to more than 50 lakhs.

In 2001 Census of India, two types of towns were identified. They are

- (i) Statutory towns: All places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee etc. so declared by State Law
 - (ii) Census towns: Places which satisfy following criteria:
 - (a) A minimum population of 5000;
 - (b) at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
 - (c) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km.
- In the state, 26.89 per cent people live in urban areas.

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In Andhra Pradesh, there were three types of urban local bodies, viz., Municipalities, Municipal Corporation and Notified Area Committees. Notified Area Committees, under the 1965 Act, were nominated bodies constituted for special areas like industrial townships. The other bodies were fully democratic bodies.

The Act envisaged five grades of municipalities based on annual income, viz., third, second, first, special and selection grades. The strength of the municipal council is fixed based on population of the municipality concerned. It varied between 20 to 50 councillors based on population range at the last census. In the corporations, no such population ranges are fixed. The government was given authority to prescribe the actual strength of the corporation based on population. The council consisted of elected and ex-officio members. The elected members were directly chosen by the people from the wards. The MLAs and MLCs representing a constituency of which the



municipality forms a part were ex-officio councilors of that council under the Municipal Act of 1971. Since 1981 the local Member of Parliament became an ex-officio member of the municipal council. Similar provision was provided in case of the municipal corporations also. The term of the elected councilors and that of the chairpersons of municipalities and the mayors of the corporations was five years.

The Amended Municipal Act provided for reservations for certain categories both for councilors and chairpersons. Category-wise reservations as amended in 1986 and the percentages for different categories were 15, 06, 20 and 09 for SCs, STs, BCs and Women respectively. Provision was made in the Act to issue voter photo identity cards to all eligible voters.

- i. Reservation of seats to the SCs and STs in proportion to the population of these categories to the total population of the municipality concerned is made and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different wards.
- ii. One-third of the total number of seats is reserved for BCs and allotment to different wards is by rotation.
- iii. One-third of the seats reserved for SCs, STs and BCs are again reserved for women of these categories.
- iv. Not less than one third of the total number of seats (including reservation for SC, ST and BC categories) are reserved for women.

These reservations relate to the seats that are filled by direct election in the municipalities as well as corporations. Similar, reservations were also made for chairpersons of municipalities and mayor of corporations. The proportion of reservations for SCs/STs/BCs is same as that of councilors but applied at the state level. State level population figures are taken into consideration while working-out the respective proportion of reserved categories.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh took several steps to examine the various provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities and Corporations Acts in the light of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act. In May, 1993 the government constituted a Task Force consisting of senior officials dealing with the subjects relating to local governments, urban planning, etc., for studying various provisions of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act. The Task Force submitted its report in a very short time. The state government also constituted two Working Groups in October, 1993 one on municipal bodies and the other on urban planning to make specific recommendations on the amendments to be brought about. The term of the municipal councils expired in March 1992. The State government had not conducted the elections. It contemplated again some changes particularly the issues relating to the elections. Meanwhile the 74th Constitution Amendment Act 1992 came into operation. Finally, the State legislature enacted the Municipalities and Corporation Act in May 1994 in conformity with the Constitution Amendment Act.

The Andhra Pradesh Municipality Act, 1965, and the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955, were amended in conformity with the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1994. The amendments in Andhra Pradesh provide for all the



three types of municipal bodies, viz., Nagar Panchayats; Municipal councils and Municipal Corporations.

It is to be noted that the issue of reservation for the BCs was left to the discretion of the state governments in the 74th CAA. In Andhra Pradesh, reservation for BCs already existed and it is being continued in the amended Municipal Acts with an increase in their percentage.

Adopting the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act of 1994 along with reservation for BCs had increased the total percentage of reservations from thirty three to fifty in the municipalities and corporations. This is also true of reservation to the chairpersons. It is because the percentage of reservations for BCs and women increased from 20 and 9 to 33^{1/3}. Earlier certain percentages were fixed for SCs and STs, but in the amended Acts, it was changed to the proportion of respective populations to total population of the town or city. In the process, there were certain changes in the representation of SCs, STs, BCs and women Elections to urban local bodies in the State were held in 1987, 1995, 2000, 2005 Elections have been conducted in the state on party basis.

The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Act of 1994 and Article 243 U stipulate that each Municipality shall enjoy a term of 5 years. If a municipality is dissolved, subject to the condition as specified, the election to the municipal council is required to be held "before the expiration of a period of six months" from the date of its dissolutions. Seventy-fourth Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provides 3 types of municipal bodies, i.e., Nagar Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporation. The criterion for classification of municipal bodies is shown in the following table.3.1

Table - 3.1: Classification of Municipal Bodies

S.No	Criterion	Category of Municipal Body		Municipal Corporation
		Nagar Panchayats	Municipal Council	
1	Population	25,000 – 40,000	40,00 and More	4 Lakhs Above
2	Density of Population	1,000	1,000 and more	10,000 above
3	Percentage of employment in non-agricultural activities	50% and Above	60% and Above	85% and Above
4	Economic Importance	Availability of market facilities	Availability of market facilities and potential for industrial development	Available of market Civic Structure etc.
5	Revenue of local body	Rs.40 lakhs and above	Rs.60 Lakhs and above	Rs.40 and above



The existing five-grade classification of municipalities, which is based upon income criteria, is being continued. It is also provided that all the district headquarters should be classified as not lower than the First Grade Municipalities. While the Nagar Panchayats should be treated an equivalent to Third Grade Municipalities irrespective of their annual income.

Generally municipalities are classified into a number of grades on the basis of population or income or both. The municipalities in Andhra Pradesh are classified into five grades on the basis of their income as shown below:

Table - 3.2: Grades of Municipality and Annual Income

S.No	Grades of Municipality	Annual Income
1	Selection grade	More than 4 Crores or less than 5 crores
2	Special Grade	More than 3 Crores or less than 4 crores
3	First Grade	More than 2 Crores or less than 3 crores
4	Second Grade	More than 1 Crore or less than 2 crores
5	Third Grade	1 Crore or less than 1 crores

Thus there are five categories of municipalities in Andhra Pradesh and they are functioning in their jurisdiction. There are at present 124 Municipalities, 12 Nagar-Panchayats and 15 corporations.

A combined reading of Sub-section (22) of section 2 of the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1965 and rules 3 and 4 of the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities (Gradations of Municipal Council and Nagar Panchayats) Rules, 1995 would make it clear that graduates of Municipalities would not only depend upon the annual income of the municipality, but also such other criteria as could be prescribed by the government from time to time. Rule of 4 of the said rules further makes it clear that irrespective of the income, The Government shall be competent, by recording reasons in writing to declare by notification any municipality as of any grade irrespective of its annual income.

References:

1. Garbiel Almond and Poiringham Powell, Comparative Politics : A Developmental Approach Amerind Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1972
2. Samuel IJ. Eldersveld; Political Parties : A behavioural Analysis, Vora and Company, Bomba – 1971
3. Myron Weiner, Party Building in a New Nation : The Indian National Congress, the University of Chicago Press Chicago, 1967,
4. D.Pullarao. Urbanization in India: Census and Consequences, Nagarlok Vol.XL, April to June, 2008.
5. Until March 31, 1965, Two different Acts Governed the Municipalities in the State of Andhra Pradesh. They are the Hyderabad District Municipalities Act, 1956 and the Madras District Municipalities Act of 1920. The Madras Act was in force in the Andhra area, while the Hyderabad Act was applicable to the Telangana area.