

### **Associate membership in Co-operative Housing/ Premises Society**

The amendment in the definition of active member u/s 2(19) of Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 has effected drastic changes in the definition of “Member” of Co-operative Housing / Premises Society. The concept of “Active Member” has been introduced by inserting Clause (a-1) to Section 2(19). The definition of “Associate Member” under Sub-clause (b) has not been changed.

However, the active member has been defined as one who participates in the affairs of the society and utilizes minimum level of services of the society as may be specified in the Bye-laws.

The Bye-laws 3(xxiv) have been amended to include “and who holds the right, title and interest in the property individually or jointly.” In Sub Clause (a) to the Bye-laws 3(xxiv) “Active Member” has been defined to expand scope as authorized by Section 2(19) (a-1) to include:-

- i) One who has purchased and owns a flat / unit in the society.
- ii) One who attends at least one General Body meeting of the society in the previous five consecutive years and
- iii) One who has paid Society Maintenance, Service and Other Charges at least once in previous consecutive five years.

A proviso has been added enabling General Body to condone absence in attending General Body meeting.

However, the definition of associate member has not been amended in the Bye-laws also.

Under the circumstances, I would like to summarize the present position of Associate Member as under:-

- 1) That any person can be an associate member by making an application in the prescribed form as given in the Bye-laws with consent of primary member i.e. the member whose name stands first in the share certificate.
- 2) An associate member who qualifies under the definition of active member can only participate in the election of the Managing Committee.