

**THE PONDICHERRY VILLAGE AND COMMUNE PANCHAYATS  
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2001**

(Act No.10 of 2001)

[22-10-2001]

AN

Act

**Further to amend the Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act, 1973.**

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry in the Fifty-second year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**-(1) This Act may be called the Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 2001.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Insertion of new section 37-A.**-. In the Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act, 1973 (Act No.10 of 1973) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), after section 37, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

- (a) for the marking with indelible ink on the little finger of every elector who applies for a ballot paper or ballot papers for the purpose of voting at a polling station before delivery of such paper or papers to him;
- (b) for the production before the presiding officer or a polling officer of a polling station by every such elector as aforesaid of his identity card before the delivery of a ballot paper or ballot papers to him, if electors of the wards of the village panchayat in which the polling station is situated have been supplied with identity cards with or without their respective photographs attached thereto; and
- (c) for prohibiting the delivery of any ballot paper to any person for voting at a polling station if at the time such person applies for such paper he has already such a mark on his little finger or does not produce on demand his identity card before the presiding officer or a polling officer of the polling station."

**Insertion of new section 37-B :-**

3. In the principal Act, after section 37-A as so inserted, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

**Voting machines at elections.:-**

"37-B. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the rules made thereunder, the giving and recording of votes by voting machines in such manner as may be prescribed, may be adopted in such Panchayat Ward or Wards as the Election Commission may, having regard to the circumstances of each case, specify.

*Explanation.*-For the purpose of this section, 'voting machine' means any machine or apparatus whether operated electronically or otherwise used for giving or recording of votes and any reference to a ballot box or ballot paper in this Act or the rules made thereunder shall, save as otherwise provided, be construed as including a reference to such voting machine wherever such voting machine is used at any election."

**Amendment of Section 38:-**

4. In the principal Act, in sub-section(2) of section 38,-

(a) after clause

(I), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(II) the manner of giving and recording votes by means of voting machines and the procedure as to voting to be followed at polling stations where such machines are used."; and

(b) after clause (m), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(mm) the procedure as to counting of votes recorded by means of voting machines."