

CHAPTER IX
LIABILITY IN SPECIAL CASES

52. Liability in case of transfer of business.- (1) Where a dealer liable to pay tax under this Act transfers his business in whole or in part, by sale, gift, lease, leave or licence, hire or in any other manner whatsoever, the dealer and the person to whom the business is so transferred shall jointly and severally be liable to pay the tax, interest or penalty due from the dealer up to the time of such transfer, whether such amount has been assessed before such transfer, but has remained unpaid or is assessed thereafter.

(2) Where the transferee or the lessee of a business referred to in sub-section (1) of this section carries on such business either in his own name or in some other name, he shall be liable to pay tax on the sale of goods effected by him with effect from the date of such transfer and shall, if he is registered as a dealer, apply within the time specified in section 21 of this Act for the amendment of his registration.

53. Liability in case of company in liquidation.- (1) Every person –

- (a) who is a liquidator of any company which is being wound up, whether under the orders of a court or otherwise; or
- (b) who has been appointed the receiver of any assets of a company (hereinafter referred to as the “liquidator”);

shall, within one month after he has become such liquidator, give notice of his appointment as such to the Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner shall, after making such inquiries or calling for such information as he may deem fit, notify the liquidator within three months from the date on which he received notice of the appointment of the liquidator, the amount which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, would be sufficient to provide for any tax, interest or penalty which is then, or is likely thereafter, to become payable by the company.

(3) The liquidator shall not part with any of the assets of the company or the properties in his hand until he has been notified by the Commissioner under sub-section (2) of this section and on being so notified, the liquidator shall set aside an amount equal to the amount notified and, until he so sets aside such amount, he shall not part with any of the assets of the company or the properties in his hand:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall debar the liquidator from parting with such assets or properties in compliance with any order of a court or for the purpose of the payment of the tax and penalty, if any, payable by the company under this Act or for making any payment to secured creditors whose debts are entitled under law to priority of payments over debts due to government on the date of liquidation or for meeting such costs and expenses of the winding up of the company as are in the opinion of the Commissioner reasonable.

(4) If the liquidator fails to give notice in accordance with sub-section (1) of this section or fails to set aside the amount as required by sub-section (3) of this section or parts with any assets of the company or the properties in his hand in contravention of the provisions of that sub-section, he shall be personally liable for the payment of tax and penalty, if any, which the company would be liable to pay under this Act:

Provided that if the amount of tax and penalty, if any, payable by the company is notified under sub-section (2) of this section the personal liability of the liquidator under this sub-section shall be to the extent of such amount.

(5) Where there is more than one liquidator, the obligations and liabilities attached to a liquidator under this section shall attach to all the liquidators jointly and severally.

(6) When any private company is wound up and any tax and penalty, if any, assessed under this Act on the company for any period, whether before or in the course of or after its liquidation, cannot be recovered, then every person who was a director of the private company at any time during the period for which the tax is due, shall be jointly and severally liable for the payment of such tax and penalty, if any, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that non-recovery cannot be attributed to any gross neglect, misfeasance or breach of duty on his part in relation to the affairs of the company.

(7) The provisions of this section shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force.

(8) For the purposes of this section, the expressions “company” and “private company” shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them under clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956).

54. Liability of partners of firm to pay tax.- Notwithstanding any contract to the contrary, where any firm is liable to pay any tax, interest or penalty under this Act, the firm and each of the partners of the firm shall be jointly and severally liable for such payment:

Provided that where any such partner retires from the firm, he shall intimate the date of his retirement to the Commissioner by a notice to that effect in writing and he shall be liable to pay tax, interest or penalty remaining unpaid at the time of his retirement and any tax, interest or penalty due up to the date of his retirement though unassessed on that date:

Provided further that if no such intimation is given within fifteen days from the date of retirement, the liability of the partner under the first proviso shall continue until the date on which such intimation is received by the Commissioner.

55. Liability of guardians, trustees etc.- Where the business in respect of which tax is payable under this Act is carried on by, or is in the charge of any guardian, trustee or agent of a minor or other incapacitated person on his behalf and for the benefit of such minor or other incapacitated person, the tax, interest or penalty shall be levied upon and recoverable from such guardian, trustee or agent, as the case may be, in like manner and to the same extent as it would be assessed upon and recoverable from any such minor or other incapacitated person, if he were of full age and of sound mind and if he were conducting the business himself, and all the provisions of this Act shall, so far as may be, apply accordingly.

56. Liability of Court of Wards, etc.- Where the estate or any portion of the estate of a dealer owning a business in respect of which tax is payable under this Act is under the control of the Court of Wards, the Administrator-General, the Official Trustee or any receiver or manager (including any person, whatever be his designation, who in fact manages the business) appointed by or under any order of a court, the tax, interest or penalty shall be levied upon and be recoverable from such Court of Wards, Administrator-General, Official Trustee, receiver or manager in like manner and to the same extent as it would be assessable upon and be recoverable from the dealer if he were conducting the business himself, and all the provisions of this Act shall, so far as may be, apply accordingly.

57. Liability in other cases.- (1) Where a dealer is a firm or an association of persons or a Hindu Undivided Family, and such firm, association or family has discontinued business –

- (a) the tax payable under this Act, by such firm, association or family up to the date of such discontinuance may be assessed as if no such discontinuance had taken place; and
- (b) every person who was at the time of such discontinuance a partner of such firm, or a member of such association or family, shall, notwithstanding such discontinuance be liable jointly and severally for the payment of tax assessed and penalty imposed and payable by such firm, association or family, whether such tax, interest or penalty has been assessed prior to or after such discontinuance, and subject as aforesaid, the provisions of this Act shall, so far as may be, apply as if every such person or partner or member were himself a dealer:

Provided that where the partner of a firm liable to pay such tax, interest or penalty dies, the provisions of sub-section (4) of this section shall, so far as may be, apply.

(2) Where a change has occurred in the constitution of a firm or an association of persons, the partners of the firm or members of the association as it existed before and as it exists after its reconstitution shall, without prejudice to the provisions of section 54 of this Act, jointly and severally be liable to pay tax, interest or penalty due from such firm or association for any period before its re-constitution.

(3) The provisions of sub-section (1) of this section shall, so far as may be, apply where the dealer, being a firm or association of persons is dissolved or, being a Hindu undivided family, has effected partition with respect to the business carried on by it and accordingly references in that sub-section to discontinuance shall be construed as references to dissolution or, as the case may be, to partition.

(4) Where a dealer liable to pay tax under this Act dies, then –

- (a) if a business carried on by the dealer is continued after his death by his legal representative or any other person, such legal representative or other person, shall be liable to pay the tax, interest or penalty due from the dealer under this Act, whether such tax, interest or penalty had been assessed before his death but has remained unpaid, or is assessed after his death,
- (b) if the business carried on by the dealer is discontinued after his death, his legal representative shall be liable to pay out of the estate of the deceased, to the extent the estate is capable of meeting the charge, the tax, interest or penalty due from the dealer under this Act, whether such tax, interest or penalty had been assessed before his death but has remained unpaid, or is assessed after his death:

and the provisions of this Act shall, so far as may be, apply to such legal representative or other person as if he were the dealer himself.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this section “legal representative” has the meaning assigned to it in clause (11) of section 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908).