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**Central Excise Act, 1944**

**Section 22 - Vexatious Search, Seizure, Etc., by Central Excise Officer**

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Any Central Excise or other Officer exercising powers under this Act or under the rules made thereunder who--

- (a) without reasonable ground of suspicion searches or causes to be searched any house, boat or place;
- (b) vexatiously and unnecessarily detains, searches or arrests any person;
- (c) vexatiously and unnecessarily seizes the movable property of any person, on pretence of seizing or searching for any article liable to confiscation under this Act;
- (d) commits, as such officer, any other act to the injury of any person, without having reason to believe that such act is required for the execution of his duty;

shall, for every such offence, be punishable, with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.

Any person wilfully and maliciously giving false information and so causing an arrest or, a search to be made under this Act shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with both.

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