

# The Assam Excise Act, 1910

ASSAM

India

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### Act 1 of 1910

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The Assam Excise Act, 1910Act 1 of 1910Last Updated 12th February, 2020An Act to consolidate and amend the excise law in force in Eastern Bengal and Assam.Preamble. - Whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law in force in Eastern Bengal and Assam relating to the import, export, transport, manufacture, sale and possession of intoxicating liquors and of intoxicating drugs;It is hereby enacted as follows :

## Chapter I Preliminary

### 1. Short title, extent and commencement.

(1)This Act may be called "The Assam Excise Act, 1910."(2)It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint in this behalf.(3)It extends to the whole of Eastern Bengal and Assam except the Dibrugarh Frontier Tract, in the Lakhimpur district, the Mikir Hills Tracts in the Nowgong and Sivasagar districts, and the North Cachar Sub-division of the Cachar districts of the Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Naga Hills (and the Chittagong Hills Tracts).(4)The State Government may, by notification, extend to any of the said excepted tracts and districts, or any part thereof, all or any of the provisions of this Act, and may modify the provisions so extended or restrict their operations in such manner as it thinks fit.

### 2. Repeal of enactments.

- The enactments mentioned in the First Schedule are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column thereof.

### 3. Definitions.

- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-(1)"Beer" includes ale, stout, port, and all other fermented liquor usually made from malt.(2)"Board" means the State Government of Assam.(3)"To bottle" means to transfer liquor from a cask or other vessel to a bottle or other receptacle, whether any process of rectification be employed or not and includes re-bottling.(3-a) "Club" means a society of persons associated together for social intercourse, for the promotion of politics, sports, arts/science, literature or for any purpose except the acquisition of gain, or whether the same be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or otherwise incorporated or not.(4)"Collector" includes the District Collector, and in any provision of this Act includes also any officer whom the State Government may, by notification declare or appoint to be a Collector for the purposes of that provision.(5)"Denaturant" means any substance prescribed by rules made in this behalf under Clause (m) of Section 36 for admixture with spirit in order to render the mixture unfit for human consumption, whether as a beverage, or internally, as a medicine or in any other way whatsoever.(5-a) "To denature" means to mix spirit with one or more denaturants in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made in this behalf under clause (m) of Section 36 ; and "denatured spirit" means spirit so mixed.(6)"District Collector" means the Chief-Officer-in-charge of the revenue administration of a district.(7)"Excisable articles" means-(a)any alcoholic liquor for human consumption, or(b)any intoxicating drug.(7-a) "Excise duty" and "countervailing duty" means any such excise duty or countervailing duty, as the case may be, as is mentioned in entry 51 of List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.(8)"Excise Commissioner" means the officer appointed by the State Government, under Section 8, sub-section (2), Clause (a).(9)"Excise Officer" means a Collector or any officer or other person appointed or invested with powers under Section 8.(10)"Excise revenue" means revenue derived or derivable from any duty, fee, tax, penalty, payment (other than a fine imposed by a Court of Law) or confiscation imposed or ordered under the provisions of this Act, or of any other law for the time being in force relating to liquor or intoxicating drugs.(11)"Export" means to take out of the territory to which this Act applies, otherwise than across a custom frontier as defined by the Central Government.(12)"Import" (except in the phrase import into India) means to bring into the territories to which this Act applies otherwise than across a custom frontier as defined by the Central Government.(12-a) "Intoxicant" means any liquor or intoxicating drug.(13)"Intoxicating drug" means-(i)the leaves, small stalks or flowering or fruiting tops of the Indian hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa* L) including all forms known as bhang, sidhi or ganja ;(ii)charas, that is the resin obtained from the Indian hemp plant which has not been submitted to any manipulations other than those necessary for packing and transport;(iii)any mixture with or without neutral materials, of any of the above forms of intoxicating drugs, or any drink prepared therefrom; and(iv)any other intoxicating or narcotic substance which the State Government may, by notification, declare to be an intoxicating drug, such substance not being opium, coca leaf, or a manufactured, drug, as defined in Section 6 of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.(14)"Liquor" means intoxicating liquor and includes all liquid consisting of or containing alcohol; also tari and pachwai in any form; and any substance which the State Government may, by notification, declare to be liquor for the purposes of this Act.(15)"Manufacture" includes any process whether natural or artificial, by which any intoxicant is produced or prepared, also redistillation and every process for the rectification, flavouring, blending or colouring of

liquor.(16)"pachwai" means any fermented rice, millet, or other grain, neutrally from itself or with some foreign or artificial substance, whether mixed with any liquid or not and any liquid obtained therefrom, whether diluted, or undiluted but does not include beer.(17)"Place" includes a house, building, shop, tent, vessel and raft and vehicle.(18)Expressions referring to "sale" include any transfer otherwise than by way of gift.(19)"Spirit" means any liquor containing alcohol, obtained by distillation, whether it is denatured or not.(20)"Tari" means, juice, whether fermented or unfermented, drawn from any kind of palm tree.(21)"Transport" means to move from one place to another within the territories to which this Act applies.

#### **4. Power to define "Country liquor" and "Foreign liquor" respectively.**

- The State Government may, by notification declare what, for the purpose of this Act, shall be deemed to be "Country Liquor" and "Foreign Liquor" respectively:Provided that, where the interest of any other State may be affected, no such declaration shall be made without the previous sanction of the Central Government.

#### **5.**

[Deleted].

#### **6. Wholesale and retail sale.**

- The Board may, by notification, declare with respect either to the whole of the territories to which the Act applies or to any local area comprised therein, and as regards purchasers generally or any specified class of particulars, and generally or for any specified occasion, what quantity of any intoxicant shall for the purpose of this Act, be the limit of sale by retail and sale or wholesale, respectively.

#### **7. Saving of certain enactments.**

- Save as is provided in Section 2 and in First Schedule, nothing contained in this Act shall affect the provisions of the Cantonment Act, 1889, the Sea Customs Act, 1878, or the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 or any rule or order made under the said Acts.

## **Chapter II**

### **Establishment and Control**

#### **8. Appointment of officers and conferment, withdrawal and delegation of powers.**

(1)Within a district the administration of the Excise Department and the Collector of Excise Revenue shall be under the charge of the District Collector.(2)The State Government may, by

notification applicable to the whole of the territories to which this Act applies, or to any district or local area comprised therein-(a)appoint an officer who shall, subject to the control of the Boards have the control of the administration of the Excise Department and of the Collector of the Excise Revenue ;(b)appoint any person, other than the District Collector who shall, subject to the control of the District Collector, exercise all or any of the powers or perform all or any of the duties of a Collector under this Act, or any other law for the time being in force relating to the excise revenue;(c)appoint officers of the Excise Department of such classes and with such designations, powers and duties under this Act, as the State Government may think fit;(d)order that all or any of the powers and duties assigned to any officer under clause (c) of this section shall be exercised and performed by any servant of the Government or any other person ;(e)delegate to the Boards all or any of its powers under this Act;(f)withdraw from any officer or person all or any of his powers or duties under this Act;(g)authorise-(i)the Board to delegate to the Excise Deputy Commissioner and also in such cases and such matters as the State Government may specify, to the Deputy Commissioner of a Division ;(ii)the Excise Commissioner, and in such cases and in such matters as the State Government may specify, a Commissioner of a Division, subject to the control of the Boards to delegate to Collectors, and(iii)Collectors, subject to the control of the Excise Commissioner and the Board, to delegate to subordinate officers.Subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed by any rules made under Section 36, sub-section (2), clause (a), any powers conferred upon, or delegated to or exercised in respect of the Excise Revenue by the Board, the Excise Commissioner, Commissioners of Divisions and Collectors, respectively, by or under the provisions of this Act or of any other law for the time being in force relating to excise.

## **9. Control, appeal and revision.**

(1)Orders passed under this Act or the rules framed thereunder by the Excise Commissioner, a District Collector, a Collector other than a District Collector or an authority mentioned in Sections 15 and 18 of this Act, shall be appealable before the State Government in the manner prescribed.(2)In hearing appeals, the State Government may call for the proceedings held by any of Officers or authorities mentioned in the preceding sub-section (1) and pass such order or orders thereon as it thinks fit.

## **Chapter III**

## **Import, Export and Transport**

## **10. Restrictions on import.**

(1)No intoxicant shall be imported unless-(a)the State Government has given permission either general or special, for its import:(b)such conditions, if any, as the State Government may impose, have been satisfied; and(c)the duty, if any, payable under Chapter V has been paid or a bond has been executed for the payment thereof.(2)Sub-section (1) shall not apply to any article which has been imported into India and was liable, on such importation to duty under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 or the Sea Customs Act, 1878.(3)Clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1) shall not apply to liquor manufactured in India and declared under Section 4 to be foreign liquor.

## **11. Restrictions on export and transport.**

- No intoxicant shall be exported or transported unless the duty, if any, payable under Chapter V has been paid or a bond has been executed for the payment thereof :Provided that the Board may, subject to such conditions, if any, as it thinks fit to impose, exempt any intoxicant from the provisions of this section.

## **12. Prohibition of import, export and transport.**

- The State Government may, by notification-(a) prohibit the import or export of any intoxicant into or from the territories to which this Act applies or any part thereof, or (b) prohibit the transport of any intoxicant.

### **12A.**

The State Government may, by notification-(1) prohibit into the area to which this Act applies the publication or display of advertisements of liquor or intoxicating preparations in the Newspapers, Periodicals, Journals, Hoardings, Banners etc. printed and published in and from that area; (2) prohibit into the areas which this Act applies the entry of Newspapers, Journals etc. if they contain advertisement of liquor or intoxicating preparations.

## **13. Passes for import, export and transport.**

- No intoxicant exceeding such quantity as the State Government may prescribe by notification either generally for the whole of the territories to which this Act applies or for any local area comprised therein, shall be imported, exported or transported except under a pass issued under the provisions of the next following section.

## **14. Grant of passes.**

- Passes for the import, export or transport of intoxicants may be granted by the Collector or by any officer specially authorised by the Excise Commissioner in this behalf. Such passes may be either general for definite and specified kinds of intoxicants or special for specified occasions and particular consignments only.

## **Chapter IV**

Manufacture, Possession and Sale

## **15. Manufacture and preparations for manufacture permitted only under licence.**

(1) Except under the authority and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence granted in that behalf by the authority prescribed in the rules framed under this Act—(a) no intoxicant shall be manufactured; (b) no hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa L*) shall be cultivated or collected; (c) no liquor shall be bottled for sale; (d) no distillery or brewery shall be constructed or worked; and (e) no person shall use, or have in his possession any materials, still, utensil, implement or apparatus whatsoever for the purpose of manufacturing any intoxicant other than tari: Provided that nothing in clause (c) shall apply to tari which may lawfully be sold under clauses (b) to (e) of proviso (3) to Section 18. (2) Unless and until the State Government shall, by notification issued under sub-section (3) direct otherwise, nothing in clause (a) of sub-section (1) shall apply to—(i) tari intended to be used solely for the manufacture of gur or molasses; (ii) tari intended to be used solely for the preparation of food for domestic consumption, and not as an intoxicant or for the preparation of any intoxicating article or any articles for sale; and (iii) tari up to a limit of four seers for the domestic consumption of the person in possession of the tree from which it is drawn. (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the State Government may, by notification, prohibit the manufacture of tari by any person or class of persons either throughout the territories to which this Act applies or in any local area comprised therein, either absolutely or subject to such conditions as it may prescribe.

## **16. Establishment or licensing of distilleries, breweries and warehouses.**

- The Excise Commissioner with the sanction of the Board, may—(a) establish a distillery, in which spirit may be manufactured under a licence granted under Section 15, sub-section (1) on such conditions as the State Government thinks fit to impose; (b) discontinue any distillery so established; (c) licence, on such conditions as the State Government thinks fit to impose, the construction and working of a distillery or brewery; (d) establish or licence a warehouse wherein any intoxicant may be deposited and kept without payment of duty; and (e) discontinue any warehouse so established.

## **17. Limit of possession with exceptions and prohibitions in special cases.**

(1) No person shall have in his possession any quantity of any intoxicant in excess of such quantity as the Board may, under Section 6 declare to be the limit of sale by retail, except under the authority and in accordance with the terms and conditions of—(i) a licence for the manufacture, sale or supply of such articles, or (ii) in the case of intoxicating drugs, a licence for the cultivation or collection of the plants from which such drugs were produced, or (iii) a permit granted by the Collector in that behalf. (2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall apply to—(a) any foreign liquor other than denatured spirit in the possession of any common carrier or warehouseman, as such, or (b) any foreign liquor lawfully procured by, and in the possession of any person for his own bona fide private consumption and not for sale, or (c) tari intended to be used solely for the manufacture of gur or molasses, or (d) tari intended to be used solely for domestic consumption and not as an intoxicant or for the preparation of any intoxicating article or of any article for sale. (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2) the State Government may by notification prohibit the possession by any person or class of persons either throughout the whole of the territories to which this Act applies, or in any local area, place or class of places comprised therein, or any intoxicant either absolutely or subject to the conditions as it may prescribe.

## **18. Prohibition of sale without licence and exceptions to such prohibitions.**

(1) No intoxicant shall be sold except under the authority and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence granted by the authority prescribed in the rules framed under this Act: Provided as follows: (1) on such conditions as may be determined by the Board, a licence for sale granted under the Excise Law in force in another Province may be deemed to be a licence granted under this Act; (2) a person licensed to cultivate or collect plant from which an intoxicating drug is produced, may sell without a licence those portions of the plant from which the intoxicating drug is manufactured or produced, to any person licensed under this Act to deal in the same, or to any officer to whom the Excise Commissioner may prescribe; (3) Nothing in this section applies to—(a) the sale of foreign liquor lawfully procured by any person for his private use and sold by him or on his behalf or on behalf of his representative in interest upon his quitting a station or after his decease, (b) the sale of tari lawfully possessed by a person in possession of the tree from which it was drawn to a person licensed under this Act to manufacture or sell tari, (c) the sale of tari lawfully possessed and intended to be used solely for the manufacture of gur or molasses, (d) the sale of tari lawfully possessed and intended to be used solely for the preparation of food for domestic consumption, and not as an intoxicant or for the preparation of any intoxicating article for sale, and (e) the sale of tari lawfully possessed and intended to be used in the manufacture of bread to a person holding a permit to use tari for the purpose of making bread. (2) Any club which has transactions with its members in respect of foreign liquor, shall be deemed to be conducting retail sales and shall be required to take out a licence under this Act on payment of such fees and subject to such restrictions and on such conditions as the State Government may prescribe.

## **19. Executive privilege of manufacture and supply.**

- The State Government may grant to any person on such conditions and for such period as it may think fit, the exclusive privilege of manufacturing or of supplying to licensed vendors any country liquor or intoxicating drugs within any specified local area. No grantee of any exclusive privilege under this section shall exercise the same until he has received a licence in that behalf from the Excise Commissioner.

## **20. Manufacture and sale in or near cantonments.**

- Within the limits of any military cantonment and within such distance from such limits as the Central Government in any case may prescribe, no licence for the manufacture or sale of liquor shall be granted, except with the previous consent of the Commanding Officer.

## **Chapter V**

### **Duties and Fees**

## **21. Duty on excisable articles.**

- An excise duty or a countervailing duty, as the case may be, at such rate or rates, as the State Government may direct, may be imposed, either generally or for any specified local area, on any excisable article-(a)imported; or(b)exported; or(c)transported; or(d)manufactured, cultivated or collected under any licence granted under Section 15; or(e)manufactured in any brewery or distillery licensed or established under Section 16 :Provided as follows :(1)Duty shall not be so imposed on any article which has been imported into India and was liable on such importation to the payment of duty under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 or the Sea Customs Act, 1878.(2)Duty shall be imposed under this section at different rates according to the places to which an excisable article is to be removed for consumption, or according to the varying strength and quality of such Article.

## **22. Method of levy of duty.**

- Subject to such rules regulating the time, place and manner as the State Government may prescribe, any duty imposed under Section 21 shall be levied as follows :(a)In the case of excisable articles imported-(i)either in the territories to which this Act applies or in the State or territory from which the Article is imported, or(ii)upon issue for sale from a warehouse established or licensed under Section 16, clause (d);(b)in the case excisable articles exported-in the territory to which the Act applies or in the State or territory to which the article is exported;(c)in the case of excisable articles transported-(i)in the district from which the excisable article is transported, or(ii)upon issue for sale from a warehouse established under Section 16, clause (d);(d)in the case of intoxicating drugs-(i)at the rate assessed on the area covered by a licence granted under the provisions of Section 15, sub-section (1), sub-clause (b), or on the quantity or outturn of the crop cultivated or collected under such licence, or(ii)at a rate charged upon the quantity produced or manufactured under a licence granted under the provisions of Section 15, sub-section (1), clause (a) or issued from a warehouse established or licensed under Section 16, clause (d);(e)in the case of spirit or beer manufactured in any distillery or brewery established or licensed under Section 16-(i)at a rate charged upon the quantity produced or issued from the distillery or brewery, as the case may be, or issued from a warehouse licensed or established under Section 16, clause (d), or(ii)at a rate charged in accordance with such scale or equivalents calculated on the quantity of materials used or by the degree of attention of the wash or wort as the case may be, as the State Government may prescribe :Provided that where payment is made upon issue of excisable article or sale from a warehouse, established or licensed under Section 16, clause (d), it shall be at the rate of duty in force in respect of such article on the date of issue from the warehouse.

## **23. Payment for grant for exclusive privilege.**

- Instead of or in addition to any duty leviable under this Chapter the State Government may accept payment of a sum in consideration of the grant of any exclusive privilege under Section 19.



## **23A.**

(1)Until provision to the contrary is made by the Parliament, the State Government may continue to levy any duty to which this section applies which it is lawfully levying immediately before the commencement of the Constitution, under this Chapter as then in force.(2)The duties to which this section applies are-(a)any duty on intoxicants or medicinal or toilet preparations containing alcohol which are not excisable articles within the meaning of this Act;(b)any duty on an excisable article produced outside India and imported to the territories to which the Act applies whether across a customs frontier as defined by the Central Government or not.(3)Nothing in this section shall authorise the levy by the State Government of any duty which, as between goods manufactured or produced in the State and similar goods not so manufactured or produced discriminates in favour of the former, or which in the case of goods manufactured or produced outside the State discriminates between goods manufactured or produced in one locality and similar goods manufactured or produced in another locality.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Licences, Permits and Passes**

#### **24. Existing licences, etc.**

- Every licence, permit or pass granted under any section of the Bengal Excise and the Licensing Act, 1878, shall be deemed to have been granted under the corresponding section of this Act, and shall unless previously cancelled, suspended or surrendered under this Chapter, remain in force for the period for which it was granted.

#### **25. Form and conditions of Licences, etc.**

- Every licence, permit or pass granted under this Act-(a)shall be granted-(i)on payment of such fees, if any,(ii)for such period, and(iii)subject to such restrictions and such conditions; and(b)shall be in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Board subject to any rules made under Section 36, sub-section (2), clause (g) may direct either generally or in any particular instance in this behalf Provided that no fee shall be charged for any permit granted under Section 17 for the possession of any intoxicant for bona fide private consumption or use.

## **25A.**

(1)The Excise Commissioner, Collector or any officer or authority, in issuing any licence or in making any settlement of shops under this Act, or rules framed thereunder, shall be guided by such directions as may be issued by the State Government from time to time either generally or in particular.(2)The State Government may, at any time, if in their opinion, it is so necessary, cancel any notice calling for tenders for settlement of shops in accordance with the rules framed under this Act or any tender received in pursuance of any such notice or withdraw any shop from settlement

for such period as the State Government may consider necessary without assigning any reason therefor and such power of cancellation or withdrawal shall be deemed to have always been vested in the State Government.(3)Notwithstanding anything in this Act the State Government may issue direction to the Excise Commissioner, Collector, or any officer or authority to cancel any notice in accordance with rules framed under this Act calling for tenders for settlement of shops or any tender received in pursuance of any such notice or to withdraw any shop from settlement at any time without assigning any reason therefor and the Excise Commissioner, Collector or any officer or authority, as the case may be, shall comply with such directions and such power of issuing directions to the Excise Commissioner, Collector or any officer or authority shall be deemed to have always been vested in the State Government.(4)If any notice inviting tenders received in pursuance of any such notice is cancelled under this section the value of Court- fee stamps affixed to any such tender or any money deposited along with any such tender required by or under this Act shall be refunded to the person fixing the stamp or depositing the money.

## **26. Counterpart agreement and security.**

- Every person taking out a licence under this Act may be required to execute a counterpart agreement in conformity with the tenor of his licence, and to give such security by way of deposit or otherwise, for the performance of this agreement as the authority granting the licence may require.

## **27. Technical defects, irregularities and omissions.**

(1)No licence granted under this Act, shall be deemed to be invalid by reason of any technical defect, irregularity or omission in the licence, or any proceedings taken prior to the grant thereof.(2)The decision of the Assam Board of Revenue as to what is a technical defect, irregularity or omission shall be final.

## **28. Ascertainment of local public opinion.**

- Before the licences are granted in any year of the retail sale of any intoxicant, the Collector shall take measures, in accordance with rule to be made by the State Government in this behalf, as may best enable him to ascertain local public opinion in regard to the licensing and location of shops.

## **29. Cancellation or suspension of licences, etc. in certain cases.**

(1)Subject to such restrictions as the State Government may prescribe the authority who granted the licence, permit or pass under this Act may cancel or suspend the same-(a)if any duty or fee payable by the holder thereof be not duly paid; or(b)in the event of any breach by the holder thereof or by his servants, or by any one acting on his behalf, with his express or implied permission, of any of the terms or conditions of such licence, permit or pass; or(c)if the holder thereof is convicted of any offence punishable under this Act or any other law for the time being in force relating to revenue, or of any cognizable or non-bailable offence, or of any offence punishable under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, or under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1899, or under Sections 482 to 489 of the

Indian Penal Code; or(d)if the holder thereof is punished for any offence referred to in clause (8) of Section 167 of the Sea Customs Act, 1874; or(e)at Will, if the conditions of the licence, permit or pass provided for such cancellation or suspension.(2)When a licence, permit or pass held by any person is cancelled under Clauses (a), (b), (c) or (d) of sub-section (1) the authority aforesaid may, with the previous sanction of the State Government, cancel any other licence, permit or pass granted to such person under this Act or under any other law for the time bring in force relating to excise revenue or under the Opium Act, 1878.(3)The holder of a licence, permit or pass shall not be entitled to any compensation, for the cancellation or suspension of his licence, permit or pass under this section or to the refund of any fee paid or deposit made in respect thereof:Provided that in case of hardship the State Government may grant such payment of compensation or refund of fee or deposit as it may think fit.

### **30. Cancellation of licences in other cases.**

(1)Whenever the authority stated in Section 29 considers that a licence should be cancelled otherwise than under the provisions of that section, he shall remit a sum equal to the amount of the fees payable in respect thereof for fifteen days and may cancel the licence either-(a)on the expiration of fifteen days', notice in writing of his intention to do so; or(b)forthwith without notice.(2)If any licence be cancelled under clause (b) of sub- section (1) the aforesaid authority shall, in addition to remitting such sum as aforesaid, pay to the licensee such further sum by way of compensation as the State Government may direct.(3)When a licence is cancelled under this section any fee paid in advance or deposit made by the licensee in respect thereof shall be refunded to him, less the amount, if any, due to Government.

### **31. Surrender of licence.**

- Any holder of a licence granted under the Act to sell an intoxicant may surrender his licence on the expiration of one month's notice in writing given by him to the Collector of his intention to surrender the same and on payment of the fee payable for the licence for the whole period for which it would have been current but for such surrender :Provided that, if the State Government is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for surrendering a licence, it may remit to the holder thereof the sum so payable on surrender and any fee paid in advance or any portion of such sum or fee :Provided also that nothing in this section shall apply in the case of a licence held by the grantee of an exclusive privilege under Section 19.Explanation. - In this section and in Section 34, the words 'holder of a licence' include a person whose bid, tender or application for a licence has been accepted by the Excise Officer empowered to grant such licence although such person may not in fact have received a licence.

### **32. No right to renewal.**

- No person to whom a licence has been granted under this Act shall have been any claim to the renewal of such licence, or save as is provided in Section 30, any claim to compensation on the determination thereof.

## **Chapter VII**

### **General Provisions**

#### **33. Measures, weights and instruments.**

- Every person who manufactures or sells any intoxicant under a licence granted under this Act-(a)shall supply himself with such measures, weights and instruments as the State Government may prescribe, and shall keep the same in good condition; and(b)on the requisition of any Excise Officer duly empowered in this behalf, shall at any time measure weight or test any intoxicant in his possession as such officer may require.

#### **34. Departmental management and re-sale.**

- If any person to whom an exclusive privilege has been granted under Section 19, or any holder of a licence granted under this Act makes default in payment of any sum payable in respect of such privilege or licence or in complying with any other condition thereof, the Collector may take such privilege or the grant expressed in such licence under management or may re-sell such privilege or grant at the risk and loss of the defaulter.

#### **35. Recovery of dues.**

- All excise revenues, including any loss that may accrue when, in consequence of default, a privilege or grant has been taken under management or re-sold by the Collector under Section 34, and all amounts due to the State Government by any person on account of any contract relating to excise revenue, may be recovered from the person primarily liable to pay the same or from his surety, if any, by distress and sale of his movable property, or as arrears of land revenue or in the manner provided for the recovery of public demands by any law for the time being in force.

#### **36. Power of State Government to make rules.**

(1)The State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force relating to the excise revenue.(2)In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the State Government may make rules-(a)regulating the delegation of any powers by the Board, the Excise Commissioner, Commissioners of Divisions and Collectors under Section 8, sub-section (2), clause (g);(b)prescribing the powers, duties and subordination and control of officers of Excise Department;(c)regulating appeals and revisions and in particular-(i)declaring the cases in which and authorities to whom appeals shall lie under sub-section (3) of Section 9;(ii)prescribing the time and manner for presenting appeals and the procedure for dealing with appeals under sub-section (2) and under sub-section (3) of Section 9; and(iii)declaring, in case not provided for by the Act, the Excise Officers or classes of Excise Officers who shall for the purposes of sub-section (4) of Section 9, be subordinate to, or subject to the control of the several authorities specified in that

sub-section;(d)regulating the import, export, transport or possession of any intoxicant;(e)regulating the manufacture, supply, storage or sale of any intoxicant; and in particular regulating-(i)the erection, inspection, supervision, management and control of any place for the manufacture, supply, storage or sale of any such article; and the fittings, implements and apparatus to be maintained therein;(ii)the cultivation of the hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa* L) the collection of the spontaneous growth of such plant, and the preparation of any intoxicating drugs from such growth;(iii)the tapping of tari producing trees and the drawing of tari from such trees;(iv)the bottling of liquor for sale;(f)regulating the deposit of intoxicants in warehouses and the removal of such articles from warehouses, distilleries or breweries;(g)regulating the period for which and the persons to whom the licences for the sale of any intoxicant may be granted and providing for the selection of sites at which shops may be opened;(h)prescribing the procedure to be followed and the matters to be ascertained before any licence for such sale is granted in any local area;(i)prescribing in the case of any intoxicant the manner in which the duty on such article shall be levied;(j)prescribing the sale of fees or the manner of fixing the fees payable in respect of any privilege, licence, permit or pass or in respect of storing of any intoxicant;(k)prescribing the time, place and manner of payment of any duty or fee;(l)prescribing the restrictions under and the conditions on which any licence, permit or pass may be granted;and in particular providing for-(i)the prohibition of admixture with any intoxicant of any foreign substance;(ii)the regulation or prohibition of the reduction of liquor by a licence manufacturer or a licensed vendor from a higher to a lower strength;(iii)the fixing of the strength, price or quantity in excess of or below which any intoxicant shall not be supplied, sold or kept or exposed for sale, the fixing of the quantity in excess of which denatured spirit shall not be possessed, and the fixing of a standard of quality for any intoxicant;(iv)the regulation and prohibition of the employment by the licence holder of any person or class of persons in or upon his business premises during business hours or to assist him in his business in any capacity whatsoever;(v)the specifications of the persons or classes of persons to whom any intoxicant may or may not be sold;(vi)the prohibition of sale except for cash;(vii)the prevention of drunkenness, intoxication, gambling or disorderly conduct in or near the business premises of the licence holder and of the meeting or remaining of persons of bad character in such premises;(viii)the fixing of the days and hours during which such premises may or may not be kept open, and the closure of such premises on special occasions;(ix)the specification of the nature of the premises in which any intoxicant may be sold and the notices to be exposed at such premises;(x)the accounts to be maintained and the return to be submitted by licence holders; and(xi)regulating or prohibiting the transfer of licences;(m)(i)declaring the process by which spirit manufactured in India shall be denatured;(ii)for causing such spirit to be denatured through the agency or under the supervision of its own officers;(iii)for ascertaining whether such spirit has been denatured;(n)providing for the destruction or the disposal of any intoxicant deemed to be unfit for use;(o)regulating the disposal of confiscated articles;(p)providing for the grant of expenses to witnesses;(q)regulating the power of Excise Officer to summon witnesses from a distance under the provisions of Section 43; and(r)providing for the grant of compensation to persons improperly arrested and subsequently released by an Excise Officer under Section 43; and persons charged before a Magistrate with offences under this Act and acquitted.Explanation. - Fees may be prescribed under sub-clause (j) at different rates for different classes of exclusive privileges, licences, permits, passes or storage and for different areas.(3)The Stale Government may make rules regulating the terms and conditions that may be required to be complied with and the factors to be taken into consideration, in issuing

licences permits or passes under this Act or rules framed thereunder.(4)While framing rules under this Act, the State Government may provide, from time to time, for reservations to be made in favour of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes and educated unemployed youths with particular reference to their economic backwardness for the purpose of this Act; and may also provide for discouraging or preventing monopoly in matters relating to such licences, passes and permits.(5)Any rule framed under this Act shall be given retrospective effect from such date as may be considered necessary by the State Government.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Prevention, Detection and Investigation of Offences**

#### **37. Inspection of places of manufacture and sale.**

- The Excise Commissioner or a Collector or any Excise or Police Officer, not below such rank as the State Government may, by notification prescribe, may enter and inspect at any time by day or by night any place in which any licensed, manufacturer carries on the manufacture of or stores any intoxicant and any place in which any intoxicant is kept for sale by any licensed person and may examine accounts and registers, and may examine test, measure, or weigh any measures, weights, testing instruments, materials, stills, utensils, implements, apparatus or intoxicant found in such place.

#### **38. Arrest, seizure and search without warrant.**

- Subject to such restrictions as the State Government may prescribe, any of the following persons, namely :-(1)any officer employed in Excise, Police, Salt or Customs Departments or by a body of Port Commissioners, not below such rank as the State Government may prescribe;(2)within such areas as the State Government may, by notification, direct such officers of the Land Revenue Department as may be specified in such notification;(3)any other person duly empowered; and(4)in any public place, any Excise or Police Officer, may-(a)arrest without warrant any person found committing an offence punishable under Section 53 or Section 54;(b)seize, detain and carry away any excisable or other article which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation under this Act, or any other law for the time going in force relating to the Excise Revenue or any document or other article which he has reason to believe may furnish evidence of the commission of an offence punishable under this Act or under the Indian Opium Act, 1878, or under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930; and(c)detain and search any person upon whom and any vessel, craft, vehicle, animal, package, receptacle or covering in or upon which he may have reasonable cause to support any such article to be.

#### **39. Issue of warrants.**

- A Collector or Magistrate having reason to believe that an offence punishable under Section 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 or 60 has been or is likely to be committed may-(a)issue his warrant for the search of any

place in which he has reason to believe that any intoxicant, still, utensil, implement, apparatus or materials, in respect of which such offence has been or is likely to be committed, are kept or concealed; and(b)issue his warrant for the arrest of any person whom he has reason to believe to have been or to be likely to be engaged in the commission of any such offence.

#### **40. Search and arrest in presence of Collector or Magistrate.**

(1)A Collector or Magistrate may at any time search or direct a search to be made in his presence of any place for the search of which he is competent to issue a search warrant under Section 39.(2)A Collector or a Magistrate may at any time arrest or direct the arrest in his presence of any person for whose arrest he is competent at the time and in the circumstances to issue a warrant under Section 39.

#### **41. Search, seizure and arrest following upon entry without warrant, in emergent cases.**

- Any Excise or Police Officer, not below such rank as the State Government may, by notification prescribe, having reason to believe and having recorded the grounds of his belief that an offence under Section 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 or 60 has been, is being or is likely to be committed in any place and that a search cannot be obtained without affording the offender an opportunity of escaping or of concealing evidence of the offence, may at any time by day or night-(a)enter into and search such place;(b)seize and carry away anything found therein which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation under this Act or any document or other article which he has reason to believe may furnish evidence of the commission of an offence punishable under this Act or under the Indian Opium Act, 1878 or under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930; and(c)detain and search and, if he thinks proper, arrest any person found in such a place whom he has reason to believe to have committed any such offence as aforesaid.

#### **42. Power to investigate.**

(1)A Collector may without the order of a Magistrate, investigate any offence punishable under this Act which a Court having jurisdiction over the local area within the limits of such a Collector's jurisdiction would have power to inquire into or try under the provisions of Chapter XV of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 relating to the place of inquiry or trial.(2)Any other Excise Officer when specially empowered in this behalf by the State Government in respect of all or any specific class of offences punishable under this Act, may, without the order of the Magistrate, investigate any such offence which a Court having jurisdiction over the local area to which such officer is appointed would have power to inquire into or try under the aforesaid provisions.

#### **43. Powers of Investigating Officers.**

(1)Any Collector or other officer empowered under the provisions of Section 42, sub-section (2), having recorded in writing his reasons for suspecting the commission of an offence which he is

empowered to investigate, may exercise the powers conferred upon a police officer making an investigation or upon an officer-in-charge of a police station by Sections 140 to 171 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and as regards offences punishable under Sections 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 60 of this Act, the powers conferred upon such Police Officers, in respect of cognizable offences by the first clause of sub-section (1) of Section 54 and by Section 56 of the said Code.(2)Subject to such restrictions as the State Government may prescribe, a Collector or with the previous permission of a Collector but not otherwise, any other officer specially empowered under Section 32 may, without reference to a Magistrate and for reasons to be recorded by him in writing, stop further proceedings against any person concerned or supposed to be concerned in any offence which he has investigated.(3)For the purpose of the provisions of Section 166 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the area to which an officer specially empowered under Section 52, sub-section (2) is appointed shall be deemed to be a police station, and such officer the officer-in-charge of such station.(4)As soon as an investigation under Section 42 has been completed, if it appears that there is sufficient evidence to justify the forwarding of the accused to a Magistrate, the investigating officer, when does not proceed under sub-section (2) or under Section 70 shall submit a report which for the purposes of Section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, shall be deemed to be a police report, in such form as the State Government may prescribe to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into or try the case and empowered to take cognizance of offences on police report.

#### **44. Production or persons arrested or articles seized.**

(1)Articles seized and, unless security for their appearance before the Collector be taken, persons arrested under the warrant of a Collector shall be produced before such Collector.(2)Articles seized under the provisions of Sections 38 and 41, and persons arrested under the said provisions by persons or officers not empowered to accept bail shall be produced before or forwarded to-(a)the Collector or other officer empowered under Section 42 to investigate the case ; or(b)an Excise Officer empowered under Section 49 to accept bail; or(c)the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station, whoever is nearest.(3)When a person arrested is produced before an Excise Officer empowered under Section 49 to accept bail, or before an officer-in-charge of a police station, such officer shall forward such person to, or take security for his appearance before the Collector or other officer empowered under Section 42 to investigate the case.(4)When articles seized cannot be conveniently conveyed before the officer specified in sub-sections (1) and (2) the persons making the seizure shall dispose of them in some place of safety and forthwith report the seizure to such officer.

#### **45. Police custody of articles seized.**

(1)All officers-in-charge of a police station shall take charge of and keep in safe custody, pending the orders of a Collector, or other officer empowered under Section 42, to investigate the case, all articles seized under this Act which may be delivered to them; and shall allow any Excise Officer who may accompany such articles to the police station or may be deputed for the purpose of an official superior to affix his seal to such articles and to take samples of and from them.(2)All samples so taken shall also be sealed with the seal of the officer-in-charge of the police station.



## **46. Reports of arrests, seizures and searches.**

- When any Excise Officer below the rank of a Collector or Officer-in-charge of a police station makes or receives the information of any arrest, seizure or search under this Act, he shall, within twenty-four hours thereafter, make a full report of the particulars of the arrest, seizure or search or of the information received to the Collector, and to the other officer, if any, empowered under Section 42, sub-section (2), within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the arrest, seizure or search was made.

## **47. Procedure in executing warrants and in making arrests and searches.**

(1) Save as in this Act otherwise expressly provided, the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, relating to arrests, searches, warrant of arrest and search warrants shall apply, so far as may be, to like warrants issued and to arrests and searches made under the provisions of this Act. (2) For the purposes of the aforesaid provisions a Collector shall be deemed to be a Court. (3) Warrants issued by a Collector shall ordinarily be directed to one or more Excise Officers. (4) Officers to whom a Collector's warrant is directed or endorsed, and officers other than Collectors making arrests, searches and seizures under Section 3 or Section 41 shall, for the purpose of the aforesaid provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 be deemed to be police officers.

## **48. Maximum period of detention.**

- No person arrested under the provisions of this Act shall be detained in custody for a longer period than under all the circumstances of the case is reasonable and such period shall not exceed twenty-four hours exclusive of the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the place where the Collector or other officers empowered under Section 42 to investigate, as the case may be, and thence to the Court of a Magistrate having jurisdiction to inquire into or try the case.

## **49. Bail.**

(1) When a Collector issues a warrant for the arrest of any person under this Act, he shall in every such case direct in the manner provided in Section 76 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, that such person shall be released from custody on bail or, if the Collector thinks fit, on his own bond. (2) When any person is arrested otherwise than under a warrant under this Act and is prepared to give bail, he shall be released on bail, or, at the discretion of the officer releasing him, on his own bond. (3) All Excise Officers, not below such rank as the State Government may prescribe, shall be empowered to accept bail. (4) If the arrest be made, otherwise than under a warrant, by a person or officer not empowered to accept bail, and the person arrested is prepared to give bail, the officer or person making the arrest shall, for that purpose, take the person arrested to—(a) the nearest Excise Officer empowered to accept bail; or (b) the nearest officer-in-charge of a police station, whoever is nearer. (5) Bonds taken under this section from persons arrested otherwise than under warrant shall bind such persons to appear before a Collector or other officer empowered under Section 42 to investigate the case. (6) The provisions of Sections 498 to 502, 513, 514 and 515 of the Code of

Criminal Procedure, 1898, shall apply, so far as may be, in every case in which bail is accepted or a bond taken under this section.

## **50. Information and aid to Excise Officers.**

- Subject to such conditions, if any, as the State Government may, by notification prescribe, every officer employed in the Police, Salt and Customs Departments, every officer employed by a body of Port Commissioner, every village chaukidar, and within such areas as the State Government may, by notification, direct, such officers of the Land Revenue Department, as may be specified in such notification, shall be bound-(a)to give immediate information to an Excise Officer of all breaches or any of the provisions of this Act which may come to his knowledge ; and(b)to aid an Excise Officer reasonably demanding his aid in the due carrying out of any of the provisions of this Act.

## **51. Obligations on landholders and others to give information in certain cases.**

- In such areas as the State Government may, by notification, direct, and subject to such conditions and exceptions, if any, as it may, by notification prescribe, whenever any intoxicant, manufactured, or any hemp plant is cultivated or collected on any land, or in any place or village, in contravention of the provisions of this Act, all owners and occupiers of such land or place, and their agents and all members of the panchayats, village headmen, mauzadars, mandals, patwaris, and village recorders in such village, as the case may be, shall, in the absence of reasonable excuse, be bound to give information of the fact to a Collector, to a magistrate or to any officer of the Excise or Police Department as soon as such fact may come to their knowledge.

## **52. The closing of retail shops for the preservation of public peace.**

(1)The District or Sub-Divisional Magistrate may, by notice in writing to the licensee, require that any shop in which any intoxicant is sold by retail shall be closed at such times or for such periods as such Magistrate may deem necessary for the preservation of the public peace.(2)If any riot or unlawful assembly is apprehended or occurs in the vicinity of any such shop, any Magistrate, or any Police Officer above the rank of constable who is present, may order the person in charge thereof to keep it closed for such period as the Magistrate or Police Officer may think necessary :Provided that no shop shall be kept closed under this sub-section for a longer period than 48 hours without the order of a Magistrate.(3)When any Magistrate or Public Officer makes a requisition or direction under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), he shall forthwith report the fact to the Collector having jurisdiction in the local area in which the shop is situated.(4)The State Government may grant to the licensee of a shop kept closed under sub-section (1) or (2) such compensation as it may think fit.

## **Chapter IX**

### **Penalties and Procedures**

### **53. Unlawful import, manufacture, possession, sale, etc.**

(1)Whoever, in contravention of this Act, or of rules, notification or order made or issued under this Act, or of any licence, permit, or pass granted under this Act-(a)imports, exports, transports, manufactures, possesses or sells any intoxicants other than tari and pachwai; or(b)cultivates, collects or sells the hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa L*); or(c)constructs or works any distillery or brewery; or(d)uses, keep or has in his possession any materials, still, utensil, implement or apparatus whatever for the purpose of manufacturing any intoxicant other than tari and pachwai; or(e)bottles any liquor other than tari and pachwai for the purposes of sale, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine and the convicting Magistrate shall direct the offender to be imprisoned in default of payment of fine for a term which may extend to one year, and such imprisonment shall be in addition to any other imprisonment to which he may have been sentenced.(2)Whoever as aforesaid-(a)taps or draws tari from any producing tree ; or(b)bottles any tari or pachwai for the purposes of sale ; or(c)imports, exports, transports, manufactures, possesses or sells any tari or pachwai, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

### **54. Unlawful possession in certain cases.**

- Whoever without lawful authority has in his possession any quantity of any intoxicant knowing the same to have been unlawfully imported, transported or manufactured, and knowing that the prescribed duty has not been paid thereon, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine, or with both ;And where a fine is imposed, the convicting Magistrate shall direct the offender to be imprisoned in default of payment of fine for a term which may extend to one year, and such imprisonment shall be in addition to any other imprisonment to which he may have been sentenced.

### **55. Penalty for altering or attempting to alter any denatured spirit.**

- If any person alters or attempts to alter any denatured spirit, whether manufactured in India or not, with the intention that such spirit may be used for human consumption whether as a beverage or internally as a medicine or in any other way whatsoever, by any method whatsoever, or has in his possession any spirit in respect of which he knows or has reason to believe that any such alteration or attempt has been made, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or to a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

### **56. Adulteration, etc.**

- Whoever being the holder of a licence, permit or pass granted under this Act, or being in the employ of such holder, wilfully contravenes any rule made under Section 36(2)(b)(i), and (iii); shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with fine or with both ;And, where a fine is imposed, the convicting Magistrate shall direct the offender to be imprisoned in default of payment of fine for a term which may extend to one year, and such imprisonment shall be

in addition to any other imprisonment to which he may have been sentenced.

### **57. Fraud by licensee or his servant.**

- Whoever being the holder of a licence, permit or pass granted under this Act, or being in the employ of such holder, - (a) keeps or exposes for sale, as foreign liquor, any liquor which he knows or has reason to believe to be country liquor, or (b) marks or otherwise deals with any bottle, cask, package or other receptacle containing country liquor, or marks the cork of any such bottle, with the intention of causing it to be believed that such bottle, cask, package or other receptacle contains foreign liquor, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

### **58. Breach of rule or condition of licence.**

- Whoever being the holder of a licence, permit or pass granted under this Act, or being in the employ of such holder and acting on his behalf, - (a) fails to produce such licence, permit or pass on the demand of any Excise Officer or of any other officer duly empowered to make such demand ; or (b) in any case not otherwise provided for in this Act wilfully contravenes any rule made under Section 36 or wilfully does or omits to do anything in breach of any of the conditions of such licence, permit or pass, shall be punished in case of (a) with fine which may extend to fifty rupees, and in case (b) with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

### **59. Liability of licensee for offence committed by his agent.**

- The holder of a licence, permit or pass granted under this Act shall be punishable, as well as the actual offender, for any offence punishable under Section 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 or 58 committed by any person in his employ and acting on his behalf as if he had himself committed such offence, unless he establishes that all due and reasonable precautions were exercised by him to prevent the commission of such offence : Provided that no person other than the actual offender shall be punished with imprisonment except in default of payment of fine.

### **59A. Import, export, transport, manufacture, sale or possession by one person on account of another.**

(1) When any intoxicant has been imported, exported, transported, manufactured or sold or is possessed by any person on account of another person, and such other person knows or has reason to believe that such import, export, transport, manufacture or sale was, or that such possession is, on his account, the article shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been imported, exported, transported, manufactured or sold by, or to be in the possession of, such other person. (2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall absolve any person who imports, exports, transports, manufactures, sells or has possession of an intoxicant on account of another person from liability to any punishment under this Act for the unlawful import, export, transport, manufacture, sale or possession of such article.

## **60. Consumption of intoxicants in druggist shop.**

(1) If any chemist, druggist, apothecary or keeper of a dispensary allows any intoxicant which has not been bona fide medicated, to be consumed on his business premises by any person not employed in his business, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both. (2) If any person not employed as aforesaid consumes any such intoxicant on such premises, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

## **61. Vexatious search, seizures, detention or arrest or refusal of duty or cowardice on part of Excise Officer.**

- Whoever, being an Excise Officer-(a) without reasonable grounds of suspicion, searches or causes to be searched any place, under colour of exercising any power conferred by this Act, or (b) vexatiously and unnecessarily seizes any property of any person on the pretext of seizing or searching for any article liable to confiscation under this Act, or (c) vexatiously and unnecessarily detains, searches or arrests any person, or (d) without lawful excuse ceases or refuses to perform or withdraws himself from the duties of his office, unless expressly and in writing allowed to do so by the Collector, or unless he shall have given to his immediate superior two months' notice in writing of his intention to do so, or (e) is guilty of cowardice; shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

## **61A. Punishment for allowing premises to be used for the commission of an offence.**

- Whoever, being the owner or occupier or having the use of any house, room, enclosure, space, vessel, vehicle, or place, knowingly permits it to be used for the commission by any other person of an offence punishable under Section 53, Section 54 or Section 55, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine, or with both.

## **62. Offences not specifically provided for.**

- Whoever, in any case not otherwise provided for under this Act, wilfully contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule, notification or order made or issued thereunder shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

## **63. Attempts.**

- Whoever attempts to commit any offence punishable under this Act shall be liable to the punishment provided for such offence.

### **63A. Abetments.**

- Whoever abets an offence punishable under this Chapter shall, whether such offence be or be not committed in consequence of such abetment, and notwithstanding anything contained in Section 116 of the Indian Penal Code be punished with the punishment provided for the offence.

### **64. Enhanced punishment after previous conviction.**

- If any person after having been previously convicted of an offence punishable under Section 53, 54, 55 or 60 or under the similar provisions in any enactment repealed by this Act, subsequently commits and is convicted of an offence punishable under any of those sections, he shall be liable to twice the punishment which might be imposed on a first conviction under this Act: Provided that nothing in this section shall prevent any offence which might otherwise have been tried summarily under Chapter XXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, from being so tried.

### **64A. Security for abstaining from commission of certain offences.**

(1) Whenever any person is convicted of an offence punishable under Section 53, Section 54, Section 55, Section 56 or Section 60 and the Court convicting him is of the opinion that it is necessary to require such person to execute a bond for abstaining from the commission of offences punishable under these sections, the Court may, at the time of passing sentence on such person, order him to execute a bond; for a sum proportionate to his means with or without sureties, for abstaining from the commission of such offences during such period, not exceeding three years as it thinks fit to fix. (2) The bond shall be in the form contained in the Second Schedule and the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, shall, in so far as they are applicable, apply to all matters connected with such bond or with the non-execution thereof as if it were a bond to keep the peace, ordered to be executed under Section 109 of that Code. (3) If the conviction is set aside on appeal or otherwise the bond so executed shall become void. (4) An order under this section may also be made by an Appellate Court or by the High Court when exercising its powers of revision.

### **65. Initiation of prosecution.**

(1) No Magistrate shall take cognizance of an offence punishable—(a) under Section 53, 54, 55 or 60 except on his own knowledge or suspicion or on the complaint or report of an Excise Officer; (b) under Section 56, 57, 58 or 62 except on the complaint or report of a Collector or other officer empowered under Section 42, sub-section (2) to investigate the case; or (c) under Clauses (d) and (e) of Section 61 except with the sanction of the District Collector. (2) Except with the special sanction of the State Government no Magistrate shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act, unless the prosecution is instituted within six months after the commission of the offence.

## **66. Magistrate empowered to try cases under this Act.**

- Offences under this Act shall be triable only by Magistrates exercising powers not less than those of a Magistrate of a second class.

## **67. Presumptions.**

(1)When in any prosecutions under this Act or in any proceedings taken under Section 69, sub-section (3) the question arises whether an offence punishable under this Act has been committed in respect of-(a)any intoxicant or hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa L*);(b)any still, utensil, implement or apparatus whatsoever for the manufacture of any intoxicant, other than tari; or(c)any materials such as are ordinarily used in the manufacture of any intoxicant, if the person found in possession thereof fails to account satisfactorily for such possession ;it may be presumed until the contrary is proved, that his possession was in contravention of the provisions of this Act.(2)When in any prosecution under Section 58 any licensed vendor is charged with permitting drunkenness or intoxication in his shop or in any public room of his business premises, and it is proved that any person was drunk or intoxicated in such shop or room, it shall lie on such vendor to prove that he and the persons employed by him took all reasonable steps for preventing drunkenness or intoxication in such shop or room.

### **67A. Presumption as to offence under Section 55 in certain cases.**

- In prosecutions under Section 55, when the accused person is proved to have been in possession of any spirit which is, or contains, or has been derived from denatured spirit and in respect of which any such alteration or attempt as is referred to in Section 55 has been made, it may, from the mere fact of such possession, be presumed, unless and until the contrary is proved, that such person-(i)has himself made such alterations or attempt, or(ii)knows or has reason to believe that such alteration or attempt has been made.

### **67B. Presumption as to any spirit which contains any denaturant.**

- In any prosecution under this Act, it may be presumed unless and until the contrary is proved, that any spirit which contains any quantity of denaturant is or has been derived from denatured spirit.

## **68. Liability of confiscation.**

- Whenever an offence punishable under this Act has been committed, the following things shall be liable to confiscation, namely :-(a)the intoxicant, hemp plant (*Cannabis Sativa L*) still, utensil, implement, apparatus or material in respect of or by means of which such offence has been committed ;(b)any intoxicant lawfully imported, transported, manufactured had in possession or sold along with any intoxicant liable to confiscation as aforesaid ;(c)the receptacles, packages and coverings in which anything liable to confiscation under Clause (a) or Clause (b) is found, and the other contents, if any, such receptacles and packages ; and(d)the animals, carts, vessels, crafts or

other conveyance used in carrying anything referred to in the foregoing clauses :Provided that when it is proved that the receptacles or other articles specified in Clauses (c) and (d) are not the property of the offender, the said article shall not be liable to confiscation if the owner thereof establishes that he had no reason to believe that such offence was being or was likely to be committed.

## **69. Procedure in regard to articles liable to confiscation.**

(1)When in any case tried by a Magistrate, the Magistrate decides that anything is liable to confiscation under Section 68 he shall order such thing to be confiscated and placed at the disposal of the Collector.(2)When in any other case in which anything has been seized under this Act an Investigating Officer proceeds under Section 43, sub-section (2) or the Collector, upon an investigation made, whether by the Collector or by other officer under Section 42, is of opinion that the thing seized is not liable to confiscation under Section 68, such Investigating Officer or the Collector, as the case may be, shall order the delivery of such thing to the person from whose possession it was taken.(3)When upon an investigation made as aforesaid it appears to the Collector that an offence made under this Act has been committed and that anything seized under this Act is liable to be confiscated and it further appears that the offender is not known or cannot be found, the Collector shall inquire into and determine the case, and, if he finds that the thing is liable to confiscation under Section 68, shall order such confiscation :Provided that no such order shall be made until the expiration of two months the date of seizing the thing intended to be confiscated or without hearing any person who may appear within the period and claim any right to such thing, and the evidence, if any, which he produces in support of his claim :Provided further that if the thing in question is liable to speedy and natural decay, or if the Collector is of opinion that its sale would be for the benefit of the owner, the Collector may at any time direct it to be sold; and the provisions of this sub-section and sub-section (2) shall, as nearly as may be practicable, apply to the net proceeds of such sale.

## **70. Power to compound offences.**

(1)When any licence, permit or pass is liable to be cancelled or suspended under Clause (a) or Clause (b) of Section 29, sub-section (1) or when any person is reasonably suspected of having committed an offence under this Act, other than an offence under Section 61, the Excise Commissioner or a Collector instead of enforcing such cancellation or suspension or instituting a prosecution in respect of such offence, may accept from the holder of such licence, permit or pass or from such person a sum of money not exceeding five hundred rupees, and thereupon such holder or person, if in custody, shall be discharged, and no further proceedings in respect of such liability or offence shall be taken against him;And if in any such case any property has been seized as liable to confiscation under this Act, the Excise Commissioner or the Collector may release the same on receiving payment of the value thereof as estimated by him or of such smaller sum as he may think fit.(2)The Excise Commissioner or the Collector may also, after the institution against any person of a prosecution in respect of any offence under this Act other than offence under Section 61, compound the offence on payment by such person of a sum of money not exceeding five hundred rupees.(3)Notwithstanding anything contained in this section an Excise Officer not below the rank of an Inspector of Excise may, at any time, compound an offence under this Act in respect of



manufacture and possession of pachwai exceeding the quantity that may be exempted under Section 73 but not exceeding five seers, on payment by the person manufacturing or possessing such pachwai of a sum not exceeding twenty-five rupees.

## **71. Contempt of Court.**

- Every proceeding under this Act, before a Collector shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of Section 228 of the Indian Penal Code and the Collector engaged in such proceedings shall be deemed to be a Revenue Court within the meaning of Section 480 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

## **Chapter X Miscellaneous**

### **72. Exception of medicated article.**

- The foregoing provisions of this Act shall not apply to import, manufacture, possession, supply or sale of any bona fide medicated article for medicinal purposes by medical practitioners, chemists, druggists, apothecaries or keepers of dispensaries, except in so far as the State Government may, by notification, so direct.

### **73. Power of State Government to exempt intoxicants from the provisions of this Act.**

- The State Government may, by notification, either wholly or partially and subject to such conditions as it may think fit to prescribe, exempt any intoxicant from all or any of the provisions of this Act, either throughout the territories to which this Act applies or in any specified area or specify period or occasion or as regards any specified class of persons.

### **74. Certain provisions of Municipal Act not to apply.**

- Nothing contained in Section 261 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, or in Section 285 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1876 shall apply to any brewery, distillery or warehouse established or licensed under this Act, or to the premises used for the manufacture or sale of any intoxicant by the holder of a licence granted under this Act for such manufacture or sale.

### **75. Publication of rules and notifications.**

- All rules made and notifications issued under this Act shall be published in the official Gazette and on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

## 76. Bar of certain suits.

- No suit shall lie against the Government or against any Excise Officer in respect of anything done, or in good faith purporting to be done, in pursuance of this Act or of any other law for the time being in force relating to the excise revenue.

## 77. Limitation of suits and proceedings.

- No suit, prosecution or other proceedings against the Government or against any Excise Officer in respect of anything done or alleged to have been done in pursuance of this Act or of any other law for the time being in force relating to the Excise revenue, shall, except as provided in Section 65, sub-section (2), be entertained in any court unless the suit, prosecution or other proceeding is instituted within six months from the date of the act complained of. First Schedule Enactments repealed [See Section 2]

Number and year <sup>1</sup>	Short title <sup>2</sup>	Extent of repeal <sup>3</sup>
Part I. Acts of the Governor-General-in-Council		
16 of 1863	The Excise (Spirits) Act, 1883	So much as has not been repealed
9 of 1885	The Excise and Sea Customs Law (Amendment) Act, 1885	In the title, the words and figures "The Bengal Excise Act, 1878, and". In the preamble, the words and figures "Section 18 of the Bengal Excise Act, 1878, and". Section 3.
13 of 1890	The Excise (Malt Liquors) Act, 1890	In the title, the words and figures "The Bengal Excise Act, 1878, and". In the preamble, the words and figures "The Bengal Excise Act, 1878, and". Sections 6, 7 and 8 and the heading pre-fixed thereto.
8 of 1894	The Indian Tariff Act, 1894	Section 6.
5 of 1897	The Amending Act, 1897	So much of the Second Schedule as relates to Bengal Act I of 1883.
7 of 1878	The Bengal Excise and Licensing Act, 1878	So much as has not been repealed.
4 of 1881	The Bengal Excise (Amendment) Act, 1881	Ditto.
1 of 1883		So much as has been repealed.

The Bengal Excise  
(Amendment) Act,  
1883

1 of 1895

The Public Demands  
Recovery Act, 1895

In Section 7, Clause (d) the words and figures "isrecoverable under... Section 36 of the Bengal Excise Act, 1878, or which."

2 of 1903

The Bengal Excise  
and Licensing  
(Amendment) Act,  
1903

The whole.

Second ScheduleBond to abstain from the commission of offences under the Eastern-Bengal and Assam Excise Act, 1910[See Section 64-A]Whereas I (name)..... inhabitant of ..... (place) ..... have been called upon to enter into a bond to abstain from the commission of offences under Section 53, Section 54, Section 55, Section 56 and Section 60 of the Eastern-Bengal and Assam Excise Act, 1910, for the term of .....I hereby bind myself not to commit any such offence during the said term and, in case of my making default therein, I hereby bind myself to forfeit to the State Government, the sum of rupees.....Dated this..... day of..... 20.....(Signature)(When a bond with sureties is to be executed, add-)We do hereby declare ourselves sureties for the above named that he will abstain from the commission of offences under Section 53, Section 54, Section 55, Section 56 and Section 60 of the Eastern-Bengal and Assam Excise Act, 1910, during the said term ; and, in case of his making default therein, we bind ourselves jointly, and severally, to forfeit to the State Government, the sum of rupees..Dated this..... day of..... 20.(Signature)