

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
COMMERCIAL TAXES DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCIAL TAXES  
EZHILAGAM, CHENNAI- 600 005**

**PRESENT: Dr. D.JAGANNATHAN I.A.S,**

**COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAX**

**Circular No. 13/2024  
(PP6/GST-160/2024)**

**Dated : 12.07.2024**

Sub: Clarification on availability of input tax credit on ducts and manholes used in network of optical fiber cables (OFCs) in terms of section 17(5) of the TNGST Act, 2017 -Regarding.

Ref: Circular No. 219/13/2024-GST, dated 26.06.2024, issued by Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, CBIC, GST Policy Wing.

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In the reference cited, the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue CBIC, GST Policy Wing, has issued Circular No 219/13/2024-GST, dated 26.06.2024 based on the recommendations of the GST Council. Hence, following *pari-materia* circular is issued.

Representations have been received by the GST Council, from Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) submitting that input tax credit (ITC) is being denied by some tax authorities on ducts and manholes used in network of optical fiber cables (OFCs) on the ground that the same is blocked as per section 17(5) of the Tamilnadu Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 (herein after referred to as the 'TNGST Act'), being in nature of immovable property (other than Plant and Machinery). It has been requested to issue clarification in respect of availability of ITC on ducts and manholes used in network of optical fiber cables (OFCs), so as to prevent unwarranted litigation in the telecommunication sector across the country.

2. In order to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the provisions of law across the field formations, the Commissioner, in exercise of powers conferred by section 168 of the TNGST Act, hereby clarifies the issue as below.

Issue	Clarification
<p>Whether the input tax credit on the ducts and manholes used in network of optical fiber cables (OFCs) for providing telecommunication services is barred in terms of clauses (c) and (d) of sub-section (5) of section 17 of the TNGST Act, read with Explanation to section 17 of TNGST Act ?</p>	<p>1. Sub-section (5) to Section 17 of the TNGST Act provides that input tax credit shall not be available, inter alia, in respect of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. works contract services when supplied for construction of an immovable property (other than plant and machinery) except where it is an input service for further supply of works contract service; or</li> <li>ii. goods or services or both received by a taxable person for construction of an immovable property (other than plant or machinery) on his own account including when such goods or services or both are used in the course or furtherance of business.</li> </ul> <p>2. Explanation in section 17 of TNGST Act provides that the expression "plant and machinery" means apparatus, equipment, and machinery fixed to earth by foundation or structural support that are used for making outward supply of goods or services or both and includes such foundation and structural supports but excludes land, building or any other civil structures; telecommunication towers; and pipelines laid outside the factory premises.</p> <p>3. Ducts and manholes are basic components for the optical fiber cable (OFC) network used in providing telecommunication services. The OFC network is generally laid with the use of <b>PVC ducts/sheaths</b> in which OFCs are housed and <b>service/connectivity manholes</b>, which serve as nodes of the network, and are necessary for not only laying of optical fiber cable but also their upkeep and maintenance. In view of the Explanation in section 17 of the TNGST Act, it appears that ducts and manholes are covered under the definition of "plant and machinery" as they are used as part of the OFC network for</p>

	<p>making outward supply of transmission of telecommunication signals from one point to another. Moreover, ducts and manholes used in network of optical fiber cables (OFCs) have not been specifically excluded from the definition of "plant and machinery" in the Explanation to section 17 of TNGST Act, as they are neither in nature of land, building or civil structures nor are in nature of telecommunication towers or pipelines laid outside the factory premises.</p> <p>4. Accordingly, it is clarified that availment of input tax credit is not restricted in respect of such ducts and manhole used in network of optical fiber cables (OFCs), either under clause (c) or under clause (d) of sub-section (5) of section 17 of TNGST Act.</p>
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**Sd/- D. Jagannathan**  
**Commissioner of State Tax**

To  
Additional Commissioner(LTU) and all the Joint Commissioners (Territorial)  
All the Head of Assessment Circles in the State

Copy to

1. All the Additional Commissioners in the Office of the CCT, Chennai-5
2. All the Joint Commissioners (Intelligence)
3. Director/Additional Commissioner, Commercial Taxes Staff Training Institute, Chennai -35.
4. Appellate Joint Commissioner (GST) Chennai.
5. All the Deputy Commissioners (Territorial and Intelligence)
6. All the Appellate Deputy Commissioner (GST) in the State.
7. The Joint Commissioner (CS), Chennai 35, to upload the same in the internet website.
8. Stock file / Spare.

/Forwarded by order/

*2/12/24*  
*12/07/24*  
Deputy Commissioner (P&P)

*Sd*  
*12/11/2024*  
3