

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HOME (POLICE) DEPARTMENT.

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong the 29th May, 2008

No. HPL.65114/157 - In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 18 of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organisation Act (Assam Act XXII of 1966 as adapted by Meghalaya), the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to make the following rules :-

CHAPTER - I GENERAL

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) These rules may be called the Meghalaya Village Defence Organisation Rules, 2008.
2. **Definitions** - In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in subject or context -
 - (a) "Act" means the Meghalaya Village Defence Organisation Act (Assam Act XXII of 1966 as adapted by Meghalaya);
 - (b) "Adult" means a person who is not below the age of 18 years;
 - (c) "Adviser" means the Honorary Adviser or such other person who shall be appointed to act as Adviser by the State Government;
 - (d) "Advisory Committee" means a District Advisory Committee, a Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee or a Thana Advisory Committee constituted under the provision of these rules;
 - (e) "Chief Controller" means any officer not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police appointed by the State Government as Chief Controller;
 - (f) "District Village Defence Officer" means the Superintendent of Police of the District concerned;
 - (g) "Form" means form appended to these rules;
 - (h) "Government" means the State Government of Meghalaya;
 - (i) "Member" means an adult person enrolled as a member of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organisation in accordance with the provisions of these rules;
 - (j) "Naik" means the Naik of the Primary Village Defence Party;
 - (k) "prescribed" means prescribed under these rules;
 - (l) "President" means the President of the District Advisory Committee, Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee or a Thana Advisory Committee of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organization;
 - (m) "Secretary" means the secretary of the District Advisory Committee, Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee or a Thana Advisory Committee of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organization;
 - (n) "Sub-Divisional Advisory Village Defence Office" means the Sub-Divisional Police Officer of the Sub-Division Concerned; and
 - (o) "Thana Village Defence Officer" means the Inspector or Sub-Inspector of Police who is posted as Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station.
3. **Constitution of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organisation** - The entire Village Defence Organization in the State of Meghalaya shall be deemed to be one Defence Organization to assist the police by performing duties and functions as laid down in these rules. There shall be District Village Defence Organization, Sub-Divisional village Defence Organization, Thana Village Defence Organization and Primary Village Defence Organization. There shall also be an Advisory Committee for each Organization for organizational works of the Village Defence Organization. For Thana and Primary Village Defence Organizations there shall be a circle Organizer.
4. **Administrative control of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organization.** - The Administrative control of the Meghalaya Village Defence Organization shall be vested in –
 - (1) The Chief Controller for the entire State under the control and direction of the Director General of Police.
 - (2) The District Village Defence Officer, for the District concerned.
 - (3) The Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer for the Sub-Division concerned.
 - (4) The Thana Village Defence Officer for the Thana concerned.
 - (5) The Naik for the Primary Village Defence Organization.

CHAPTER - II

5. **Formation of Village Defence Primary Committee** - (1) The Village Defence Primary Committee shall be formed by the District Village Defence Officer on the recommendation of the Thana and Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer with one adult member from each family of the village or group of villages. Jurisdiction of each Primary Committee will be co-terminus with the conventional boundary of the village or group of villages, as the case may be. The members of the Primary Committee will select the President and the Secretary of the Committee (nominated by the District Village Defence Officer) from amongst the Primary Committee members. The Thana Officer or his representative shall be the Convener/Organizer of the Committee who shall not be less than Sub-Inspector in rank.
- (2) One or more Village Defence Parties shall be formed by the Primary Committee of the village or a group of villages with a *minimum* of 25 adult members of the age group between 18 to 50 years. The Village Defence Parties thus formed shall apply through the Primary Committee and the Thana Village Defence Officer concerned for registration. The District Village Defence Officer, after consideration of merits and financial implication, may or may not grant registration at his discretion. Registration shall entitle the party to enjoy the benefits, powers and privileges attached to the members of the Village Defence Party. The District Village Defence Officer can however allow Unregistered Village Defence Parties also to function under special circumstances. The operational jurisdiction of a Village Defence Party shall be confined to the limits of conventional boundary of a Village or group of villages out of which the Village Defence Party has been formed. The Thana Village Defence Officers may, under special circumstances, extend the operational jurisdiction of a Village Defence Party. No person having been convicted in a criminal offence shall be entitled to become a member of any Village Defence Party or Committee formed under these rules.
6. **Duties and functions of Village Defence Party** - The duties and functions of the Village Defence Parties shall be as laid down in Section 4 and sub-section (2) of Section 6 of the Act which will be as follows:
- (1) to assist the police in the maintenance of law and order, peace and tranquility when needed;
 - (2) to carry out patrol and watch in the area allotted for the party to prevent theft, burglaries, dacoities and other unlawful activities for protection of public lives and properties;
 - (3) to prevent commission of crime;
 - (4) to arrest proclaimed offenders and absconders and to produce such arrested persons to the nearest Police Station/Outpost without delay;
 - (5) to carry out joint patrol with the Police/other security forces;
 - (6) to give information regarding suspicious and bad characters;
 - (7) to ensure that no undesirable element is admitted into the Organization and enlisted as member of Village Defence Parties;
 - (8) to carry on constructive works or other welfare activities in the village;
 - (9) to render necessary assistance to the police in rescue and relief work connected with natural calamity; and
 - (10) to perform any other task as may be assigned by the District Village Defence Officer from time to time.
7. **Penalty/Punishment** - (1) Any member of a Village Defence Party who is guilty of any Violation, willful breach or neglect of the duties imposed by or under these rules or Who refuses to obey or comply with any lawful orders given by any competent authority under these rules shall be liable for the following disciplinary action-
- (i) temporary suspension from membership for a *period* not exceeding 6 (six) months from the date of order: or
 - (ii) removal from the membership.
- (2) The District Village Defence Officer shall be competent to award these punishments after due inquiry.
8. **Grant of rewards to member of Village Defence Party** - (1) The Chief Controller or District Village Defence Officer may grant money rewards to any Village Defence Party member for commendable services as provided for under Section 10 of the Act, which may extend upto Rs.500/- at a time.
- (2) For higher amount of rewards, suitable cases may be recommended to the Director General of Police who may grant rewards upto Rs.1000/- at a time.

9. **Duties and functions of Naik.** - (1) The Naik shall be responsible for actually turning out members of the Village Defence Party for patrol and watch duty. He shall check the working of his Party at night as far as possible. He shall maintain a Register of members of the Village Defence Party detailed for watch or patrol duty at night.

(2) In addition to the duties and functions specified above, the Naik of Village Defence Party shall perform duties and functions laid down under Section 4 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 6 of the Act.

10 **Duties and functions of primary Committee, its President and secretary.** - (1) The duties and functions of the Primary Committee shall be –

- (i) to constitute Village Defence Parties in its area;
- (ii) to ensure smooth working of the Village Defence Parties;
- (iii) to divide the group of villages into convenient beats for purpose of effective patrol and watch;
- (iv) to maintain a list of members of the Village Defence Parties;
- (v) to draw up a monthly programmed of patrol; and
- (vi) to ensure that no undesirable element is admitted into the organization and enlisted as member of the Village Defence Party.

(2) President of the Primary Committee –

- (i) The President of the Primary Committee shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Committee. He shall submit a fortnightly report of the working of the Village Defence Parties to the Secretary of the Thana Committee and to report immediately any matter of public interest affecting the conduct of business and any incident affecting the interest of the organization, law and order or welfare of the villages. He shall preside over its meetings.
- (ii) In addition to the duties and functions specified above, he shall perform duties and functions as laid down under section 4 and sub-section (1) to (3) of Section 6 of the Act.

(3) Secretary of the Primary Committee –

(i) The Secretary of the Primary Committee shall record the proceedings of the Committee meetings and forward copies of the proceedings to the Secretary of the Thana Committee.

(ii) In addition to the duties and functions specified above, he shall perform duties and functions as laid down under Section 4 and sub-section (1) to (3) and Section 6 of the Act.

The Secretary of the Primary Committee shall maintain proper accounts of Government money received and of articles and goods supplied by Government, He shall be responsible for loss of Government money and damage or loss of property supplied by Government. It shall be lawful for the District Village Defence Officer to make recoveries on the basis of these accounts.

(iii) The Secretary of the Primary Committee shall submit a fortnightly report to the Secretary of the Thana Committee showing the activities of Village Defence Parties during the preceding fortnight and also submit a monthly statement in the first week of every month showing the receipt and expenditure during the previous month.

CHAPTER - III

11. **Appointment of Circle Organizer, Village Defence Organisation.** - (1) The appointment of Circle Organizer shall be made by the District Village Defence Officer who shall be the appointing and Controlling Authority.

(2) The educational qualification for the post of Circle Organizer, Village Defence Organization shall be 10+2 passed. The candidate must be a citizen of India and native of the concerned District. The age limit shall not be less than 18 (eighteen) years and not more than 30 (thirty) years on the date of appointment. The upper age limit shall however be relaxed up to 35 (thirty five) years in case of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes candidates. The selected candidates must be found fit on *medical* examination and police verification.

12. **Service Book.** - The Service book and confidential Character Roll of Circle Organizer shall be maintained in the office of the District Village Defence Officer on appointment as Circle Organizer, Village Defence Organization.

13. Duties and responsibilities of Circle Organiser, Village Defence Organization. - (1) He shall be responsible for frequent supervision and guidance in regard to the duties, responsibilities and activities of the VDPs and shall keep in close touch with the Thana Village Defence Officer and Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer regarding the functioning of the Village Defence Parties of his Circle. He shall check the Government properties issued to the Village Defence Parties and also the account of remuneration given to the Registered Village Defence Parties at least once in a month. He shall attend the monthly meetings of the Thana and Primary Committee. He shall maintain close cooperation with the Secretaries of the Thana Advisory Committee and the Primary, Committee. It shall be his responsibility to ensure that the proceedings of the meeting of the Primary committee are sent timely to the District Village Defence Officer.

(2) All Village Defence Parties in his Circle are subject to his supervision -and control. He shall be responsible for making systematic arrangement for watch and ward.

(3) He shall be responsible to toe (1) District Village Defence Officer, (2) Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer and (3) Thana Village Defence Officer in respect of work of the Village Defence Parties of his Circle. In his attitude towards the aforesaid officers, he must be entirely without reserve and must keep them informed of all matters connected with the working of the Village Defence Parties in his Circle.

14. Monthly tour diary. - The Circle Organiser, Village Defence Organization shall submit advance tour programme to the District Village Defence Officer through the Thana and Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officers. In course of tours he shall activate the old Village Defence Parties and explore possibilities of forming new ones.

15. Status of Circle Organiser :

(1) The Circle Organiser shall be treated as Grade - III Government employee,

(2) The Circle Organiser, Village Defence. Organization shall be on probation for 2 (two) years from the date of his appointment, after which he may be confirmed by the District Village Defence Officer.

(3) The Circle Organiser shall on appointment come under the provisions of the Meghalaya Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, (As adapted, the Assam Discipline and Appeal Rule, 1964).

CHAPTER - IV

16. The Duties and functions of Thana Advisory Committee. - (1) An Advisory Committee shall be formed at each Thana with one member from, each Primary Committee to be appointed by the Chief Controller on the recommendation of the District Village Defence Officer. The Thana Village Defence Officer shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Thana Advisory Committee. The President of the Thana Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Chief Controller on the recommendation of the District Village Defence Officer. He need not necessarily be a member of the Thana Advisory Committee.

(2) The duties and functions of the Thana Advisory Committee shall be –

(i) to/watch and review the working of the Primary Committee;

(ii) to develop the spirit of cooperation between the police and the Village Defence Party;

(iii) to draw up programme of joint patrol between the police and the Village Defence Party;

(iv) to take steps to form additional Village Defence Parties where necessary;

(v) to instill enthusiasm for crime prevention and social defence among the rural population by propaganda and other measures;

(vi) to advise villages or group of the villages for formation of Primary Committee;

(vii) to ensure that no undesirable element is admitted into the Organization and enlisted as member of any Village Defence Party;

(viii) to encourage to Village Defence Parties to take up social work for village upliftment; and

(ix) to organize periodic training camps/seminars for Village Defence Party members.

(3) Duties and functions of the President of Thana Advisory Committee - It shall be the duty of the President to conduct the affairs of the Committee and preside over its meetings. He shall be responsible for proper functioning of the Thana Advisory Committee.

(4) Duties and function of the Secretary to the Thana Advisory Committee :-

(i) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the proceedings of the Thana meetings and send copies of the proceedings to the Secretary of the District/Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee.

(ii) He shall maintain a Register for registration of all the Primary Committees and the Village Defence Parties with the names of the members. He shall maintain a Thana Map showing the different Village Defence Parties in his jurisdiction. He shall submit a monthly report on the working of the Village Defence Parties of his area to the Secretary or the District/Sub-Divisional Committee. He shall arrange patrol parties

from the Police stations for Joint Patrol with the Village Defence Parties. He shall report immediately to the Secretary of the District/Sub-Divisional Committee any matter of public; interest affecting the organization.

(iii) The Secretary of the Thana Committee shall be responsible for maintaining proper accounts of Government money received and disbursed and Government property received and issued to Village Defence Parties.

(iv) The Secretary of the Thana Committee shall submit a monthly report to the Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee showing the activities of the Primary committee and the Village Defence Parties within his area during the previous month. He shall also submit a statement to the District Village Defence Officer in the first week of every month showing the receipt and expenditure during previous month.

17 Duties and functions of the Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee. - (1) An Advisory Committee shall be formed in each sub-Divisional Headquarters with 2 to 3 members from each Thana Committee to be appointed by the Chief Controller on the recommendation of the District Village Defence Officer. Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer shall be ex-officio Secretary of such Committee. The President will be appointed by the Chief controller on the recommendation of the District Village Defence Organization.

(2) The Duties and functions of the Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee shall be -

- (i) to recommend steps to be taken to popularize the Village Defence Parties;
- (ii) to watch and review the working of the Thana Committee and Primary Committee;
- (iii) To advise the officials regarding measures to be taken to ensure close cooperation between the police and the Primary Committees;
- (iv) to advise the officials regarding holding of rallies and anniversaries;
- (v) to advise formation of additional Village Defence Parties where Incidence of crime and other circumstances warrant the same; and
- (vi) to ensure that no undesirable elements are admitted into the Organization and enlisted as members of any Village Defence Party.

(3) Duties and functions of Presidents - The President shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Sub-divisional Committee. In the absence of the President, the Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer shall preside over the meetings.

(4) Duties and Functions of Secretary - The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the Committee meetings and send copies or proceedings to the District Village Defence Officer. He shall maintain the necessary Registers and records and shall also maintain list of Primary Committees with names of the members, Thana-wise and the names of Village Defence Party members under each Primary Committee. He shall watch the working of the Thana Committees, Primary Committees and Village Defence Parties. He shall place the report of working of the Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer before the Committee and may also apprise the Committee of the crime and law and order situation, in the Sub-Division. He shall see that such periodical report and returns as prescribed are regularly submitted by the Thana Committee and Primary committees. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping proper accounts of Government money and Government Property.

18 Duties and functions of District Advisory Committee. - (1) An Advisory Committee shall be formed at each District Headquarters with at least one member from each Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the District Village Defence Officer and Chief Controller. District Village Defence Officer shall be ex-Officio Secretary of the District Advisory Committee and the President will be appointed by Chief Controller on the recommendation of the District Village Defence Officer.

(2) The duties and functions of the District Advisory Committee shall be –

- (i) to recommend steps to be taken to popularise the Village Defence Organization, to encourage formation of Village Defence Parties;
- (ii) to watch and review the working of the Sub-Divisional Committee, Thana Committees, Primary Committees and to recommend steps to be taken to rectify any defects noticed;
- (iii) to advise the officials regarding measures to be taken to ensure close cooperation between the Police and Primary Committees;
- (iv) to advice the officials regarding holding of rallies and anniversaries;
- (v) to advise formation pf additional Village Defence Parties where incidence of crime and other circumstances warrant the same; and
- (vi) to ensure that no undesirable elements are admitted into the Organization and enlisted as members of any Village Defence Party or any of its Advisory Committees.

(3) The duties and functions of the President - The President shall be responsible for conducting the

affairs of the District Advisory Committee. In the absence of the President, the District Village Defence Officer shall preside over the meetings.

(4) The duties and functions of the Secretary - The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the Committee meetings and send copies of proceedings to the Chief Controller. He shall maintain such Registers as prescribed and shall also maintain list of Primary Committees with names of members thana-wise and the Village Defence Party members under each Primary Committee, He shall watch the working of the Thana Committee, Primary Committee and Village Defence Parties.

(5) The Secretary of the Advisory Committee District Headquarters shall be responsible for keeping proper account of Government property.

19. **Tenure of all Committees.** - The tenure of all Committees formed under these rules shall be 5 (five) years from the date of formation of each Committee and on expiry of the terms, each Committee shall be reconstituted as provided here-in-before, The old Committee however shall continue to function till a new Committee is formed.

20. **Quorum.** - The Primary Committee shall sit once in a fortnight. The Thana Committee shall sit once in a month" and the Sub-Divisional Committees shall sit at least once in three months. The quorum of each sitting of all Committees should be one third of the total members.

CHAPTER - V

21. **Appointment, duties and functions of Honorary Adviser** - (1) Appointment and tenure - There shall be one Honorary Adviser in each District who shall be appointed by the Government out of a panel of active and respectable residents of the. District prepared by a Selection committee headed by the Deputy Inspector General/Inspector General (Range). The tenure of Honorary Adviser shall normally be 5 (five) years. The Government will, however, have the discretion to terminate the appointment at any time before completion of tenure.

(2) Duties and functions –

- (i) The Honorary Adviser shall endeavor to enlist active cooperation of the people towards the fulfillment of the objectives of the Village Defence Organization by organizing mass contacts, mass meetings, rallies and anniversaries, etc.
- (ii) Organize VDP rally annually;
- (iii) Activate the existing VDPs and explore possibilities of forming new ones and give his views/recommendations in this regard to the District Village Defence Officer;
- (iv) Periodically check the position regarding payment of out of pocket money to VDPs. Keep the VDPs informed about position regarding payment of out of pocket money and supply of prescribed equipments;
- (v) Supervise the functioning of the VDPs in the District and keep the District Village Defence Officer informed about the same;
- (vi) Endeavour to develop a spirit of active cooperation between the police and the VDPs and give his advice to the District Village Defence Officer in this regard;
- (vii) To recommend steps to be taken to popularize VDPs to the District Village Defence Officer and to create enthusiasm among the local population for the activities of the VDPs;
- (viii) Periodically hold meetings With the VDPs accompanied by the Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station and In Charge of the Out Post in which role and functions of the VDPs should be explained in detail. Motivate the VDPs to discharge their functions and duties with utmost sincerity;
- (ix) Furnish views and recommendations with regard to functioning of VDPs to the District Village Defence Officer regularly;
- (x) Encourage the VDP members who are doing good work by recommending suitable money regards to them to the District Village Defence Officer; and
- (xi) Submit monthly report to the District Village Defence Officer regarding functioning of VDPs. Honorary Adviser shall submit advance monthly tour programme to the District Village Defence Officer for approval. He will submit monthly tour diary to the District Village Defence Officer regularly.

CHAPTER - VI

22. **Power and functions of District Village Defence Officers** - (1) District Village Defence Officer shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Organization in his District. The

District Village Defence Officer shall watch and supervise the working of the Organization and inspect registers and accounts maintained by the District, sub-Divisional, Thana and Primary Committees and Village Defence Parties in their respective Districts. For the purpose of implementation of this Act, an officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police in each District will assist the District Village Defence Officer, an officer of the rank of Inspector or Sub-Inspector of Police in each Sub-Division will assist. the Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer and an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector or Police will assist in each Police Station. There will be a Circle Organizer, Village Defence Organization in each Circle.

- (2) The District Village Defence Officer may remove any member from any of the Committees or the Village Defence Party as the case may be if he is of the opinion that the member remains absent or is negligent in the discharge of his duties. No disciplinary proceedings will be necessary for the purpose of such removal. However, before a member is removed, an inquiry shall be conducted and the reasons for removal clearly recorded. The order of removal along with the reasons shall be submitted for information of the Chief Controller.
- (3) The Annual Confidential Character Roll of the Circle organizer, Village Defence Organisation. The Character Roll shall be initiated by the Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officer. Where there is no Sub Divisional Village Defence Officer, the Character Roll will be initiated by the concerned Circle Inspector or Deputy Superintendent of Police supervising the work of Village Defence Organisation. The District Village Defence Officer will be the Reviewing Officer and the Chief Controller will be the Accepting Officer. As regards the Honorary Adviser, the District Village Defence Officer will submit a report on his work during the year to the Government through the Chief Controller and Director General of Police.
- (4) The Superintendent of Police who is the District Village Defence Officer shall be the Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of his Village Defence establishment in respect of (i) all contingency bills, (ii) out of pocket allowance, (iii) T.A. and D.A. to the staff of the Village Defence Organisation of his district. He shall be responsible for maintaining proper accounts of, Government money as well as Government property allotted to his District.

23. *Withdrawal of or suspension of Registration of Registered Village Defence Parties -*

The District Village Defence Officer may, if he deems fit and necessary, for proper functioning of any Village Defence Party, cancel registration of such Village Defence Party in the District without assigning any reason. The Village Defence Party whose registration is cancelled shall not be entitled to any out of pocket allowance and supply of equipments from the date of such cancellation. All members and office bearers of the Party whose registration is cancelled shall cease to be vested with any powers, functions and privileges as members of the Village Defence Organisation.

24. Power and functions of Chief Controller. - (1) The Chief Controller shall be responsible for control, supervision and administration of the Village Defence Organisation under the control and direction of the District General of Police. He may call for such periodical reports from District and Sub-Divisional Village Defence Officers as he considers necessary. He may inspect at any time the Registers and accounts maintained by different Committees and Village Defence Parties. The Chief Controller would be the Appellate Authority in matters of disciplinary proceedings concerning a Circle Organiser, Village Defence Organisation.

(2) The Chief Controller shall . control the budget of the entire Organisation. He shall be the drawing and disbursing officer in respect of his office establishment as well as of contingencies, both contract and non contract, relating to the expenditure such as (i) purchase of standard equipments for the VDPs, (ii) rewards to the VDPs, (iii) badges, (iv) anniversary and rallies, (v) Advisory Committee and (vi) Contingency for the office of the whole organization. He shall be responsible for maintaining proper accounts.

CHAPTER - VII

26. Out of pocket money. - The Village Defence Parties shall received financial aid from Government as out of pocket money at the rate fixed by the Government from time to time to

meet such charges as kerosene, torchlight, batteries, stationeries, etc. Payment of out of pocket money will be contingent upon the actual functioning of the VDPs Payment shall be made through the Secretary, Thana Committee.

27. **Supply of Equipments and Arms** - (1) Each Village Defence Party shall be supplied with the following articles to enable the VDP to carry out patrolling and watch effectively, namely.-

(i)	Whistle with cord	-	3 Nos.
(ii)	Torchlight (three cells)	-	2 Nos.
(iii)	Lantern	-	1 No.
(iv)	Umbrella or raincoat	-	5 Nos.
(v)	Blanket/Great Coat	-	5 Nos.
(vi)	Red Sash with VDP words to be worn on duty	-	5 Nos.
(vii)	VDP Brass Badges	-	5 Nos.
(viii)	Spears	-	5 Nos.
(ix)	Naik Badge	-	1 No.

(2) This scale and type of equipment may be suitable increased or modified with the prior approval of the Government. The life of each equipment shall be fixed by the Chief Controller, Village Defence Organisation by an executive order from time to time after obtaining approval of the Director General of Police:

(3) The Secretary of the Primary Committee shall be responsible for proper care and maintenance of the articles supplied. The Naik or the leader of each Village Defence Party shall be responsible for issuing the articles to the members going out on night patrol duty and for taking them back the following morning.

28. **Registers, Report and, Correspondences.** - The Following Registers, books and papers shall be maintained by the officers mentioned below, -

(a) Chief Controller and District Village Defence Officer shall maintain -

- (i) Cash Book;
- (ii) Bill register;
- (iii) Contingency Register;
- (iv) Acquittance Roll;
- (v) Register of papers, receipt cheque;
- (vi) Stock book;
- (vii) T.A. Bill Register;
- (viii) Stationery register;
- (ix) Service stamp account register;
- (x) Registers of papers received and dispatched;
- (xi) Register for Primary Committee and VD Parties;
- (xii) Register for Minutes of Meetings;
- (xiii) Inspection register; and
- (xiv) Rewards and punishment register.

(b) Secretary, Sub-Divisional Advisory Committee shall maintain -

- (i) Register of Primary Committee and Village Defence Parties;
- (ii) Register of Minutes of meeting; and
- (iii) Register of papers received and dispatched.

(c) Secretary, Thana Committee shall maintain -

- (i) Cash Account Book;
- (ii) Stock Book;
- (iii) Register for Primary Committee and VDP members;
- (iv) Register for Minutes of the meetings;
- (v) Register for papers received and dispatched; and
- (vi) Inspection Register.

- (d) Secretary, Primary Committee shall maintain -
- (i) Cash Account Book;
 - (ii) Stock Book;
 - (iii) Lit of Village Defence Party members in a Register;
 - (iv) Register for Minutes of meetings;
 - (v) Duty Register;
 - (vi) Register for papers received and dispatched; and
 - (vii) Inspection Register.

29. **Other Provisions** . (1) Badges and Sash - Red Sash with words "V.D.P." and Brass "B.D.P." Badge shall be worn when on duty. It shall be the duty of the Naik to issue items when detailing Village Defence Party members for duty. The Naik shall wear a brass badge "Naik" which may be provided by the District Village Defence Officer, The type, patters, design' and other specifications of such badges shall be as determined by the Chief controller.
- (2) Danger Signals- Danger or alarm signals at the time of actual or anticipated danger shall be given in the following manner -
- (a) Quick ringing or an improvised bell giving sound loud enough to be heard from all corners of the village forming the beat. The Improvised bell shall be hung in the centre of the village preferable in an elevated place or in an office building.
 - (b) Drums may be kept for quick beating.
 - (c) While on patrolling or watch duty, alarms shall be given by the patrol or watch party by blowing the whistle in quick successive short blast.
 - (d) The Secretary of the Thana Committee shall give the Naik of Village Defence Parties training in alarm and danger signals. Police Officers visiting the Village Defence Parties shall also give instructions in using the alarm signals.
30. **Existing parties** . -All the existing Village Defence Parties shall continue to function but they shall come under this new rules,
31. **Office Bearers** . - All office bearers of the Village Defence Organisation shall be deemed to be the members of the "Meghalaya Village Defence Organisation".
32. **OATH** . - Every member of the Village Defence Organization shall be required to take the following oath before the President and the Secretary of the Primary Village Defence Committee.

FORM OF OATH/SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

I, Shri :..... In the name of God and humanity take this solemn oath/solemnly affirm and promise that I will exercise vigilance and protect my village and my country from thieves, robbers, decoitv and those disturbing peach and order and other anti social elements and with all my power and energy will serve at all times and under all circumstances, the humanity and my country, I will carry out always and at all times all the lawful orders of my superior officers.

"SO HELP ME GOD"

33. **Relaxation, Interpretation and saving;** - Where Government is satisfied that the operation of any of these rules causes undue hardship in any particular case, it may dispense with or relax that rule to such existent and subject to such conditions as it may consider necessary to deal with the case in a just and equitable manner:

Provided that the case of any person shall not be dealt with in any manner less favourable to him than that provided in these rules.

Sd/-

Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Home(Police) Department.