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Subject Committees and their Functions under the Kerala Legislative Assembly

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ABSTRACT

The Legislative Assembly is vital for democratic governance. It ensures representation, accountability, and transparency in how the state operates. In Kerala, the introduction of Subject Committees in 1980 was a groundbreaking reform in India's parliamentary practice. This move aimed to improve legislative oversight and encourage participatory democracy. Originally ten, the committees later grew to fourteen. They provide a structured way to examine policies, budget allocations, draft laws, and administrative reports in detail. Their make-up, duration, and rules balance efficiency with inclusivity. Members are nominated by the Speaker and follow clear guidelines under the Rules of Procedure. Recognized as a best practice, Kerala's Subject Committees influenced the establishment of parliamentary standing committees at the national level in 1993. By institutionalizing transparency, inclusiveness, and informed governance, they continue to serve as an essential mechanism for deepening democratic participation and effective policy-making.

KEYWORDS

Subject Committees, Kerala Legislature, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Assembly is a fundamental institution in a democratic political system, particularly in countries that follow the parliamentary form of government, such as India, Australia, and Canada. It serves as the lower house in a bicameral legislature or as the sole house in a unicameral state legislature. As the representative body elected directly by the people, the Legislative Assembly plays a crucial role in the governance and

administration of a state or province.

Every state legislature includes the Governor and one or more Houses. They can be classified as either bicameral or unicameral. States such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh feature bicameral legislatures, while others only have a single House, termed the Legislative Assembly, as stated in Article 168. Parliament holds the authority to legislate the abolition of the Legislative Council in states where it is present, or to establish such a Council where it is not, contingent upon the passing of a resolution by at least a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in the State Legislative Assembly. Additionally, any legislation regarding the creation or dissolution of a legislative council is not classified as a constitutional amendment; therefore, it can be enacted like ordinary legislation, as outlined in Article 168(b).¹

To ensure more detailed scrutiny and effective functioning, the Legislative Assembly relies on subject committees. These committees are smaller groups of members, concentrating on particular fields like education, health, agriculture, or finance. Subject committees conduct in-depth analysis, review policies and budgets, and make recommendations that help improve governance. By distributing the workload and allowing for focused deliberation, these committees play a crucial role in strengthening legislative oversight and enhancing the quality of decision-making within the Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly uses several additional procedures in addition to subject committees to guarantee accountability and openness in governance. This includes public hearings, where citizens have the opportunity to voice their concerns and contribute to the legislative process. Such engagements foster a participatory democracy, encouraging constituents to take an active role in shaping the laws and policies that affect their lives.

SUBJECT COMMITTEES

Subject Committees are Kerala's significant contribution to India's parliamentary democratic system. The concept of a Subject Committee was first formed in India by the Kerala Legislative Assembly. The main objective of the functioning of the Subject Committees is to enable the Legislature to exercise a higher degree of control over the activities of the Executive and thereby reflect the will of the people in the activities of the Government.²

¹ The Constitution of India, art.168 & 168(b).

² Shri P. Sreeramakrishnan (editor), Kerala Legislative Assembly Procedure and Rules (Legislative Secretariat Information, Resources Development

1. History of subject committees

The Kerala Legislature has a rich history of subject committees, which date back to 1980 when ten subject committees were first established. These committees were formed to scrutinize bills and provide recommendations to the legislature. The 6th Kerala Legislative Assembly established ten specialized subject committees, officially inaugurated on March 17, 1980. Each committee is tasked with focusing on specific areas related to a range of important subjects, ensuring thorough consideration and discourse in their respective domains. However, the growing need to focus on various subjects demanded in raising of the number of subject committees. Considering the demand, on 2010 March 31, the number of subject committees increased to fourteen. These committees have a fixed tenure of 30 months, ensuring continuity and expertise.

The rules of procedure for the Kerala Legislative Assembly clearly outline the processes for these subject committees, including defined timelines for bill referrals. This structured approach allows for thorough scrutiny and informed decision-making. Kerala's model of subject committees has been recognized as a best practice, with other states and countries drawing inspiration from its effectiveness, which resulted in the introduction of standing committees in the Indian Parliament in 1993. The history of subject committees under the Kerala Legislature demonstrates a commitment to transparency, accountability, and informed governance.

2. Formation of Subject committees

In the Kerala legislative assembly, there shall be fourteen subject committees as per Rule 232 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly*. Each Subject Committee shall be entrusted with the responsibility of addressing the specific subject matter listed in the Fifth Schedule, along with any associated issues that may arise. It is important to note, however, that the Speaker retains the authority to amend or adjust the allocation of subjects to the various Subject Committees, doing so in consultation with the Leader of the House as necessary. This flexibility allows for a dynamic and responsive approach to the matters at hand, ensuring that the Committees remain relevant to the evolving needs of the legislative agenda.³

Division, Thiruvananthapuram)

³ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 232.

3. *Various subject committees of the Kerala legislative assembly*

The fourteen subject committees were formulated in the 1980s to make legislative assembly procedures more effective and transparent. The fourteen subject committees are:

1. **Subject Committee I:** Agriculture
2. **Subject Committee II:** Finance
3. **Subject Committee III:** Water Resources
4. **Subject Committee IV:** Industry and Minerals
5. **Subject Committee V:** Education
6. **Subject Committee VI:** Health and Family Welfare
7. **Subject Committee VII:** Labour and Excise
8. **Subject Committee VIII:** Public Works
9. **Subject Committee IX:** Local Administration
10. **Subject Committee X:** Food and Civil Supplies
11. **Subject Committee XI:** Transport
12. **Subject Committee XII:** Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
13. **Subject Committee XIII:** Fisheries
14. **Subject Committee XIV:** Home Affairs⁴

4. *Constitution of Subject Committees*

Each Subject Committee shall be composed of no fewer than ten members and no more than fifteen members, who will be nominated by the Speaker at the earliest opportunity following the commencement of the Assembly or as deemed appropriate thereafter. It is important to note that no member may serve on more than one Subject Committee; however, a Minister shall automatically be included as an ex officio member of every committee that pertains to subjects for which they hold responsibility. The term for each Subject Committee shall extend to thirty months from the date of its formation or until a new Committee is appointed.⁵ The Speaker may nominate one of the members of the Committee to be its Chairman.⁶

FUNCTIONS OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES

The Subject Committee plays a pivotal role in strengthening legislative oversight and ensuring that the policies and activities

⁴ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, Schedule V.

⁵ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 233.

⁶ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 234.

of the government align with the interests of the public. Its functions are comprehensive and aim to promote transparency, accountability, and informed governance. The functions of the Legislative are laid down under Rule 235 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly*. The key responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

(a) Scrutiny of Demands for Grants

The Subject Committee plays a crucial role in scrutinizing the government departmental demands for Grants presented by different departments as part of the budgetary process every year. This involves an in-depth and critical appraisal to ensure that public money is wisely spent and equally distributed. The Committee checks if the budgeted funds proposed by the departments are congruent with the genuine needs of the departments, policy goals, and priorities of the public. It examines past spending trends to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of money use as well as any cases of underutilization, wastage, or duplication. Through interaction with ministry officials, requesting explanations, and perusing implementation results, the Committee promotes transparency, accountability, and budget discipline. It also indicates large gaps as well as unmet needs in key sectors and proposes changes or reallocations to maximize the output of public expenditure. The Committee's report and suggestions are compiled in the form of a report to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly, thus contributing to informed decision-making and enhancing legislative scrutiny over public finances.

(b) Examination of Legislation

Subject Committees also have a significant role to play in the legislative process through the review and critical analysis of legislative proposals within their respective areas. This entails a detailed consideration of Bills introduced either by the Government or private members before their consideration in detail in the Legislative Assembly. The Committees review the constitutional legality of the Bills presented for their conformity to the provisions of the Constitution and whether the proposed bills violate fundamental rights or exceed the legislative power of the State. They also analyze the policy justification behind the Bill and check if it adequately deals with the issues intended and is aligned with the general aims of public policy, good governance, and social welfare. Additionally, the Committees take into account the possible legal, administrative, social, and financial consequences of the proposed law, whether in terms of its feasibility, enforceability,

or potential influence on stakeholders. As part of this process, the Committee can seek professional advice, request inputs from civil society, or clarify issues with the concerned departments. Their discussions lead to well-informed observations and recommendations, which could range from amendments to the draft law or proposals for improvement. These are put together in a report laid before the House, thus enhancing legislative debate and ensuring laws passed are well thought out, efficient, and in the public good.

(c) Study and Reporting on Government Activities

One of the significant duties of the Subject Committee is to examine and report on a particular field of governmental activity that is relevant to the wider public interest or investigate a specific project, scheme, or undertaking for promoting the general welfare of the people. This role enables the Committee to move beyond ordinary legislative oversight and undertake meticulous, specific scrutiny of key areas of governance, policy enforcement, and provision of services. Such studies can be conducted by the Committee on its initiative, as a result of issues or problems arising, or at the request of the Speaker or the Government. The regions chosen for research generally include sectors or topics that directly and significantly affect the citizenry, e.g., public health, education, social welfare, infrastructure projects, protection of the environment, and rural and urban development. As it performs this role, the Committee can review the goals, planning, financing, implementation process, evaluation of results, and problems connected to a specific project or policy proposal. It could also determine if the desired benefits are reaching the target group and if there are any gaps, inefficiencies, or irregularities in implementation. The Committee has the authority to collect evidence, call departmental officials, seek the views of experts, review data, and even make field visits if deemed necessary. What comes out of this exercise is a full report with the findings, observations, and recommendations of the Committee. This report is addressed to the Legislative Assembly and can be used as a basis for debate, additional legislative action, or administrative reform. Essentially, this role strengthens the accountability of the executive, ensures effective use of public resources, and strengthens the Legislature's role in protecting the public interest and inclusive development.

(d) Advice to the government

One of the important roles of the Subject Committee is to consult with the Government on matters of policy or bills of

legislation, especially where such issues have been referred to it formally for advice. This function serves to strengthen the co-operative element of government and enables the legislature to make a useful contribution to public policy-making and the legislative agenda.

When the Government is in the process of deciding whether to formulate a new policy, amend an ongoing one, or propose a legislative measure, it may invite the opinion of the concerned Subject Committee. The Committee, being constituted of experienced and subject-matter experts, is best equipped to provide well-informed, balanced, and non-partisan advice drawn from its knowledge of public requirements, realities on the ground, and administrative practicability.

In fulfilling this role, the Committee can conduct a thorough analysis of the matter referred to it, review policy papers, draft bills, or make recommendations on reform. The Committee can conduct consultations with government officials, experts, stakeholders, and members of the general public to seek different views. The Committee considers the probable effect of the policy or law in terms of its social, economic, legal, and administrative implications, and whether it would correspond with constitutional principles, prevailing legal systems, and public interest over the long run. Based on this deliberative process, the Committee drafts a report detailing its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Though these suggestions are not legally binding on the Government, they tend to receive serious consideration since they reflect the considered opinion of a multipartisan parliament. This advisory role not only adds to the quality of policymaking and legislative drafting but also enhances transparency, accountability, and public confidence. It is an important means of ensuring government decisions are well-informed, inclusive, and expressive of democratic values.

(e) General Discussions and Formulation of Views

The various topics of discussion and formulation of views by subject committees are also provided under Rule 235 itself. They are as follows:

(a) State's Five-Year Plan Programmes and their Implementation General Discussion

The Five-Year Plans are comprehensive policy tools used to guide economic and social development over a set period. Though the Planning Commission has been replaced by the

NITI Aayog at the central level, the state governments still often prepare medium-term development plans aligned with central goals. In Kerala's context, discussions often focus on:

- Decentralized planning through Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Emphasis on human development indicators. Kerala's high literacy, life expectancy, and low infant mortality reflect effective past implementations.
- Challenges include delays in fund release, under-utilization of allocations, and bureaucratic hurdles.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms (like Performance Budgeting) are vital to ensure timely and effective execution.

(b) Centre-state relations insofar as they concern the state of Kerala

Centre-state relations are governed by the Constitution, especially under Articles related to legislative, administrative, and financial powers (e.g., Articles 245–263). However, states often raise concerns over autonomy and equitable treatment. Financial relations are a major concern for Kerala, particularly in areas such as GST compensation, the state's share in central taxes, and the equitable allocation of funds for centrally sponsored schemes. Legislative and administrative tensions often emerge when central laws are perceived to encroach upon subjects in the State List, such as agriculture and education, raising concerns about federal overreach. Additionally, political differences between the state and central governments can strain cooperative federalism, sometimes leading to delays in project approvals and fund disbursements, ultimately affecting development outcomes.

(c) Reports of Public Service Commission

Kerala PSC is a constitutional body tasked with recruiting personnel for state services, ensuring merit-based, transparent selection. The reports of the Kerala Public Service

The Commission (PSC) warrants a comprehensive analysis to ensure that recruitment trends align with existing vacancies and the evolving needs of various sectors. It is essential to evaluate whether the recruitment processes are

timely and adequate in addressing manpower gaps across departments. Equally important is assessing the transparency and fairness of the selection procedures, especially in light of any recent allegations or controversies that may have affected public trust. The follow-up on PSC recommendations by the executive must also be scrutinized to determine whether policy suggestions are being implemented effectively. Furthermore, the Commission's adherence to reservation policies should be reviewed to ensure fair representation of marginalized communities, promoting inclusivity and social justice in public services. Lastly, with increasing reliance on digital systems, there is a pressing need to modernize recruitment through technological upgrades, including the use of AI in screening and prompt result publication, to enhance efficiency and reduce procedural delays.

(d) Reports of Public Undertakings

The reports of State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are crucial for assessing their contribution to Kerala's industrial growth, employment generation, and delivery of essential services. A thorough performance review of major PSUs such as KSRTC, KSEB, and MILMA is necessary to evaluate their financial viability, operational efficiency, and broader social impact. Particular attention must be paid to chronically loss-making units by identifying structural inefficiencies and considering options for privatization, restructuring, or strategic partnerships. Strengthening governance and accountability mechanisms is also vital, including enhancing the autonomy of PSU boards, improving internal controls, and enforcing rigorous auditing practices. Furthermore, the strategic role of PSUs should be reoriented to align with the state's long-term development goals, such as promoting renewable energy, creating local employment opportunities, and fostering innovation and self-reliance in key sectors.

(e) Reports of any statutory or other body, including any Commission of Inquiry, which are laid before the Assembly

The reports of statutory and other bodies, including Commissions of Inquiry, laid before the Assembly play a vital role in upholding transparency, accountability, and justice in governance. These reports, originating from institutions such as the State Human Rights Commission, Lok Ayukta, State Information Commission, and various

ad-hoc commissions, must be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that their significant findings and recommendations are meaningfully debated and acted upon by the legislature. It is equally important to monitor the government's response to these reports, assessing whether corrective actions have been taken or if the recommendations have been overlooked. To strengthen democratic accountability, the timely tabling of such reports, provision for adequate discussion time in the Assembly, and public access to these documents should be ensured. In cases involving sensitive issues such as custodial deaths, communal violence, or corruption, Commissions of Inquiry must function with complete independence, and their outcomes should lead to concrete administrative or legal action.

(f) Annual Performance Report of Government Departments

The Annual Performance Reports of Government Departments serve as key instruments for evaluating the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of public administration. These reports provide insights into the achievements, shortcomings, and challenges faced by departments in fulfilling their objectives and implementing policies and programs. It is essential that the Assembly critically examines these reports to assess whether departments have met their annual targets, effectively utilized allocated funds, and delivered public services in line with expected standards. Special attention should be given to performance indicators, delays in project execution, underutilization of resources, and lapses in administrative procedures. The reports should also be used to highlight best practices and successful initiatives that can be scaled or replicated across other departments. Moreover, mechanisms should be developed to ensure that feedback from these performance reviews leads to continuous improvement, policy refinement, and enhanced service delivery for the citizens.

(f) To consider draft rules

The subject committees under the Kerala legislative assembly have the power as well as the responsibility to consider the draft rules of the Government or other authority in pursuance of the powers delegated by an Act of the Legislature and the Government in pursuance of the powers delegated by an Act of Parliament. These are rules prepared under the powers given by an Act passed by the State Legislature (like the Kerala Legislative Assembly). When a law is passed, it often delegates

some authority to the Government to make more detailed rules or schemes for implementing that law. The committee can review these drafts to ensure they:

- Stay within the boundaries of the Parent Act
- Are clear, fair, and practical.

Sometimes, a Parliamentary Act (a Central law) delegates rule-making powers to the State Government. This clause allows the committee to review even those rules to ensure that:

- The rules conform to the intention of the parent Central law.
- They do not conflict with state policies or interests.

Along with all the functions laid down under Rule 235, the sub-rule (2) of 235 provides a limitation on the subject committee, which is, they are barred from examining or investigating matters of day-to-day administration.⁷

5. Meetings Of Subject Committees

In addition to meetings dedicated to the scrutiny of grant requests, the examination of legislation, and the review of draft statutory rules, each Subject Committee is mandated to convene at least once a month, during periods when the Legislative Assembly is not in session. These meetings will focus on the matters specified in Rule 235 (1) (iii) & (v).⁸

6. Powers Of Subject Committees In Respect Of Demands For Grants

After the general discussion on the budget (as mentioned in Rule 141), each Subject Committee must carefully examine the budget requests (Demands for Grants) of the departments under its scope. The Committee mainly focuses on:

- Changes in the budget compared to the previous year, especially increases.
- The need to save money and improve efficiency.

⁷ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 235(2).

⁸ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 235A.

- Any new services being introduced.
- Whether the proposed spending meets the actual need.

This review must be completed within four weeks from the end of the general budget discussion. After reviewing, the Committee submits its recommendations to the Government. If the Committee suggests more funds or changes in spending, the Government must inform the Assembly through a statement by the finance minister.

- If the recommendation is accepted, the action taken should be explained.
- If it is not accepted, the reason must also be given.
- This statement should be shared with all Assembly members when the finance minister presents the Demand.

Once the review is finished, each Subject Committee must report its findings to the Assembly and also send a copy of the report to the concerned Minister.⁹

7. Powers Of Subject Committees In Respect Of Bills

Every Bill (except Appropriation Bills) is sent to the relevant Subject Committee for detailed examination after its general principles are approved by the Assembly, unless it has already been referred to a Select Committee. The Subject Committee that receives the Bill will be the one responsible for the department or area the Bill relates to. The Committee will also consider any amendments that have been suggested.

While examining the Bill, the Subject Committee follows the same procedure that a Select Committee would use when handling legislation. This includes a thorough, clause-by-clause review and the option to consult experts, stakeholders, or officials if needed.¹⁰

8. Powers Of The Subject Committee Regarding Statutory Rules

Whenever a state law or a Central law gives the Government or any statutory authority the power to make rules, all such draft rules must be placed before the relevant Subject Committee for

⁹ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 236.

¹⁰ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 237.

examination and scrutiny. If there is an urgent situation where immediate action is necessary in the public interest, the Government may issue the rules without first placing them in draft form before the Committee. In such emergency cases, the rules that were issued must still be immediately sent to the Subject Committee, along with an explanation of why they were issued without prior review. In this context, the term "rules" also includes the drafts of any schemes or First Statutes made by the Government under the authority of a law passed by the State Legislature or Parliament.¹¹

9. Reports Of The Subject Committee

Each Subject Committee is expected to submit periodical reports to the Legislative Assembly on the matters it handles, as a part of its regular functioning. For certain matters specifically, those mentioned under items (iii) and (iv) of Rule 235(1) (which usually relate to Public Service Commission and Public Undertakings) the Committee can choose to send its report to the Chief Minister first instead of directly to the Assembly if it feels that doing so would better serve the public interest. On matters like Annual Performance Reports of Government Departments, the Committee must prepare and present a summary of its discussions to the Assembly from time to time, and also send a copy to the Chief Minister. On issues related to draft rules, schemes, or first statutes framed under delegated legislation, the Committee must send its report directly to the Chief Minister.¹²

10. Secrecy of Subject Committee Proceedings

Meetings of the Subject Committee are confidential, and the press or media are not permitted to attend or report on them. A word-for-word (verbatim) record of the Committee's meetings is kept in the Legislative Library, where it can be read by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). This ensures transparency among lawmakers while maintaining confidentiality from the public and media.¹³

11. Powers of Speaker to issue Directions

In addition to the general powers given under Rule 314, the Speaker has the authority to issue directions whenever needed to

¹¹ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 238.

¹² Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 239.

¹³ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 240.

ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the Subject Committees. These directions can help clarify procedures, resolve issues, or improve the functioning of the Committees. This power should be without prejudice to the powers under Rule 314.¹⁴ The powers conferred under Rule 314 are on a residuary basis. The rule provide that all matters not specifically provided for in these Rules and all questions relating to the detailed working of these Rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may, from time to time, direct.¹⁵

Subject Committees play an important role in improving legislative oversight, ensuring accountability, and raising the quality of governance. Their wide-ranging powers include scrutinizing Demands for Grants, examining Bills, reviewing statutory rules, and discussing reports from various commissions and government departments. This enables detailed and informed conversations about public policies and administration. By meeting in private, away from political distractions and media pressure, these Committees encourage focused and constructive dialogue among legislators. Their recommendations, whether made to the Assembly or the Chief Minister, significantly contribute to better policies and enhanced service delivery. The Speaker's ability to issue directions also helps ensure that these Committees operate consistently and efficiently. In short, Subject Committees are essential for democratic functioning. They ensure that laws are implemented properly, public funds are spent wisely, and government actions meet the real needs of the people.

CONCLUSION

The subject committees of the Kerala Legislative Assembly play a vital role in enhancing the effectiveness and accountability of governance in the state. By facilitating detailed scrutiny of legislation and policies, these committees ensure that the voices of the people are accurately represented in the decision-making process. The historical development of subject committees demonstrates a commitment to enhancing legislative oversight, and their structured organization and operating procedures promote transparency and informed governance. As a recognized best practice, Kerala's model of subject committees has not only strengthened its legislative framework but has also influenced similar initiatives in other states and at the national level. This emphasis on participatory democracy and meticulous examination of issues is essential for fostering a responsive and

¹⁴ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 241.

¹⁵ Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, 2021, R. 314.

responsible government that meets the needs and aspirations of its constituents.

This participatory methodology plays a crucial role in inculcating a culture of accountability among the government. By engaging the active participation of different stakeholders, such as civil society groups, specialists, and common citizens, subject committees make it a point to engage multiple views in the legislative process. This collaborative system not only deepens the quality of discussion but also helps make policy-making more informed. The success of these committees also relies on the dedication of their members to maintain ethical standards and keep the public interest supreme. As representatives of the people, they are charged with the responsibility of advocating for the constituents' rights and aspirations. Their work not only builds trust between the government and the citizens but also encourages greater civic participation in the democratic process.

As a result, such committees must continue to be supported and promoted. Committee member's effectiveness can be further increased by funding training and capacity-building programs, which will help them better represent the interests of their constituents and negotiate the complicated legislative environment. The legacy of Kerala's subject committees ultimately goes beyond legislative procedures; it also focuses on fostering a democratic atmosphere in which all citizens can make significant contributions, guaranteeing that governance is genuinely of, by, and for the people.