



International Environmental
Law Research Centre

Nagaland Municipal Act, 2001 (excerpts)

(Excerpts - water supply and sanitation provisions)

This document is available at ielrc.org/content/e0116.pdf

For further information, visit www.ielrc.org

Note: This document is put online by the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC) for information purposes. This document is not an official version of the text and as such is only provided as a source of information for interested readers. IELRC makes no claim as to the accuracy of the text reproduced which should under no circumstances be deemed to constitute the official version of the document.

NAGALAND MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001

115. Vesting of property, —

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the movable and immovable properties of the following categories within the limit of the municipal area of a Municipality shall, unless the Government, by notification, otherwise directs, vest in the Municipality constituted for such area, namely: —

(d) All public sewers and drains, channels, tunnels, culverts and watercourses in, alongside or under any street;

PART – V
CIVIC SERVICES
CHAPTER – II
FUNCTIONS IN RELATION TO WATER SUPPLY

202. Duty of Municipality to Supply water:

(1) On a notification issued by the Government, as provided under this Act, in relation to water supply, it shall be duty of the Municipality to take steps from time to time, —

(a) For ascertaining the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplied within the municipal area;

(b) For providing a supply of whole some water in pipes to every part of the municipal area of the Municipality in which there are houses, for domestic purposes of the occupants thereof, and for taking the pipes affording that supply to such point or points as will enable the houses to be connected thereto at a reasonable cost, so, however, that this clause shall not require the Municipality to do anything, which is not practicable at a reasonable cost or to provide such supply to any part of the municipal area where such supply is already available at such point or points aforesaid;

(c) For providing, as far as possible, a supply of wholesome water otherwise than in pipes to every part of the municipal area in which there are houses, for domestic purposes of the occupants thereof and to which it is not practicable to provide supplying pipes at a reasonable cost, and in which danger to health arises from the insufficiency or unwholesomeness of the existing supply and a public supply is required and can be provided at a reasonable cost, and for securing that such supply is available within a reasonable distance of every house in that part.

(2) If any question arises under clause (b) of sub-session (1) as to whether anything is or is not practicable at a reasonable cost or as to the point or points, to which pipes must be taken in order to enable houses to be connected to them at a reasonable cost, or, under clause (c) thereof, as to whether a public supply can be provided at a reasonable cost, the Municipality shall decide the question.

203. Supply of water to connected premises, —

(1) The Chief Officer of the Municipality may, on application by owner, lessee or occupier of any building, arrange for supplying of water from the nearest main to such building for domestic purposes in such quantities, as deemed reasonable, and may at any time limit the amount of water to be supplied whenever considered necessary.

(2) For all water supplied under sub-session (1), payment shall be made at such rate, as may be fixed by the Government from time to time:

Provided that in fixing pro rata unit rate, the Government shall endeavour to cover the cost for operation, maintenance, depreciation, interest payments and other charges related to the water-works and the distribution costs, including distribution losses, if any.

(3) A supply of water for domestic purposes shall not be deemed to include a supply:—

(a) For animals or for washing vehicles where such animals or vehicles are kept for sale or hire;

(b) For any trade, manufacture of business;

- (c) For fountains, swimming baths, or for any ornamental or mechanical purpose;
- (d) For gardens or for purposes of irrigation;
- (e) For watering roads and paths;
- (f) For building purposes; and
- (g) To any institutional building, assembly building, business building, mercantile building, industrial building, storage building or hazardous building, referred to in clause (2) of section 340 or any part of such building, other than that used as residential building or educational building within the meaning of sub-clause (a) and sub-clause (b) of Clause (2) of Section 340:

Provided that, subject to such limits, as may be specified in the regulations made in this behalf, a supply of water: —

- (i) For fountains, swimming baths, or any ornamental or mechanical purposes; or
- (ii) For gardens; or
- (iii) For watering paths;

Within any residential premises, shall be deemed to be a supply of water for domestic purposes.

204. Supply of water for other than domestic purposes, —

(1) The Chief Officer of the Municipality, may, supply water for any purposes, other than a domestic purpose, on such terms and conditions, consistent with this Act and the regulations made thereunder including the condition of withdrawal of water, as may be laid down in this behalf by the Municipality, on receiving a written application specifying the purposes for which the supply is required and the quantity likely to be consumed.

(2) For all water supplied under sub-section (1), payment shall be made at such rate, as may be fixed by the Government from time to time:

Provided that in fixing pro rata unit rate, the Government shall endeavour to cover the cost for operation, maintenance, depreciation, interest payments and other charges related to the water works and the distribution costs, including distribution losses, if any.

(3) The Municipality may withdraw such supply at any time, if it thinks it necessary so to do in order to maintain a sufficient supply water for domestic purpose.

205. Making connection with municipal water works, —

(1) When an application under Section 203 or Section 204 has been received, all necessary communication pipes and fittings, shall be supplied by the Municipality and the work of laying and applying such communication pipes and fittings, shall be executed under the orders of the Chief Officer of the Municipality.

(2) The cost of making such connection and of all communication pipes and fittings so supplied and of all works so executed shall be paid by the owner or the person making such application.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Chief Officer may require any owner or the person applying for a supply of water to provide, to the satisfaction of the Chief Officer, all communication pipes and fittings and to carry out at his own cost, under his supervision and inspection, all the work of laying and applying such communication pipes and fittings.

(4) Where it is practicable to supply water at a reasonable cost within the meaning of sub-section (2) of Section 202, the work relating to making of connection and fitting

of communication pipes and fittings shall be executed within a period of one month from the date of the receipt of application under sub-section (1).

(5) The cost recovered under this section for making connection and supplying and communication pipes and fittings shall be spent only on works relating to water supply.

206. Water supply through hydrants, stand-posts and other conveniences, —

(1) The Municipality may, in exceptional circumstances provide gratuitous supply of wholesome water to the public within the municipal area and may, for that purpose, erect public hydrants or stand-posts or other conveniences.

(2) The Municipality may close a public hydrant, stand-posts or other conveniences for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(3) The Municipality may, by regulations, provide for safety, maintenance and use of such public hydrants or stand-posts, subject to such conditions, as may be specified in the regulations.

207. Provision for fire hydrants, —

(1) The Chief Officer of a Municipality shall fix hydrants on water mains (other than trunk mains) at such places, as may be most convenient for affording supply of water for extinguishing any fire, which may break-out and shall keep in good order such hydrants, and may, from time to time renew such hydrants.

(2) to denote the situation of every hydrants placed under this section, letters marks or figures shall be displayed prominently on some wall, building or other structure near such hydrant.

(3) As soon as the work relating to any such hydrant is completed, the Chief Officer shall deposit a key thereof at each place where a public fire engine is kept and in such other place as he may deem necessary.

(4) The Chief Officer may, at the request and expenses of the owner or occupier of any factory, workshop, trade premises or place of business situated in or near a street in which a pipe is laid (not being a truck main and being of sufficient dimensions to carry a hydrant), fix on the pipe and keep in good order and, from time to time, renew one or ore fire hydrants, to be used only for extinguishing fire as near as conveniently may be to that factory, workshop, trade premises or place of business.

(5) The Chief Officer shall allow all persons to take water for extinguishing fire from any pipe on which a hydrant is fixed, without any payment.

208. Supply of water outside Municipal area, —

(1) The Municipality may, with the sanction of, and on such terms, as may be approved by the Government, supply water to a local authority or any person outside the municipal area.

(2) The supply of water under sub-section (1) shall be at such rate, not being less than the cost of production and delivery, including the costs of debt servicing, depreciation of plant and machinery, loss and other charges if any, as the Municipality may, from time to time, determine.

209. Public tanks, sub-soil water etc. to vest in the Municipality. —

(1) All public tanks, reservoirs, cisterns, well, tube-wells, aqueducts, conduits, tunnels, pipes, taps and other water works, whether made, laid or erected at the cost, met from the Municipal Fund of the Municipality or otherwise, and all bridges, buildings, engines works materials and things, connected therewith or appertaining thereto and any adjacent land (not being private property) appertaining to any public

tank, which is situated within the municipal area, shall vest in the Municipality constituted for that municipal area.

(2) All rights over the sub-soil water resources within a municipal area shall vest in the Municipality constituted for that area.

210. Power to require Municipality to carry out survey and formulate proposals.—

A Municipality may, —

(a) Carry out a survey of the existing consumption of and demand for water supply in the municipal area and of the water resources in or available for the municipal area and quality thereof;

(b) Prepare an estimate of the future water supply requirements of the municipal area;

(c) Formulate proposals as to the existing or future water supply requirements of the municipal area; and

(d) Formulate proposals for maintaining the quality of water resources.

211. Works to be undertaken for supply of water. —

For the purpose of providing the municipal area with the proper and sufficient supply of water for public and private uses, the Municipality: —

(a) Shall cause such tanks, reservoirs, engines, pipes, taps, and other water-works, as may be necessary to be constructed or maintained, within or outside the municipal area;

(b) May purchase or take on lease any water-works or any right to store or to take and convey water either within or outside the municipal area; and

(c) May enter into an agreement with any person or authority for the supply of water:

Provided that the Municipality may, with the approval of the Government, make over to, or take over from, a statutory body the water-works so as to do anything, which may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.

212. Chief Officer to manage water works. —

Subject to the other provisions of the this Act, the Chief Officer of a Municipality shall manage all water-works and allied facilities belonging to the Municipality and shall maintain the same in good repair and efficient condition and shall cause to be done, from time to time, all such things, as shall be necessary or expedient for improving the said water-works and facilities.

213. Power of access to water-works. —

(a) The Chief Officer of a Municipality, or any person appointed by the Government in this behalf, may, for the purpose of inspecting or repairing or executing any work, in, upon or in connection with any water-works at all reasonable times: —

(i) Enter upon and pass through any land within or outside the municipal area, adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, such water-works, in whomsoever such land may vest; and

(ii) Convey into and through any such land all necessary materials, tools and implements.

(b) In the exercise of any power conferred by this section, as little damage, as possible may be done, and compensation for any damage, which may be done in the exercise of any such power, shall be paid by the Chief Officer, or, if the person so appointed by the Government has caused the damage, by the Government.

214. Purity of water for domestic purpose. —

(1) The Chief Officer of a Municipality shall, at all times, ensure that the water in any water-works belonging to the Municipality, from which water is supplied for domestic purposes is wholesome.

(2) The Municipality shall, when so required by any competent authority under any law for the time being in force, arrange for the examination of water, supplied for human consumption for the purpose of determining whether the water is wholesome.

215. Prohibition regarding sinking of tube-wells. —

(1) No person shall, except with prior permission in writing of the Municipality, sink any tube-well in any premises within the area of the Municipality subject to the provisions of the State Water Policy.

(2) The municipality may, grant such permission and issue a tube-well licence on such conditions and on payment of such annual fee, as the Municipality may, from time to time, specify.

(3) If any such work of sinking of tube-well is begun or completed within such permission, the Chief Officer of the Municipality, with the prior approval of the Municipality, may, —

(a) By written notice, require the owner or the other person, who has done such work to fill up or dismantling such work within such time, as may be specified in the notice, and if the work of filling up or dismantling is not done within the time so specified, the Chief Officer may, cause the work to be done and realise the expenses therefore from the owner or the person to whom such notice was given; or

(b) Grant permission to retain such work on such terms and conditions, as the Municipality may consider fit to impose.

216. Power to direct sinking of tube-well in some cases. —

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 215, the Municipality may, by a written notice, require the owner of a premises to sink a tube-well, if the premises are to be used as a place of public resort, or as a market, or as a place of employment of more than fifty persons, or, in other cases, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(b) Every such owner shall be bound to take out a tube-well licence on such conditions and on payment of such annual fee, as the Municipality may, from time to time, determine.

217. Registration of tube-wells.

The Chief Officer of a Municipality shall, cause to be maintained a register, in such form and in such manner, as may be determined by regulations, which shall provide an inventory of the tube-wells, public or private, sunk in the municipal area of the Municipality and such register shall be updated from time to time.

218. Power to fill up wells. —

Whenever a supply of water has been provided in any municipal area, the Municipality constituted for the municipal area may, by a written notice, require the owner, lessee or the occupier, as the case may be, of a well, tube-well, tank or other water area, forming a part of any premises in the said area, to fill up such well, tank, or other water area.

219. Digging of wells. —

(1) No new well, tank, pond, cistern or fountain shall be dug or constructed in any municipal area without the previous permission in writing, of the Municipality constituted for that area subject to the provisions of State Water Policy.

(2) If any such work is begun or completed without such permission, the Chief Officer of the Municipality, with prior approval of the Municipality, may, —

(a) By written notice, require the owner or the other person, who has done such work to fill up or demolish such work within such time, as may be specified in the notice, and if the work of filling up or demolition is not done within the time so specified the Chief Officer may, cause the work to be done and realise the expenses therefore from the owner or the person to whom notice was given; or

(b) Grant permission to retain such work or portion thereof on such terms and conditions, as the Municipality may consider fit to impose.

220. Power to set apart wells, tanks, for digging etc.—

The Municipal may, by order published at such places, as it thinks fit, set apart any tank, well, spring or water-course or any part thereof, vested in it or, by an agreement with the owner thereof, any private tank, Well, spring or water course or apart thereof, subject to any rights, which the owner may retain with the consent of the Municipality, for any of the following purposes, namely: —

(a) For the supply of water exclusively for drinking or for culinary purposes or for both; or

(b) For the purpose of bathing; or

(c) For washing animals or cloths; or

(d) For any other purpose connected with the health, cleanliness or comfort of the inhabitants, and may, by like order, prohibit the bathing or the washing of animals of clothes or other things at any public place, not set apart for such purposes, or prohibit any other act by which water in any public place may be rendered foul or unfit for use, or provide for alternative facilities and conveniences to regulate the use of any tank, well, spring or water-course to promote public safety, health and welfare.

221. Power to lay mains. —

(1) The Chief Officer of a Municipality may, lay main, whether within or outside the local limits of the Municipality, —

(a) In any street; and

(b) With the consent of every owner or occupier of any land not forming part of a street in, over or on that land,

and may, from time to time, in respect, repair, alter, or renew or may, at any time, remove any, main so laid, whether under this section or otherwise:

Provided that where a consent required for the purpose of this sub-section is withheld, the Chief Officer may, after giving the owner or the occupier of the land a written notice of his intention so to do, lay the main in, over or on that land even without such consent.

(2) Whenever the Chief Officer, in exercise of the powers under this section, lays a main in, over or any land not forming part of a street, or inspects, repairs, alters, renews or removes a main so laid in, over or on any such land, he shall pay compensation to every person interested in that land for any damage done thereto, or injury to that land by reason of the laying, inspection, repair, alteration, renewal or removal of the main.

222. Power to lay pipes. —

(1) The Chief Officer of a Municipality may, in any street whether within or outside the local limits of the municipal area of the Municipality, lay such service pipes with such stopcocks and other water fittings, as he may deem necessary for supplying water to premises and may, from time to time, inspect, repair, alter or renew and may, at any time, remove any service pipe laid in a street whether under this section or otherwise.

(2) Where a service pipe has been lawfully laid in, over, or, on the land not forming part of a street, the Chief Officer may, from time to time, enter upon that land and inspect, repair, alter, renew or remove the pipe or lay a new pipe in substitution thereof, but shall pay compensation for any damage done in the course of such action.

223. Power to require separate supply pipes. —

(1) The Chief Officer of a Municipality may, require the provision of a separate supply pipe for each of the premises supplied or to be supplied by the Municipality with water:

Provided that in case of any multi-storeyed building, the Chief Officer may require the provision of a separate supply pipe for each story of such multi-storied building or each independently occupied unit therein.

(2) If, in the case of any premises already supplied with water, but not having a separate supply pipe, the Chief Officer gives notice to the owner of the premises requiring the provision of such a pipe, the owner shall, within three months, lay so much of the required pipe as is not required to be laid in a street, and the Chief Officer shall lay so much of the required pipe as to be laid in a street and make all necessary communications.

(3) If an owner, upon whom a notice has been served under sub-section (2), fails to comply therewith, the Chief Officer may cause the work, which the owner was required to execute, to be executed and recover the expenses reasonably incurred by him in executing the work as arrears of tax under this Act.

224. Power to require water supply to be undertaken. —

If it appears to the Chief Officer of a Municipality that any premises in the municipal area, are without supply of wholesome water for domestic purposes or that the existing supply of water for domestic purposes, available for the persons usually occupying or employed in such premises, is inadequate or on any sanitary grounds objectionable, the Chief Officer may, by notice in writing require the owner of the premises or the persons primarily liable for the payment of the tax on lands and buildings in respect of the same,—

(a) To take a connection from the mains of the Municipality adequate for the requirements of the persons occupying or employed in the premises or to take such additional or enlarged connection or connections from the mains; and

(b) To provide supply pipes and water-fittings, and do all such works and take all such measures, as may, in the opinion of the Chief Officer, be necessary for the above purposes.

225. Power to require owners of premises to set up pumps. —

(1) The owner of every premises connected with municipal water-works shall, when so required by the Chief Officer of a Municipality, set up electric pumps or other contrivances whereby water may be caused to reach the top of the topmost storey of such premises.

(2) No such electric pump shall be fixed directly on the main of the supply line, but shall be fixed on the under ground storage tank to be provided for the purpose by the owner.

(3) No booster pump shall be set up without a written permission of the Chief Officer.

226. Obligation of owner or occupier to give notice of waste of water. —

Any owner or occupier of any building or land in a municipal area in which water supplied under this Act is misused from negligence or other circumstances under this control, or used without permission in excess of the quantity fixed under section 203 or section 204, or in which pipes, mains, or other works are out of repair to such extent, as to cause waste of water, shall, if he has knowledge thereof, be bound to give notice of the same to the Chief Officer of the Municipality.

227. Power to enter premises to detect waste or misuse of water. —

The Chief Officer of a Municipality or any officer of the Municipality authorised by the Chief Officer in writing in this behalf may, between sunrise and sunset, enter any premises supplied with water by the Municipality in order to examine, if there is any waste or misuse of such water and the Chief Officer or such officer, shall not be refused entry into the premises nor shall be obstructed by any person in making his examination.

228. Power to test water fittings. —

The Chief Officer of a Municipality may cause to be tested any water fitting used in connection with water supplied by the Municipality.

229. Power of Chief Officer to cut off or turn off supply of water. —

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Chief Officer of a Municipality may, cut off the connection between any water works of the Municipality and any premises to which water is supplied from such works, or may turn off such supply, in any of the following cases, namely: —

(a) If the person whose premises are supplied with water, neglects to pay any sum payable under Section 203 or Section 204 when due, or fails to give notice as provided in Section 225.

(b) If the premises are unoccupied;

(c) If, after receipt of a written notice from the Chief Officer requiring him to refrain from so doing, the owner or occupier of the premises continues to use the water or to permit the same to be used, in contravention of this Act or of any regulations made thereunder;

(d) If the occupier of the premises contravenes the provisions of sub-section (3) of Section 203;

(e) If the occupier refuses to admit any officer or employee of the Municipality, duly authorised in that behalf into the premises for the purpose of making any inspection under this Act or under any regulations relating to water supply made under this Act, or prevents such officer or employee from making such inspection;

(f) If any pipes, taps, works or fittings, connected with the supply of water to the premises be found, on examination by the Chief Officer, to be out of repair to such an extent, as to cause so serious a waste of water that, in the opinion of the Chief Officer, immediate prevention is necessary;

(h) If the use of the premises for human habitation has been prohibited under this Act from the date from which the premises are to be vacated in pursuance of an order under this Act;

- (i) If there is any water pipe situated within the premises to which no tap or other efficient means of turning the water off is attached;
- (j) If by reason of a leak in the service-pipe or fitting, damage is caused to the public street and immediate prevention is necessary;
- (k) If the occupier of the premises fails to pay in full any amount due from him for supply of water under this Act;

Provided that, —

- (i) Water shall not be cut off or turned off in any case referred to in clause (h) or clause (k) unless written notice of not less than seventy-two hours has been given to the occupier of the premises;
 - (ii) In any case referred to in clause (g) or clause (j) the Chief Officer may carry out necessary repair to pipes, taps, works, or fitting, and recover the expenses thereof from the owner or the occupier of the premises.
- (2) The expenses of cutting off water supply, shall be paid by the owner or the occupier of premises and shall be recoverable from the owner or the occupier as arrears of tax under this Act.

230. Water Pipes etc., not to be placed where water will be polluted, —

- (1) No water pipe shall be laid in a drain or on the surface of an open channel or house gully or within six metres of a cesspool or in any position where the pipe is likely to be injured or the water therein polluted and no well or tank, and except with the consent of the Chief Officer of the Municipality, no cistern shall be constructed within six metres of a latrine or cesspool.
- (2) No latrine or cesspool shall be constructed or made within six metres of any well, tank, water pipe or cistern or in any position where pipe, well, tank or cistern is likely to be injured or the water therein polluted.

231. Power to close or restrict use of water from polluted source of supply, —

- (1) If the Chief Officer of a Municipality is of the opinion that the water in, or obtained from, any well, tube well, tank or other source of supply, not vested in the Municipality, being water, which is or is likely to be used for domestic purposes or for the preparation of food or drink for human consumption, is or is likely to become so polluted as to be prejudicial to health, the Chief Officer may, after giving the owner or the occupier of the premises in which the source of supply is situated, a reasonable opportunity of being heard, in such manner, as may be prescribed, by order, direct that the source of supply be permanently or temporarily closed cut off or the water therefrom, be used for certain purposes only or make such order, as appears to him necessary to prevent injury or danger to the health of the person using the water or consuming food or drink prepared therewith or therefrom.
- (2) Before making any order under this section, the Chief Officer may cause the water to be analysed at the cost of the Municipality.
- (3) If the person to whom an order is made under this section, fails to comply therewith, the Chief Officer may do whatever may be necessary for giving effect to the order, and any expenses reasonably incurred by him in so doing, may be recovered by him from the person in default as an arrears of tax under this Act.

232. Supply pipes to be maintained —

It shall be incumbent on the owner or the occupier of any premises to which water is supplied from any waterworks belong to the Municipality to keep in a thoroughly clean condition, and to maintain and keep in efficient repair every supply pipe

connecting the premises to the supply mains of the Municipality and any other water fittings in the premises:

Provided that upon an inspection, the Chief Officer of the Municipality may, by written notice, require the owner or the occupier of the premises to remedy any defect, which he may find:

Provided further that when an occupier of any premises is served with a notice under this Section, he may, after giving three days' notice in writing to the owner or to the person to whom he is responsible for the payment of his rent, himself have the repairs executed and deduct the expenses thereof from any rent which is due from him to such person.

233. Power to provide metres, —

(1) The Chief Officer of a Municipality may, provide a water-metre and attach the same to the supply pipe in the premises connected with the service mains of the Municipality.

(2) The expenses of providing and attaching a metre under sub-section (1) shall be paid out of the Municipal Fund of the Municipality and the consumer shall be charged rent for the same.

234. Installation of metre by the owner, —

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 233, the owner may, with the previous permission of the Municipality, install at his own cost a water-metre of such size, material and description, as the Municipality may approve and it shall be sealed by the Municipality.

(2) In case of the water-metre being out of order, shall be repaired by the owner at his own cost within fifteen days failing which the owner shall be liable to pay for the supply of water a fee, which shall be two times the average of the two preceding bills.

235. Presumption as to correctness of metres, —

When water is supplied under this Act through a metre, it shall be presumed that the quantity indicated by the metre, has been consumed, until the contrary is proved.

236. Prohibition of fraud in respect of metres. —

(1) No person shall fraudulently, —

(a) Alter the index to any metre or prevent any metre from duly registering the quantity of the water supplied; and

(b) Abstract or use water before it has been registered by a metre set up for the purpose of measuring the same.

(2) The existence of artificial means under the control of the consumer for causing any such alteration, prevention, obstruction or use shall be an evidence that the consumer has fraudulently affected the same.

237. Payment for supply of water, —

In premises where a metre has been attached on a supply pipe, the occupier shall be liable to pay for the water, shown to have been consumed on the basis of the readings recorded by the metre;

Provided that where a water-metre attached to the supply pipe in any premises or building connected with the service mains of the Municipality, goes out of order, or where there is a dispute about the proper operation of such water-metre, or where such water-metre has fraudulently altered or tampered with, the fee for the supply of

water to such premises or buildings, shall be two times the average of two preceding bills.

238. Entrustment of operation and maintenance of water supply system, billing and collection of charges, —

A Municipality may, with the prior approval of the Government, entrust the work of operation and maintenance of the water supply system within the municipal area and the work of billing and collection of water charges to any Government, statutory or private agency, subject to such condition, as the Municipality may, determine.

239. Joint and several liability of owner and occupiers for offence in relation to water supply, —

If any offence relating to water supply is committed under this Act on any premises connected with the municipal water-works the owner, the person primarily liable for payment of tax on lands and buildings, and the occupier of the said premises, shall be jointly and severally liable for such offence.