

THE TAMIL NADU TAX ON ENTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO LOCAL AREAS ACT, 1990

(ACT NO. XIII OF 1990)

An Act to provide for the levy of tax on the entry of motor vehicles into Local areas for use or sale therein

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Forty - first year of the Republic of India as follows :-

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

1.Short title, extent and commencement

(1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Act, 1990.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Tamil Nadu.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 20th February, 1990.

2. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "**accessories**" means the car air-conditioner, music system and any other article fitted to a motor vehicle and which is not included in the original invoice;

(b) "**appellate authority**" means an appellate authority appointed under Section 6; (c)

"**assessing authority**" means an assessing authority appointed under Section 5;

(d) "**entry of motor vehicle into a local area**" with all its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means entry of motor vehicle into a local area from any place outside the State for use or sale therein;

(e) "**General Sales Tax Act**" means the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959;

(f) "**Government**" means the State Government;

(g) "**importer**" means a person who brings a motor vehicle into a local area from any place outside the State for use or sale therein; and who owns the vehicle at the time of its entry into the local area;

(h) "**local area**" means the area within the limits of,—

- (i) the City of Madras as defined in the Madras City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919, or
- (ii) the City of Madurai as defined in the Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971, or
- (iii) the City of Coimbatore as defined in the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981, or
- (iv) any other Municipal Corporation that may be constituted under any law for the time being in force, or
- (v) a municipality under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, or
- (vi) a township under the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, or the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958, or the Mettur Township Act, 1940, or the Courtrallam Township Act, 1954 or the Bhavanisagar Township Act, 1954, or any other law for the time being in force, or
- (vii) a panchayats under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 ;

(i) "**motor vehicle**" means a motor vehicle as defined in clause (28) of Section 2 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

(j) "**person**" includes any company or association or body of individuals whether incorporated or not, and also a Hindu undivided family, a firm, a local authority, the Government of any other State or Union Territory;

(k) "**purchase value**" means the value of a motor vehicle, as ascertained from the original invoice and includes the value of accessories fitted to the vehicle, insurance, excise duties, countervailing duties, sales tax, transport fee, freight charges and all other charges incidentally levied on the purchase of a motor vehicle:

Provided that, where purchase value of a motor vehicle is not ascertainable on account of non-availability or non-production of an original invoice or when the invoice produced is proved to be false or if the motor vehicle is acquired or obtained otherwise

than by way of purchase, then the purchase value shall be the value or price at which motor vehicle of like kind or quality is sold or is capable of being sold, in open market;

(l) "**State**" means the State of Tamil Nadu;

(m) words and expressions used but not defined in this Act shall have the meanings assigned to them under the General Sales Tax Act.

CHAPTER II LEVY OF TAX

3. Levy of tax

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, there shall be levied and collected a tax on the entry of any motor ¹[vehicles] into any local area for use or sale therein which is liable for registration, or for the assignment of a new registration mark, in the State under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Central Act 59 of 1988). The rate of tax shall be at such rate or rates, not exceeding twenty per cent, as may be fixed by the Government, by notification, on the purchase value of the motor vehicles;

1. The word 'vehicles' appearing here is as it is in the Amendment Act 31 of 1998, published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 519 dated 7th September '998; it is apparently a grammatical error as the word should be in the singular in view of the words 'which is liable for registration' appearing later in this subsection.

Provided that in respect of any motor vehicle which was registered in any Union Territory or any other State under the law relating to motor vehicle :-

- (a) before the 10th September 1996, no tax shall be levied and collected, if the owner of such vehicle applies for the assignment of a new registration mark in this State after a period of fifteen months from the date of its registration;
- (b) on or after 10th September 1996, no tax shall be levied and collected, if the owner of such vehicle applies for the assignment of a new registration mark in this State after a period of eighteen months from the date of its registration.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this proviso, the expression 'law relating to motor vehicle' means the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 or the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as the case may be.

(2) The tax shall be payable by an importer in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed.

[G.O. ,Ms. No. 69, Notification No. II (2) / CT / 631 (g) / 2001 dated 18th August 2001.

Sl.No. (1)	Category (2)	Rate of Tax on the purchase Value % (3)
1.	(i) All two wheelers and three wheelers ; and (ii) All three wheeler chassis and bodies built Thereon	13 12.5 (from 01.01.2007)
2.	All cars, taxi-cabs, light motor vehicles, trucks, buses, jeeps, motor lorries, chassis of such vehicles and on all bodies built on chassis and on all trailers of these vehicles.	13 12.5 (from 01.01.2007)
3.	All tractors and trailers.	6 4 (from 01.01.2007)
4.	(i) Dumpers, loaders, scrapppers, crawler's tractor, excavators, bull dozers and wheel dozers (ii) Paver finishers, dragnet, druggets, road rollers, crane lorries including floating cranes, breakdown lorries, road sweeper lorries, spraying lorries, concrete mixerlorries, mobile workshop, mobile radiological units, ambulances, firefighting units including fire floats, drilling rigs mounted on motor vehicles and floating vessels, platform trucks and fork lift trucks	9 12.5 (from 01.01.2007)
		13 12.5 (from 01.01.2007)
5.	Tankers built on meant for mounting on motor vehicle	20 12.5 (from 01.01.2007)
6.	All other vehicles not specifically mentioned in Serial Nos. 1 to 5	20 12.5 (from 01.01.2007)

4. Reduction in tax liability

(1) Where an importer of a motor vehicle liable to pay tax under this Act, being a dealer in Motor vehicles, becomes liable to pay tax under the General Sales Tax Act and additional sales tax under the Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax Act, 1970 (Tamil Nadu. Act XIV of 1970) by virtue of the sale of such motor vehicle, then his liability under those Acts shall be reduced to the extent of tax paid under this Act.

(2) Where an importer who, not being a dealer in motor vehicles, had purchased the motor vehicle for his own use in any Union Territory, or any other State then his liability under this Act shall, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, be reduced to the extent of the amount of tax paid, if any, under the law relating to general sales tax as may be in force in that Union Territory or State.:

CHAPTER III
TAX AUTHORITIES

5. Assessing Authorities

The Government may, by notification, appoint such officers as they think fit to be the assessing authorities for the purposes of this Act and may assign to them such local area or areas as the Government may think fit.

6. Appellate Authorities

The Government may, by notification, appoint such officers as they think fit to be the appellate authorities for the purposes of this Act and may assign to them such local area or areas as the Government may think fit.

CHAPTER IV
RETURNS, ASSESSMENT, PAYMENT,
RECOVERY AND REFUND OF TAX

7. Return

(1) Every person liable to pay tax under this Act, shall furnish returns in such form, for such period, by such dates, and to such authority, as may be prescribed.

(2) If any person liable to pay tax under this Act, having furnished return under sub-section (1), discovers any omission or incorrect statement therein he may furnish a revised return before the expiry of three months from the last date prescribed for furnishing the return under sub-section (1).

7-A Powers to order production of accounts and powers of entry, inspection etc,-

(1) Any officer empowered by the Government in his behalf may require any person liable to pay tax under this Act, to produce before him the accounts, registers, records and other documents and to furnish any other information relating to the entry of motor vehicles into the local areas effected by him as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(2) All accounts registers, records and other documents maintained by a person liable to pay tax under this Act relating to the entry of motor vehicles into the local area effected by him and his officers, shops, godowns, vessels or vehicles shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by such officer:

Provided that no residential accommodation (not being a place of business – cum-residence) shall be entered into and searched by such officer except on the authority of a search warrant issued by the Magistrate having jurisdiction over the area and all searches under this sub-section shall, so far as may be, made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act No. 2 of 1974)

(3) If any such officer has reason to believe that any person liable to pay tax under this Act had evaded, or is attempting to evade the payment of any tax or other amount due from him under this Act, he may, for reasons to be recorded in Writing, seize such accounts, registers, records or other documents of such person as he may consider necessary, and shall give such person a receipt for the same. The accounts, registers, records and documents so seized shall be retained by such officer only for so long as may be necessary for their examination and any inquiry or proceeding under this Act;

Provided that such accounts, registers, records, and documents shall not be retained for more than thirty days at a time except with the permission of the next higher authority, in which case they could be retained up to a period of ninety days at a time.

(4) Any such Officer shall, for the purpose of sub-section(2) or sub-section(3), also have power to enter and search any office, shop, godown, vessel, vehicle, building or place belonging to any other person, if such officer has reason to believe that a person liable to pay tax keeps, or is keeping any of his motor vehicles, accounts, registers, records or other documents in such office, shop, godown, vessel, vehicle, building or place.

Explanation:- It shall be open to the Government to empower different classes of officers for the purpose of taking action under sub-section (1), (2) and (3)

8. Assessment

(1) The amount of tax due from a person liable to pay tax under this Act shall be assessed separately for such period as may be prescribed.

(2) If the assessing authority is satisfied that the return furnished by a person liable to pay tax, is correct and complete, he shall assess the amount of tax due from the person on the basis of such return.

(3) If the assessing authority is not satisfied that the return furnished by a person liable to pay tax, is correct and complete, and he thinks it necessary to require the presence of the person or production of further evidence, he shall serve on such person in the prescribed manner a notice requiring him on a date and at a place specified therein, either to attend and produce or cause to be produced all evidences on which the said person relies in support of his return, or to produce such evidence as, is specified in the notice. On the date specified in the notice, or as soon as may be, thereafter, the assessing authority shall, after considering all the evidences which may be produced, assess the amount of tax due from the person.

(4) If a person fails to comply with the requirements of any notice issued under sub-section (3), the assessing authority shall determine the purchase value of the motor vehicle under the proviso to clause (k) of Section 2 to the best of his judgment and assess the amount of tax due from him.

(5) No order of assessment under sub-section (3) or (4) shall be made after the expiry of three years from the last date prescribed for filing of returns of the particular period. If for any reason such order is not made within the period aforesaid then the return so filed shall be deemed to have been accepted as correct and complete for assessing the tax due from such person.

9. Reassessment

If, after a person, liable to pay tax has been assessed under Section 8, for any period, the assessing authority has reason to believe that any purchase value or part thereof, has, in respect of that period, escaped assessment, or has been under assessed or assessed at a lower rate, then the assessing authority may, within five years from the date of the order of assessment of the particular period, after giving the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, reassess, to the best of his judgment, the tax due from him.

10. Payment of tax

(1) The tax shall be paid in the manner hereinafter provided.

(2) A person liable to pay the tax, shall, before furnishing returns as required by sub-section (1) of Section 7, first pay into the Government treasury in the prescribed manner, or to the assessing authority in cash or by cheque or Demand Draft the whole of the amount of tax due from him according to such return.

(3) If a person liable to pay the tax, furnishes a revised return in accordance with sub-section (2) of Section 7, and if such revised return shows that a larger amount of tax than already paid is payable, he shall first pay into the Government treasury in the prescribed manner or to the assessing authority in cash or by cheque or Demand Draft the additional amount of tax according to such revised return.

(4) The amount of—

- (i) tax due where return has been furnished without full payment thereof,
- (ii) difference in the tax assessed under Section 8 or reassessed under Section 9 for any period and the sum already paid by the person in respect of such period, and
- (iii) penalty (if any) levied under Section 15, shall be paid by the person, into the Government Treasury, or to the assessing authority in cash or by cheque or Demand Draft by such date as may be specified in the notice issued by the assessing authority for this purpose, being a date not earlier than thirty days from the date of service of the notice.

(5) Any tax or penalty which remains unpaid after the date specified in the notice for payment, shall be recoverable as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

11. Refund of tax

The assessing authority shall refund to a person the amount of tax and penalty, if any, paid by such person in excess of the amount due from him. The refund may be either by cash payment or, at the option of the person, by deduction of such excess from the amount of tax and penalty, if any, due from that person in respect of any other period:

Provided that, the assessing authority shall first apply such excess towards the recovery of any amount due in respect of which a notice under sub-section (4) of Section 10 has been issued, and shall then refund the balance, if any.

12. Exemptions

Subject to such conditions as it may impose, the Government may, if it is necessary so to do in the public interest, by notification, exempt any specified class of importers from payment of the whole or part of the tax payable under this Act.

CHAPTER V APPEALS AND REVISION

13. Appeals

(1) An appeal from every original order under this Act shall lie to the appellate authority appointed under Section 6.

(2) In the case of an order passed in appeal by the appellate authority, a second appeal shall lie to the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes.

(3) No appeal shall be entertained by the appellate authority or the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, unless it is filed within 30 days from the date of receipt of the order appealed against by the assessee, and unless the entire amount of tax and penalty, if any, has been credited by the assessee in the Government treasury.

(4) Subject to such rules of procedure as may be prescribed, every appellate authority (both in the first appeal or the second appeal) shall have the following powers, namely:-

(a) in an appeal against an order of assessment, it may confirm, reduce, enhance or annul the assessment; or it may set aside the assessment and refer the case back to the assessing authority for making a fresh assessment in accordance with the direction given by it and after making such further inquiry as may be necessary, the assessing authority shall thereupon proceed to make such fresh assessment and

determine, where necessary, the amount of tax payable on the basis of such fresh assessment; and

(b) in any other case, the appellate authority or the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, as the case may be, may pass such orders in the appeal as it deems just and proper.

14. Revision

(1) The Commissioner of Commercial Taxes may suo motu or on an application made in that behalf, call for and examine the record of the proceeding of any order made by the assessing authority or, as the case may be, the appellate authority and pass such order thereon as he thinks just and proper.

(2) No application under sub-section (1) shall be entertained, if it is not made within a period of four months from the date of the order.

(3) No order which adversely affects any person shall be passed under this section, unless such person has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard by the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes.

(4) Where an appeal lies under Section 13 and no appeal is made, no proceedings in revision shall be entertained upon an application.

(5) Where the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes rejects any application for revision under this section, he shall record the reasons for such rejection.

CHAPTER VI

PENALTY

15. Penalty

(1) Where any person liable to pay tax under this Act falls to comply with any of the provisions of this Act, then the assessing authority may, after giving such person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, by order in writing impose on him in addition to any tax payable, a sum by way of penalty not exceeding twice the amount of tax.

(2) If the person does not, without reasonable cause, pay the tax within the time he is required, by or under the provisions of this Act to pay the assessing authority may, after giving such person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, by order in writing, impose upon him by way of penalty, in addition to the amount of tax and penalty under sub-section (1) a sum equal to.—

- (a) one and one half per cent, of the amount of tax for each month for the first three months, after the last date by which the person should have paid that tax, and
- (b) two per cent, of the amount of tax for each month thereafter during the time the person continues to make default in the payment of tax.

15-A. Impounding of motor vehicle

If an importer liable to pay tax fails to pay the tax in the manner prescribed, then the competent authority shall forthwith impound the motor vehicle in respect of which tax has not been paid and keep -the-motor vehicle impounded till the amount of tax and penalty due and payable in respect of such motor vehicle is paid in full:

Provided that, if the amount of tax and penalty is not paid within one month of impounding of the motor vehicle, the competent authority shall have power to sell the motor vehicle by auction in such manner as may be prescribed and apply the sale proceeds towards recovery of the tax, penalty and costs if any, incurred in the sale of such motor vehicle. The remainder, if any, shall be refunded to such importer:

Provided further that, if, at any time before the auction of the motor vehicle, the importer pays the tax, penalty and costs, if any, then, the competent authority may after satisfying that all the dues as aforesaid have been fully paid by the importer, cancel the auction and return the motor vehicle to the importer.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this section competent authority' means the assessing authority and such other person or authority authorised by the Government by notification, to perform the functions of the competent authority under this section.

CHAPTER VII

MISCELLANEOUS

16. Officers and servants appointed under this Act to be public servants

All officers and servants appointed under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

17. Protection of action taken in good faith

No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government, or any public servant for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

18. Power to make rules

- (1) The Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for the following matters, namely:-
 - (a) the duties and powers of officers appointed for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act;
 - (b) all matters expressly required or allowed by this Act to be prescribed;
 - (c) generally regulating the procedure to be followed and the forms to be adopted in the proceedings under this Act;
 - (d) any other matter including levy of fees for which there is no specific provision in this Act and for which provision is, in the opinion of the Government, necessary for giving effect to the purposes of this Act; and
 - (e) the procedure for any other matter incidental to the disposal of appeal and the value of Court-fee stamp which a memorandum of appeal or revision should bear.
- (3) (a) All rules made under this Act shall be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the day on which they are so published.
 - (b) All notifications issued under this Act shall, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, come into force on the day on which they are published.
- (4) Every rule made or every notification issued under this Act shall, as soon as possible, after it is made or issued, be placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so placed or the next session, the Assembly makes any modification in any such rule or notification or the Assembly decides that the rule or notification should not be made or issued, the rule or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification.

19. Restriction on registration

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, where the liability to pay tax in respect of a motor -vehicle arises under this Act and such motor vehicle is required to be registered in the State under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, no registering officer shall register any such motor vehicle, unless payment of such tax has been made by the person concerned in respect of such vehicle.

20. Repeal and saving

(1) The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Ordinance, 1990, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.