

**233.** (1) A revenue or survey officer may, from time to time, for reasons to be recorded, adjourn the hearing of a case or proceeding before him.

Adjournment  
of hearing.

(2) The date and place of an adjourned hearing of a case or proceeding shall be intimated at the time of the adjournment to such of the parties and witnesses as are present.

**234.** (1) In all formal inquiries the evidence shall be taken down in full, in writing, in Marathi, by or in the presence and hearing and under the personal superintendence and direction of, the officer making the investigation or inquiry, and shall be signed by him. The officer shall read out or cause to be read out the evidence so taken to the witness and obtain his signature thereto in token of its correctness.

Mode of  
taking  
evidence in  
formal  
inquiries.

(2) In cases in which the evidence is not taken down in full in writing by the officer making the inquiry he shall, as the examination of each witness proceeds, make a memorandum of the substance of what such witness deposes ; and such memorandum shall be written and signed by such officer with his own hand, and shall form part of the record.

(3) If such officer is prevented from making a memorandum as required aforeside, he shall record the reason of his inability to do so.

(4) When the evidence is given in English, such officer may take it down in that language with his own hand, and an authenticated translation of the same in Marathi shall be made and shall form part of the record.

**235.** Every decision, after a formal inquiry, shall be in writing signed by the officer passing the same, and shall contain a full statement of the grounds on which it is passed.

Writing and  
explanation  
of decisions.

**236.** In summary inquiries, the revenue officer or survey officer shall himself, as any such inquiry proceeds, record a minute of the proceedings in his own hand in English or in Marathi embracing the material averments made by the parties interested, the material parts of the evidence, the decision, and the reasons for the same :

Summary  
inquiries  
how to be  
conducted.

Provided that, it shall at any time be lawful for such officer to conduct an inquiry directed by this Code to be summary under all, or any of the rules applicable to a formal inquiry, if he deems fit.

**237.** (1) A formal or summary inquiry under this Code shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193, 219 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code, and the office of any authority holding a formal or summary inquiry shall be deemed a civil court for the purposes of such inquiry.

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Formal and  
summary  
inquiries to  
be deemed  
judicial  
proceedings.

(2) Every hearing and decision, whether in a formal or summary inquiry, shall be in public, and the parties or their authorised agents shall have due notice to attend.

**238.** An inquiry which this Code does not require to be either formal or summary, or which any revenue or survey officer may on any occasion deem to be necessary to make, in the execution of his lawful duties, shall be conducted according to such rules applicable thereto, whether general or special, as may have been prescribed by the State Government, or an authority superior to the

Ordinary  
inquiries  
how to be  
conducted.