

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu on 14th September, 2011 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

L. A. BILL No. 32 of 2011

A Bill to provide for Settlement of arrears of tax, penalty or interest pertaining to sales tax and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Tamil Nadu
Act
1 of 1959.
Tamil Nadu
Act
24 of 1971.
Tamil Nadu
Act
14 of 1970.
Central Act
74 of 1956.

WHEREAS, it is expedient to provide for settlement of arrears of tax, penalty or interest, as the case may be, under the repealed Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959, the repealed Tamil Nadu Sales Tax (Surcharge) Act, 1971, the repealed Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax Act, 1970 and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956;

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Sixty-Second Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Sales Tax (Settlement of Arrears) Act, 2011.

Short title,
extent and
Commence-
ment.

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

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Definitions.

(a) “applicant” means a dealer as defined in the relevant Act;

(b) “arrears of tax, penalty or interest” means—

(i) Tax including additional sales tax, surcharge, additional surcharge and central sales tax, payable by an applicant upon assessment under the relevant Act; or

(ii) penalty payable by an applicant under the relevant Act; or

(iii) interest payable by an applicant under the relevant Act

as the case may be, pertaining to the assessment year up to 2006-2007 for which assessment has been made prior to the 1st day of August 2011 under the relevant Act, and pending collection on the date of filing of application under this Act;

(c) “designated authority” means an authority appointed under section 3;

(d) “Government” means the State Government;

(e) “relevant Act” means,—

(i) the repealed Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959;

(ii) the repealed Tamil Nadu Sales Tax (Surcharge) Act, 1971;

(iii) the repealed Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax Act, 1970;

(iv) the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956

and includes the rules made or notifications issued thereunder.

(2) Unless there is anything repugnant to the subject or context, all expressions used in this Act, which are not defined, shall have the same meaning as defined or used in the relevant Act.

Tamil Nadu
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Designated authority.	3. For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Government may, by notification, appoint one or more authorities referred to in section 48 of the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006, to be the designated authority and such authority shall exercise jurisdiction over such area or areas as the Government may specify in the notification.	Tamil Nadu Act 32 of 2006.
Eligibility for settlement.	4. Subject to the other provisions of this Act, an applicant may make an application for settlement of arrears of tax, penalty or interest pertaining to the assessment years up to 2006-2007 for which assessment has been made prior to the 1st day of August 2011 against which an appeal or revision is not pending before any court on the date of filing application.	
Application for settlement.	5. (1) An application for the purpose of section 4 shall be made to the designated authority by an applicant within six months from the date of commencement of this Act or by such later date as the Government may, by notification, specify, from time to time, in such form, and in such manner, as may be prescribed, with proof of payment of the amount payable at the rates specified in section 7. (2) A separate application shall be made for each assessment year. (3) The applicant shall send a copy of the application made under sub-section (1) to the assessing authority, appellate authority or revisional authority under the relevant Act, before whom any proceeding or appeal or revision, as the case may be, is pending, within seven days from the date of making such application before the designated authority.	
Determination of amount payable by the applicant.	6. (1) The designated authority shall verify the correctness of the particulars furnished in the application made under section 5 with reference to all relevant records and determine the amount payable at the rates specified in section 7. (2) The designated authority shall demand further amount payable by the applicant in the form prescribed, if the amount paid by the applicant along with application falls short of not more than ten per cent of the amount determined under sub-section (1). (3) If the applicant has not paid ninety per cent of the amount payable under section 7 along with the application, the designated authority shall summarily reject the application. (4) The amount determined under sub-section (1) shall be rounded off to the nearest rupee and, for this purpose, where such amount contains a part of a rupee, and, if such part is fifty paise or more, it shall be rounded off to the nearest rupee, and if such part is less than fifty paise, it shall be ignored.	
Rate applicable in determining amount payable.	7. The amount payable by the applicant and to be waived shall be determined as follows:— (a) Where it relates to arrears of tax which was assessed on the best of judgment due to non production of accounts with corresponding arrears of penalty and interest, the applicant shall pay forty per cent of arrears of tax pending collection on the date of application along with interest calculated at seven and a half per cent per annum thereon and on such payment of tax, the balance of tax and interest and the entire penalty shall be waived. (b) Where it relates to arrears of tax, including any arrears of tax accrued due to non filing of declaration forms which was in excess of the tax admitted as per the returns filed for the year with the corresponding arrears of penalty and interest, the applicant shall pay forty percent of such arrears of tax pending collection on the date of application along with interest at seven and a half percent per annum thereon and on such payment of tax, the balance of tax and interest and the entire penalty shall be waived. (c) Where it relates to arrears of tax, which was admitted as tax due as per returns filed for the year with corresponding arrears of penalty and interest, the applicant shall pay the entire arrears of tax pending collection along with interest at seven and a half per cent per annum and on such payment, the balance of interest and the entire penalty shall be waived. (d) Where it relates to arrears of penalty or interest or both and where there is no corresponding arrears of tax pending collection on the date of application, the applicant shall pay ten percent of the penalty and twenty-five percent of interest, the balance of penalty and interest shall be waived.	

8. (1) The designated authority shall, on being satisfied about the payment of the amount determined under sub-section (1) of section 6, by an order, settle the arrears of tax, penalty or interest and issue a certificate in such form as may be prescribed, and thereupon, the applicant shall be discharged from his liability to make payment of the balance amount of such arrears of tax, penalty or interest. Separate certificate shall be issued in respect of each application.

Settlement of arrears and issue of certificate.

(2) The designated authority, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may refuse to settle the arrears of tax, penalty or interest:

Provided that no order under this sub-section shall be passed without giving the applicant a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against such refusal.

(3) The authority notified by the Government in this behalf may, at any time within ninety days from the date of issue of certificate under sub-section (1) by the designated authority, modify the certificate by rectifying any error apparent on the face of the record:

Provided that no such rectification adversely affecting the applicant shall be passed without allowing the applicant a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against such rectification.

9. A certificate issued under section 8 shall be conclusive as to the settlement to which it relates, and no matter covered by such certificate shall be re-opened in any proceeding of review or revision, or in any other proceeding, under the relevant Act.

Bar on re-opening of settled cases.

10. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any provision in the relevant Act, any proceeding or appeal or revision for any period pending before the assessing authority or appellate authority or revisional authority, as the case may be, under the relevant Act in respect of which a certificate is issued under section 8, shall be deemed to have been withdrawn from the date of making of the application by the applicant under sub-section (1) of section 5. Any order passed by the assessing authority or appellate authority or revisional authority subsequent to the date of filing of application for settlement of arrears of tax, penalty or interest, resulting in claim for refund of amount paid upto the time of settlement of such arrears of tax, penalty or interest under this Act, will not be taken into consideration.

Withdrawal of appeal and revision.

11. No authority shall proceed to decide in any proceeding or appeal or revision under the relevant Act relating to any assessment year in respect of which a copy of the application has been received under sub-section (3) of section 5:

Authority not to proceed in certain cases.

Provided that such authority shall proceed to decide such proceeding or appeal or revision in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Act, if a certificate referred to in sub-section (1) of section 8 is refused to the applicant by an order passed by the designated authority under sub-section (2) of section 8.

12. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 9 or section 10, where it appears to the designated authority that an applicant has obtained the certificate under section 8 by suppressing any material information or particulars or by furnishing any incorrect or false information or particulars, such designated authority, may, within a period of two years from the date of issue of the said certificate, for reasons to be recorded in writing and after giving the applicant a reasonable opportunity of showing cause, revoke the certificate issued under sub-section(1) of section 8.

Revocation of certificate.

(2) If a certificate is revoked under sub-section (1), any proceeding or appeal or revision, as the case may be, under the relevant Act, covered by such certificate shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9 or section 10, stand revived or reinstated immediately upon such revocation, and such proceeding or appeal or revision shall be decided in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Act, as if no settlement of the arrears of tax, penalty or interest in such proceeding or appeal or revision has ever been made under this Act.

(3) In the case of revocation of a certificate in accordance with sub-section (1), the amount paid by the applicant under section 6 shall be treated as payment towards the amount payable under the relevant Act for the period for which the certificate has been revoked.

Information to be sent to authorities under relevant Act.

13. The designated authority shall inform the assessing authority or appellate authority or revisional authority, as the case may be, under the relevant Act, who for the time being, has jurisdiction over the applicant under the relevant Act,—

- (a) the fact of making of an application by the applicant under section 5;
- (b) the fact of passing of any order by the designated authority under section 8;
- (c) the fact of revocation of any certificate under section 12; and
- (d) such other matters as it may deem necessary

in such form, in such manner, and within such time, as may be prescribed.

Power to remove difficulties.

14. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, remove such difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of one year from the date of coming into force of this Act.

Power to make rules.

15. (1) The Government may, make rules, whether prospectively or retrospectively, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2). (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 date, 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 date, come into force on the day on which they are so published.

(3) Every rule made and every notification issued under this Act and every order made under section 14 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 order or the Assembly decides that the rule or notification or order should not be made or issued, the rule or notification or order 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 or order.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The system of Value Added Tax was introduced in Tamil Nadu from the 1st day of January 2007. A large amount of tax, penalty and interest were pending under the erstwhile Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959 and the connected Acts and also the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. The dealers were not able to pay the tax levied as a result of best of judgment assessments and the penalty levied and the interest due thereon at the rate of twenty four percent. With a view to expedite the collection of arrears, two Samadhan Schemes were implemented in the years 2008 and 2010 by enactment of the Tamil Nadu Sales Taxes (Settlement of Arrears) Act, 2008 and the Tamil Nadu Sales Taxes (Settlement of Arrears) Act, 2010. A substantial amount of arrears due to the Government under the said Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959 and the connected Acts and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 are still pending collection. In view of this and also considering the representations received from various trade associations for the reintroduction of the Samadhan Scheme for expeditious settlement of pending cases and in order to mitigate the hardship to the dealers, it has been proposed to give another opportunity to the dealers to settle the arrears of tax, penalty or interest payable to Government pertaining to the assessment years upto 2006-2007. The Government have announced on the floor of the Assembly on 4th August 2011 that it has been decided to introduce 'Samadhan' Scheme again for the collection of old arrears and that the Scheme will be in force from 1st October 2011 to 31st March 2012. The Government have decided to give effect to the said announcement by undertaking a legislation.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above Object.

Agri S.S. KRISHNAMOORTHY,
*Minister for Commercial Taxes
and Registration.*

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clauses 3, 5(1), 6(2), 8(1), 13, 14 and 15 of the Bill' authorise the Government to issue notification or order or to make rules, as the case may be, for the purposes specified therein.

2. The powers delegated are normal and not of exceptional character.

Agri S.S. KRISHNAMOORTHY,
*Minister for Commercial Taxes
and Registration.*

A.M.P. JAMALUDEEN,
Secretary.