

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
COMMERCIAL TAXES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCIAL TAXES
EZHILAGAM, CHENNAI- 600 005**

**PRESENT: THIRU DHEERAJ KUMAR I.A.S.,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY/ COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAX**

**Circular No: 14 /2022 – TNGST
(PP6/GST-145/2022)**

Dated: 13.09.2022

Sub: Clarification on various issues relating to applicability of demand and penalty provisions under the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 in respect of transactions involving fake invoices–Reg.,

Ref: Circular No. 171/03/2022-GST, dated 06.07.2022, issued by Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Government of India, CBIC, New Delhi

In the reference cited, the CBIC, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, New Delhi, has issued Circular No. 171/03/2022-GST, dated 06.07.2022 on the recommendations of the GST Council. Hence, following *pari materia* circular is issued:-

A number of cases have come to notice where the registered persons are found to be involved in issuing tax invoice, without actual supply of goods or services or both (hereinafter referred to as "fake invoices"), in order to enable the recipients of such invoices to avail and utilize input tax credit (hereinafter referred to as "ITC") fraudulently. Representations are being received from the trade as well as the field formations seeking clarification on the issues relating to applicability of demand and penalty provisions under the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "TNGST Act"), in respect of such transactions involving fake invoices. In order to clarify these issues and to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the provisions of law across the field formations, the Commissioner, in exercise of powers conferred by section 168 of the TNGST Act, 2017, hereby clarifies the issues detailed hereunder.

Sl. No.	Issues	Clarification
1.	<p>In case where a registered person "A" has issued tax invoice to another registered person "B" without any underlying supply of goods or services or both, whether such transaction will be covered as "supply" under section 7 of TNGST Act and whether any demand and recovery can be made from 'A' in respect of the said transaction under the provisions of section 73 or section 74 of TNGST Act, 2017.</p> <p>Also, whether any penal action can be taken against registered person 'A' in such cases.</p>	<p>Since there is only been an issuance of tax invoice by the registered person 'A' to registered person 'B' without the underlying supply of goods or services or both, therefore, such an activity does not satisfy the criteria of "supply", as defined under section 7 of the TNGST Act, 2017. As there is no supply by 'A' to 'B' in respect of such tax invoice in terms of the provisions of section 7 of TNGST Act, no tax liability arises against 'A' for the said transaction, and accordingly, no demand and recovery is required to be made against 'A' under the provisions of section 73 or section 74 of TNGST Act, 2017, in respect of the same. Besides, no penal action under the provisions of section 73 or section 74 is required to be taken against 'A' in respect of the said transaction. The registered person 'A' shall, however, be liable for penal action under section 122 (1)(ii) of the TNGST Act, 2017 for issuing tax invoices without actual supply of goods or services or both.</p>
2.	<p>A registered person "A" has issued tax invoice to another registered person "B" without any underlying supply of goods or services or both. 'B' avails input tax credit on the</p>	<p>Since the registered person 'B' has availed and utilized fraudulent ITC on the basis of the said tax invoice, without receiving the goods or services or both, in contravention of the</p>

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	<p>basis of the said tax invoice. B further issues invoice along with underlying supply of goods or services or both to his buyers and utilizes ITC availed on the basis of the above mentioned invoices issued by 'A', for payment of his tax liability in respect of his said outward supplies. Whether 'B' will be liable for the demand and recovery of the said ITC, along with penal action, under the provisions of section 73 or section 74 or any other provisions of the TNGST Act, 2017.</p>	<p>provisions of section 16(2)(b) of TNGST Act, 2017, he shall be liable for the demand and recovery of the said ITC, along with penal action, under the provisions of section 74 of the TNGST Act, 2017 along with applicable interest under provisions of section 50 of the said Act.</p> <p>Further, as per provisions of section 75(13) of TNGST Act, 2017 if penal action for fraudulent availment or utilization of ITC is taken against 'B' under section 74 of TNGST Act, 2017, no penalty for the same act, i.e. for the said fraudulent availment or utilization of ITC, can be imposed on 'B' under any other provisions of TNGST Act, 2017 including under section 122.</p>
3.	<p>A registered person 'A' has issued tax invoice to another registered person 'B' without any underlying supply of goods or services or both. 'B' avails input tax credit on the basis of the said tax invoice and further passes on the said input tax credit to another registered person 'C' by issuing invoices without underlying supply of goods or services or both. Whether 'B' will be liable for the demand and recovery and penal action, under the provisions of</p>	<p>In this case, the input tax credit availed by 'B' in his electronic credit ledger on the basis of tax invoice issued by 'A', without actual receipt of goods or services or both, has been utilized by 'B' for passing on of input tax credit by issuing tax invoice to 'C' without any underlying supply of goods or services or both. As there was no supply of goods or services or both by 'B' to 'C' in respect of the said transaction, no tax was required to be paid by 'B' in respect of the same. The input</p>

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	<p>section 73 or section 74 or any other provisions of the TNGST Act, 2017.</p>	<p>tax credit availed by 'B' in his electronic credit ledger on the basis of tax invoice issued by 'A', without actual receipt of goods or services or both, is ineligible in terms of section 16 (2)(b) of the TNGST Act, 2017. In this case, there was no supply of goods or services or both by 'B' to 'C' in respect of the said transaction and also no tax was required to be paid in respect of the said transaction. Therefore, in these specific cases, no demand and recovery of either input tax credit wrongly/ fraudulently availed by 'B' in such case or tax liability in respect of the said outward transaction by 'B' to 'C' is required to be made from 'B' under the provisions of section 73 or section 74 of TNGST Act, 2017.</p> <p>However, in such cases, 'B' shall be liable for penal action both under section 122(1)((ii) and section 122(1)(vii) of the TNGST Act, 2017, for issuing invoices without any actual supply of goods and/or services as also for taking/ utilizing input tax credit without actual receipt of goods and/or services.</p>

2. The fundamental principles that have been delineated in the above scenarios may be adopted to decide the nature of demand and penal action to be taken against a person for such unscrupulous activity. Actual action

to be taken against a person will depend upon the specific facts and circumstances of the case which may involve complex mixture of above scenarios or even may not be covered by any of the above scenarios. Any person who has retained the benefit of transactions specified under sub-section (1A) of section 122 of TNGST Act, 2017, and at whose instance such transactions are conducted, shall also be liable for penal action under the provisions of the said sub-section. It may also be noted that in such cases of wrongful/ fraudulent availment or utilization of input tax credit, or in cases of issuance of invoices without supply of goods or services or both, leading to wrongful availment or utilization of input tax credit or refund of tax, provisions of section 132 of the TNGST Act, 2017, may also be invocable, subject to conditions specified therein, based on facts and circumstances of each case.

**Sd/-Dheeraj Kumar
Principal Secretary/
Commissioner of State Tax**

To

All the Joint Commissioners (ST) (Territorial) in the state including LTU

Copy to:

1. All Additional Commissioners,
O/o the CCT, Ezhilagam, Chennai – 600 005.
2. The Joint Commissioner (CS) to host in the departmental website
3. The Director, Commercial Tax Staff Training Institute, Chennai-35.
4. All the Joint Commissioners (ST) (Intelligence) in the state
5. All the Deputy Commissioners (ST) in the State including intelligence
6. All the Heads of assessment circles

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//Forwarded / By Order//


Deputy Commissioner (P&P)


21/9/2022

