

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the Tamil Nadu on 28th April 2025 is published together with Statement of Objects and Resasons for general information:-

**L.A Bill No. 15 of 2025**

**A Bill further to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.**

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Act, 2025. Short title and commencement.

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

Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994.

2. Section 131-A of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), shall be omitted. Omission of section 131-A.

3. After Chapter IX-A of the principal Act, the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely:— Insertion of new Chapter IX-B.

**CHAPTER IX –B.**

**REGULATION OF HOARDINGS, DIGITAL BANNERS AND PLACARDS.**

**198-J. Definitions.**— In this Chapter,—

(a) “digital banner” means any screen of boards, at any place, whether public or private used or intended to be used for exhibiting any advertisement or any information in connection with marriage, religious ceremony, birth or death anniversary or meeting or conference of any political, religious or communal organisation, promotion of business, designed and printed using electronic printing technology;

(b) “hoarding” means any screen of boards or any other structure other than digital banner and placard, at any place, whether public or private used or intended to be used for exhibiting advertisement, including the frame work or other support, erected, wholly or in part upon or over any land, building, wall or structure, or vehicle visible to public wholly or partly;

(c) “placard” means any screen of boards, the size of which is not exceeding eight feet in height and four feet in breadth, at any place, whether public or private, used or intended to be used for exhibiting any advertisement or any information in connection with marriage, religious ceremony, birth or death anniversary or meeting or conference of any political, religious or communal organisation, promotion of business, designed and printed using electronic printing technology.

**198-K. Regulation of erection of hoardings.—** (1) Every person who intends to erect hoarding at any place in a panchayat village shall register his name with the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) in such form with such fee, as may be prescribed.

(2) For erection of any hoarding, the registered person under sub-section (1) shall apply to the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) for a licence.

(3) Every application for licence under sub-section (2) shall be made to the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) in such form, containing such particulars, with such application fee, as may be prescribed.

(4) The Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) may, after local inspection and on payment of such licence fee not exceeding fifteen thousand rupees per square metre per year as may be prescribed, grant a licence with such conditions as may be prescribed.

(5) The Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) may refuse to grant licence for reasons to be recorded in writing:

Provided that a licence shall not be refused unless the applicant has been given an opportunity for making his representation.

(6) Every licence granted under sub-section (4) shall be valid for such period not exceeding three years and may be renewed for a period not exceeding the period for which it was granted.

(7) The fee paid under sub-sections (1), (3) and (4) shall be credited to the account of Village Panchayat concerned, in such manner as may be prescribed.

**198-L. Regulation of erection of digital banners and placards.—** (1) No digital banner or placard for exhibiting any advertisement or information shall be erected within the panchayat village by any person without obtaining prior permission from the Executive Authority concerned.

(2) Every application for permission under sub-section (1) shall be made in writing, to the Executive Authority fifteen days prior to the date of erection of digital banner or placard in such form, containing such particulars with such fee, not exceeding one thousand rupees per placard or digital banner as may be prescribed:

Provided that in case of political event, such application shall be made at least three days prior to the date of erection of digital banner or placard.

(3) The permission for erection of digital banner or placard may be granted for such purpose and for such period, not exceeding six days and subject to such conditions as may be specified by the Executive Authority.

(4) The Executive Authority may refuse to grant permission for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(5) Every person who has erected the digital banner or placard after obtaining the permission, shall, on expiry of such permission, remove the same and dispose it, without causing any hazard to health or environment, in such manner as may be prescribed.

**198-M. Power to suspend or cancel licence.—**(1) Without prejudice to any other penalty to which the licensee may be liable under this Chapter, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) may, at any time, by order in writing, cancel or suspend the licence granted or renewed under section 198-K, if—

(a) such licence has been obtained by fraud, misrepresentation or suppression of material particulars; or

(b) the licensee has contravened any of the provisions of this Chapter or the rules made thereunder or any of the condition, subject to which the licence was granted.

(2) Before cancelling a licence under sub-section (1), the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) shall give the licensee, an opportunity of making his representation.

**198-N. Removal of unauthorised hoardings, digital banners or placards.—**Any hoarding erected without licence or any digital banner or placard erected without permission, shall be confiscated and removed by the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority, as the case may be, without giving any notice and recover the cost of removal from the person who has erected the unauthorised hoarding, digital banner or placard, as an arrear of land revenue.

**198-O. Removal of hoardings, digital banners or placards in certain other cases.—**(1) Where any hoarding or digital banner or placard is retained after the expiry of the licence or the period of permission, as the case may be, or erected contrary to the conditions of the licence or the permission, as the case may be, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority concerned, may, by notice in writing, require the licensee or the permit holder to remove such hoarding or digital banner or placard within such time as may be prescribed.

(2) Where the hoarding or digital banner or placard is not removed within the time specified in the notice, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority, as the case may be, shall, without further notice, remove the same and recover the cost of removal from the person concerned as an arrear of land revenue.

**198–P. Exemption.—**(1) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall apply to any hoarding, digital banner or placard on which is exhibited any advertisement which relates to,—

(a) the trade or business carried on within the land or building upon or over which such hoarding, digital banner or placard is erected or to any sale or letting of such land or building or any effects therein or to any sale, entertainment or meeting to be held upon or in such land or building;

(b) the name of the land or building, upon or over which the hoarding, digital banner or placard is erected or to the name of the owner or occupier of such land or building:

Provided that the exemption under this sub-section shall be subject to such size and nature of the hoarding, digital banner or placard, as may be prescribed.

(2) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall apply to any hoarding, digital banner or placard erected by the State Government, Central Government, panchayat or statutory body or undertaking under the control of State or Central Government:

Provided that the exemption under this sub-section shall be subject to such size and nature of the hoarding, digital banner or placard, as may be prescribed.

**198–Q. Appeal.—**(1) An appeal shall lie to such authority as may be notified by the Government, from an order of refusal to grant or renew a licence, or cancelling or refusing to grant permission by the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority, as the case may be, under this Chapter within thirty days from the date of receipt of the order.

(2) The appeal shall be in such form and in such manner and shall be accompanied with such fee, as may be prescribed.

(3) On receipt of such appeal, the appellate authority may, after making such inquiry as may be necessary and giving a reasonable opportunity to the appellant to be heard, pass such order as it deems fit.

**198–R. Power to grant rights to advertise in properties vested with the Panchayats.—**(1) Subject to the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1959 (Tamil Nadu Act 2 of 1959) or any other law for the time being in force, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority concerned, may grant right to any person or a class of persons or any institution or organisation to display advertisement on properties belonging to, or vested with, the panchayats on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

(2) Any amount paid to the panchayat under sub-section(1) shall be in addition to, and distinct from, the fees to be paid under section 198-K or section 198-L, as the case may be.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority concerned, may allow any person or a class of persons or any institution or organisation that maintains a public asset belonging to, or vested with, the panchayat at its own cost, to display their own advertisement.

**198–S. Prohibition of erection of certain hoardings, digital banners or placards.—** Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force or in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority,—

(a) (i) where any hoarding (other than traffic sign and road sign) visible to the traffic on the road is hazardous and disturbance to the safe traffic movement, so as to adversely affect free and safe flow of traffic and which is in existence, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) shall by notice in writing, require the licensee or any person in possession of such hoarding, to remove such hoarding within such time as may be specified in the notice:

Provided that such time shall not be less than fifteen days from the date of issue of such notice.

(ii) where the hoarding referred to in sub-clause (i) is not removed within the time specified in the notice, the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) shall, without further notice, remove such hoarding and recover the cost of removal from the person concerned as an arrear of land revenue.

(b) (i) where the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority concerned is satisfied that the erection of any hoarding or the erection of digital banner or placard (other than traffic sign and road sign) visible to the traffic on the road is hazardous and disturbance to the safe traffic movement so as to adversely affect free and safe flow of traffic, he shall not grant any licence or permission under section 198-K or 198–L, as the case may be;

(ii) where any hoarding, or digital banner or placard is erected in contravention of sub-clause (i), it shall be confiscated and removed by the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) or the Executive Authority concerned without any notice and recover the cost of removal from the person concerned as an arrear of land revenue.

**198–T. Penalty.—** Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Chapter or any rule or order made thereunder or obstructs lawful exercise of any power conferred by or under this Chapter shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees or with both:

Provided that whoever erects any digital banner or placard without the permission of the Executive Authority, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both.”.

Amendment of  
section 220.

4. In section 220 of the principal Act, the proviso to sub-section (2) shall be omitted.

Insertion of new  
section 256-A.

5. After section 256 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

**“256-A. Power to give directions.—** The Government may, from time to time, issue such directions to any panchayat or authority under this Act, as they may deem fit, for giving effect to the provisions of this Act and it shall be the duty of such panchayat or authority to comply with such directions.”.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Section 172-B of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994) empowers the Government to make rules for the manner of displaying advertisement and the manner of removal of objectionable advertisement, but the said Act does not have any provision to regulate the erection of hoardings, digital banners or placards in the rural local bodies.

2. The Government have, therefore, decided to amend the said Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994, so as to regulate the erection of hoardings, digital banners or placards, in the rural local bodies, by inserting a new chapter for the purpose.

3. The Bill seeks to give effect to the above decision.

**I. PERIYASAMY,**  
*Minister for Rural Development.*

**MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

Clauses 1(2), 3 and 5 of the Bill authorise the Government to issue notification or orders or to make rules for the purposes specified therein.

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

**I. PERIYASAMY,**  
*Minister for Rural Development.*

Secretariat,  
Chennai,  
28th April 2025.

K. SRINIVASAN,  
*Principal Secretary.*