



The Punjab Entertainments Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954

Act 8 of 1954

Keyword(s):

Cinematograph, Show, Proprietor

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THE PUNJAB ENTERTAINMENTS TAX (CINEMATOGRAPH)
ACT, 1954.

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THE PUNJAB ENTERTAINMENTS TAX
(CINEMATOGRAPH SHOWS) ACT, 1954.

(PUNJAB ACT NO. 8 OF 1954)

[Received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 10th April, 1954
and was first published in the Punjab Government Gazette
(Extraordinary) of the 14th April, 1954].

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1954	8	The Punjab Entertainments Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954.	Extended to the territories which immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in the State of PEPSU, by Punjab Act, 23 of 1957 ² Amended by Punjab Act 5 of 1963 ³ Amended by Haryana Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968 ⁴ Amended by Haryana Act 3 of 1969 ⁵ Amended by Haryana Act 42 of 1973 ⁶

AN

ACT

to provide for levying entertainment tax on cinematograph shows exhibited in public in the State of ⁷[Haryana]

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Entertainments Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954.

(2) It extends to the State of ⁷[Haryana].

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette*, (Extraordinary), 1954, pages 299-300, for proceedings in Assembly, see *Punjab Legislative Assembly and Council Debates*, 1954.
2. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1957, page 791.
3. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1963, page 199.
4. See *Haryana Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), dated the 29th October, 1968.
5. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Haryana Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1969, page 54.
6. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Haryana Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1973, page 2006.
7. Sub-section (2) substituted by Punjab Act 32 of 1957 and the word "Punjab" substituted by Haryana Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.

(3) It shall come ¹[into force in the principal territories] on such *date as the State Government may, by notification direct ²[and in the transferred territories on the 24th July, 1957].

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject of the context,—

(a) 'Commissioner' means the Excise and Taxation Commissioner; ³[Haryana], or any other Officer empowered by the State Government, by notification, to exercise the powers of the Commissioner under this Act.

(b) 'Cinematograph' includes any apparatus for the representation of moving pictures or series of pictures.

(c) 'Show' means a cinematograph exhibition.

(d) 'Permanent Cinema Premises' includes a building or any other place permanently equipped for exhibition of cinematograph films.

(e) 'Prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(f) 'Proprietor' in relation to this Act includes any person responsible for the management of the premises where the show is held.

(g) 'State Government' means the Government of ³[Haryana].

(h) 'Touring Cinema' includes a cinema, which can be taken from place to place for the purpose of displaying cinematograph shows.

Levy of tax on public cinema shows.

3. ⁴[(1) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, there shall be levied, charged and paid to the State Government, on all

1. Substituted for the words "into force" by Haryana Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.

2. Added by *ibid.*

3. Substituted for the word "Punjab" by *ibid.*

4. Substituted by Haryana Act 42 of 1973.

* The Act came into force on the 4th May, 1954, *vide* Punjab Government, notification No. 1857-E&T-(Ch)-54/358, dated the 4th May, 1954.

public cinematograph exhibitions to which persons are admitted on payment, an entertainment tax at such rate as the State Government may, from time to time by notification, fix but not exceeding ten per cent of the entertainments duty payable at the rate notified under section 3 of the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955 (Punjab Act 16 of 1955), even if the same is exempted under the said Act or the rules made thereunder.]

(2) The powers conferred by sub-section (1) are subject to the condition that a draft of the proposed order fixing or varying the rates of cinematograph shows entertainment tax shall be published by notification for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby; and it shall only take effect after the State Government have considered all objections received within a period of thirty days from the date of its publication.

(3) Tax levied under sub-section (1) above shall be recoverable from the proprietor.

4. (1) For carrying out the purposes of this Act the Commissioner may be assisted by such other [persons] as the State Government may appoint in this behalf. Taxing authorities.

(2) The Commissioner or the persons appointed under sub-section (1) shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to them under the Act or the rules thereunder.

5. (1) The Commissioner may require the proprietor of any permanent cinema premises liable to tax under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act to deposit in a Government Treasury an amount not exceeding five hundred rupees as security pledged with him. Deposit of security by the proprietor.

(2) The Commissioner may forfeit the whole or part of this security if he is satisfied that sums payable under this Act due from the proprietor cannot be recovered otherwise.

(3) The Commissioner shall, if he is satisfied that the proprietor of any cinema premises who has furnished any security under sub-section (1) has ceased the business of exhibiting cinematograph films and that nothing is due from him under this Act or the rules thereunder, refund the security to the proprietor or his legal heirs.

Exemptions.

6. (1) No tax shall be levied on a public cinematograph exhibition under this Act where the Commissioner is satisfied that the whole of the net proceeds of the show will be devoted to philanthropic, charitable, educational or scientific purposes.

(2) The State Government may, by general or specific order, exempt any show or class of shows or any proprietor or class of proprietors from the operation of any or of all the provisions of this Act.

Payment of tax
and returns.

7. (1) Tax payable under this Act shall be paid in the manner hereinafter provided.

(2) Every person liable to pay tax under this Act shall furnish to the prescribed authority such returns as may be prescribed.

(3) A separate return shall be furnished every fortnight, one pertaining to the period from the first to the fourteenth of the month and the other for the period from the fifteenth day of the month to the end of the month.

(4) The return for each period shall be submitted within seven days of the close of the period to which it pertains :

Provided that the prescribed authority, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the time for furnishing of the returns by a period not exceeding thirty days.

(5) Tax payable under this Act for fourteen days shall be paid in advance by the proprietor of a touring cinema into a Government Treasury or the Reserve Bank of India at least forty-eight hours before the commencement of the first show on the first of the fourteen days for which the tax is due. The Treasury or Bank receipt showing the payment of tax shall be sent to the prescribed authority or such other officer as prescribed authority may direct, so as to reach him before the commencement of the first show on the first of the fourteen days for which tax has been paid.

(6) Before the proprietor of any permanent cinema premises furnishes the returns required by sub-section (3) he shall, in the prescribed manner, pay into a Government Treasury or the Reserve Bank of India the full amount of tax due from him under this Act according to such returns, and shall furnish along with the returns a receipt from such Treasury or Bank showing the payment of such amount.

(7) If the person liable to pay the tax discovers any omission or other error in any return furnished by him, he may at any time before the date prescribed for the furnishing of the next return by him submit a revised return and if the revised next return shows a greater amount of tax to be due than was shown in the original return it shall be accompanied by a receipt showing payment of the extra amount in the manner hereinafter provided.

(8) Every proprietor of cinema premises shall maintain such account of shows held as may be prescribed.

8. If no returns are furnished by the proprietor of a cinema premises in respect of any period within the time allowed by sub-section (4) of section 7 or if the prescribed authority is not satisfied that the returns furnished are correct and complete, it shall, within twelve months after the expiry of such period, after giving the proprietor a reasonable opportunity of being heard, proceed in such manner as may be prescribed to assess to the best of his judgment the amount of tax due from any particular proprietor. Assessment of tax.

9. (1) The prescribed authority shall, in the prescribed manner, refund to a proprietor applying in this behalf, any amount of tax paid by such proprietor in excess of the amount due from him under this Act, either by a refund voucher, or at the option of the proprietor, by deduction of such excess from the amount of tax due in respect of any other period. Refunds and remissions.

(2) The prescribed authority may remit the tax for any show which could not be completed for any reason provided he is satisfied that the ticket-holders have been refunded the price of their tickets in full.

10. The proprietor of a touring cinema intending to exhibit cinematograph films to which the public is to be admitted on payment shall deliver to the prescribed authority at least three days' clear notice in writing of such intention. Notice of holding of cinematograph shows.

11. (1) The State Government may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, require the proprietor of any cinema premises to produce before any officer of the Excise and Taxation Department, not below the rank of Sub-Inspector as may be prescribed, any accounts or documents, relevant to the shows as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act. Production and inspection of documents.

(2) If any officer of the State Government mentioned in sub-section (1) has reason to suspect that the proprietor of any cinema premises is attempting to evade the payment of any tax due from him under this Act, he may for reasons to be recorded in writing, seize such accounts, registers or documents of the proprietor, as may be necessary, and shall grant a receipt for the same, and shall retain the same for such period as may be found necessary, for examination thereof or for a prosecution.

Entry into and inspection of places where cinematograph shows are being held.

12. (1) (a) Any officer, as prescribed, may enter into and inspect any cinema premises while the show is proceeding or any place ordinarily used as a place for exhibiting cinematograph films at any reasonable time for the purpose of examining whether the provisions of this Act or any rule made thereunder are being complied with.

Act XLV of 1860.

(b) Every officer so authorised shall be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

(2) The proprietor of cinema premises or the owner or person in charge of any place ordinarily used for exhibition of cinematograph films shall give every reasonable assistance to the inspecting officer in the performance of his duties under sub-section (1).

(3) If any person prevents or obstructs the entry of the inspecting officer, he shall, in addition to any other punishment to which he is liable under any law for the time being in force, be punished with fine, which may extend to five hundred rupees.

Power to impose pecuniary penalties.

[12-A. (1) Where a proprietor commits any omission or act specified in clause (a), or clause (b), of sub-section (1) of section 14, the Commissioner or any person appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 may, after affording the proprietor a reasonable opportunity of being heard, direct him to pay, by way of penalty in addition to the tax to which he is assessed or is liable to be assessed, an amount not exceeding two thousand rupees.

(2) No prosecution for an offence under this Act shall be instituted against a proprietor in respect of the same facts on which penalty has been imposed upon him under sub-section (1)].

13. (1) No prosecution shall lie against any officer or servant of the State Government, for any act done or purporting to be done under this Act without the previous sanction of the State Government. Bar of certain proceedings.

(2) No officer or servant of the State Government shall be liable in respect of any such act in any civil or criminal proceedings if the act was done in good faith in the course of the execution of duties or the discharge of functions imposed by or under this Act.

(3) No suit shall be instituted against the State Government and no suit, prosecution, or other proceedings shall be instituted against any officer or servant of the State Government in respect of any act done or purporting to be done under this Act, unless the suit prosecution or other [proceedings are instituted] within six months from the date of the act complained of.

14. (1) If the proprietor of cinema premises—

Offences and penalties.

- (a) fails to pay the tax due from him within the time allowed under this Act, or
- (b) fraudulently evades the payment of any tax due under this Act, or
- (c) fails to furnish the returns provided in section 7, or
- (d) fails to give notice as provided in section 10, or
- (e) contravenes any other provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder,

he shall be liable in respect of each separate offence to a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees and when the offence is a continuing one, with a daily fine not exceeding fifty rupees during the period of the continuance of the offence.

(2) No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act or the rules except with the previous sanction of the Commissioner and no Court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the 1st class shall try such an offence.

15. (1) The Commissioner may at any time, accept from any person, who has committed an offence punishable under this Act, or the rules made thereunder by way of composition of such offence, a sum of Power to compound offences.

1. Substituted by Haryana Act 42 of 1973.

money not exceeding two hundred and fifty rupees or double the amount of tax involved whichever is greater.

(2) On payment of such sum of money as may be determined by the Commissioner under sub-section (1), he shall where necessary report to the Court that the offence has been compounded and thereafter no further proceedings under this Act, shall be taken against the offender in respect of the same offence and the said Court shall discharge or acquit the accused, as the case may be.

Revisions.

16. The Commissioner may, of his own motion or on application made, call for the record of any proceedings or order of any authority subordinate to him for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the legality or propriety of such proceedings or order and may pass such order in reference thereto as he may deem fit.

Recoveries.

17. Any sum due under this Act or the rules framed thereunder shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

Delegation of
powers.

18. Subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed the Commissioner may, by an order in writing, delegate all or any of his powers under this Act to any person appointed under section 4 to assist him.

Power to make
rules.

19. (1) The State Government make *rules for securing the payment of the tax and generally for carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, the State Government may make rules for any of all of the following matters, namely :—

- (a) form of any notice, return, accounts or other documents which are required or to be used or kept under or for the purposes of this Act ;
- (b) the mode of service of any notice or order required or authorised to be served ;
- (c) the procedure to be followed on and in connection with revision applications ;

* 'Rules framed'—*vide* Punjab Government notification No. 2493-E.&T. 54/740 (Ch.) dated 9th August, 1954.

- (d) the presentation and disposal of applications for exemption from payment of tax or for refunds of tax or security ; and
- (e) any matter which is required by this Act to be prescribed.

(3) All rules made under this section shall be laid before [the House] of the State Legislature as soon as may be after they are made.

1. Substituted for the words "both Houses" by the Haryana Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.