

Central Road Fund Act, 2000

Chapter II - Central Road Fund

(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, there shall be levied and collected, as a cess, a duty of excise and customs for the purposes of this Act, on every item specified in column (2) of the Schedule, which is produced in or imported into India and--

(a) removed from a refinery or a factory or an outlet; or

(b) transferred by the person, by whom such item is produced or imported, to another person,

at such rates not exceeding the rate set forth in the corresponding entry in column (3) of the Schedule, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify:

Provided that until the Central Government specifies by such notification the rate of the cess in respect of petrol and high speed diesel oil (being items specified in the Schedule), the cess on petrol and high speed diesel oil under this sub-section shall be levied and collected at the rate of rupee one per litre:

Provided further that the additional duty of customs and the additional duty, of excise on petrol levied under sub-section (1) of section 103 and sub-section (1) of section 111, as the case may be, of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 (21 of 1998) and the additional duty of customs and the additional duty of excise on high speed diesel oil levied under sub-section (1) of section 116 and sub-section (1) of section 133, as the case may be, of the Finance Act, 1999 (27 of 1999) shall be deemed to be a cess for the purposes of this Act from the date of its levy and the proceeds thereof shall be credited to the Fund.

(2) Every cess leviable under sub-section (1) on any item shall be payable by the person by whom such item is produced, and in the case of imports, the cess shall be imposed and collected on items so imported and specified in the Schedule.

(3) The cess leviable under sub-section (1) on the items specified in the Schedule shall be in addition to any cess or duty leviable on those items under any other law for the time being in force.

(4) The provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944) and the rules made thereunder and the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) and the rules made thereunder, as the case may be, including those relating to refunds and exemptions from duties shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the levy and collection of cess leviable under this section and for this purpose, the provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and of the Customs Act, 1962, as the case may be, shall have effect as if the aforesaid Acts provided for the levy of cess on all items specified in the Schedule.

Section 4 - Crediting of cess to consolidated Fund of India

The proceeds of the cess levied under section 3 shall first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, credit such proceeds to the Fund from time to time, after deducting the expenses of collection, for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of this Act.

Section 5 - Grants and loans by the Central Government

The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, credit by way of grants or loans such sums of money as the Central Government may consider

necessary in the Fund.

Section 6 - Establishment of Central Road Fund

(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, there shall be established for the purposes of this Act, a Fund to be called as the "Central Road Fund".

(2) The Fund shall be under the control of the Central Government and there shall be credited thereto--

(a) any sums of money paid under section 4 or section 5;

(b) unspent part of the cess, being already levied for the purposes of the development and maintenance of national highways;

(c) the sums, if any, realised by the Central Government in carrying out its functions or in the administration of this Act;

(d) any fund provided by the Central Government for the development and maintenance of State roads.

(3) The balance to the credit of the Fund shall not lapse at the end of the financial year.

Section 7 - Utilisation of the Fund

The Fund shall be utilised for the--

(i) development and maintenance of national highways;

(ii) development of the rural roads;

(iii) development and maintenance of other State roads including roads of inter-State and economic importance;

(iv) construction of roads either under or over the railways by means of a bridge and erection of safety works at unmanned rail-road crossings; and

(v) disbursement in respect of such projects as may be prescribed.

Section 8 - Accounts and audit

(1) The concerned departments of the Central Government shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts, including the profit and loss account and the balance-sheet in respect of allocations of their shares of fund in such form, as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him.