

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the Tamil Nadu on 9th December, 2024 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

**L.A Bill No. 44 of 2024**

**A Bill further to amend the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958.**

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2024.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

Amendment of section 23.

Tamil Nadu Act  
XIII of 1958.

2. In section 23 of the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958, for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) (a) Any employer who contravenes any of the provisions of sections 3-A, 4, 5, 6, 11-A and 14-A shall, on conviction, be punishable, for the first offence, with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees and for the second or subsequent offence, with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees;

(b) Any employer who contravenes any of the provisions of sections 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 or fails to pay wages or compensation in accordance with any order of the appellate authority, passed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 19 shall, on conviction, be punishable, for the first offence, with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees and for the second or subsequent offence, with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with both.”.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Government of India have decriminalised minor offences under various laws enacted by the Parliament as a part of its effort to improve ease of doing business in the country and they have requested the State Governments to examine decriminalisation of minor offences under the State laws. The Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958 (Tamil Nadu Act XIII of 1958) provides for the regulation of conditions of work of the employees employed in catering establishments and sub-section (1) of section 23 of the said Act provides penalties for the offences specified therein.

2. The Government have, therefore, decided to remove the punishment of imprisonment and to provide for punishment of fine alone for contravention of minor offences specified in sections 3-A,4,5,6,11-A and 14-A of the said Act so as to facilitate the ease of doing of catering business by the employers of the catering establishments. Accordingly, the Government have decided to amend sub-section (1) of section 23 of the said Act suitably.

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

**C. V. GANESAN,**  
*Minister for Labour Welfare  
and Skill Development.*

Secretariat,  
Chennai-600 009,  
9th December 2024.

**K. SRINIVASAN,**  
*Principal Secretary.*