The following Act of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature received the assent of the Governor on the 1st July, 2020 and the said assent is hereby first published on the 2nd July, 2020 in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette for general information:

**ACT No. 17 of 2020.**

AN ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE ANDHRA PRADESH EXCISE ACT, 1968.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Seventy-First Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Andhra Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Act, 2020.

   (2) It shall be deemed to have come into force with effect on and from the 20th May, 2020.

2. In the Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, 1968 (herein after referred to as the Principal Act), in section 2,

   (i) after clause (16), the following clause shall be inserted, namely,-
“(16-A) "Grama / Ward Mahila Samrakshana Karyadarshi" means the persons employed in Village / Ward Secretariat and Grama / Ward Volunteers belonging to the Department of Gram Volunteers/ Ward Volunteers and Village Secretariats/Ward Secretariats."

(ii) after clause (28-A), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(28-B) "Special Enforcement Bureau" means the Department of Special Enforcement Bureau.

(28-C) "Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" means the Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau or any other officer employed / posted in Special Enforcement Bureau or invested with powers under the relevant provisions of this Act.”

Amendment of section 34.

3. In the principal Act, in section 34, in sub-clause(1), for the words “five years”, the words “eight years” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 46.

4. In the principal Act, in section 46,-

(i) in sub-sections (1), (2), (3) and (4), after the words "the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise", the words “and / or the Deputy Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau and / or the Superintendent of Police / or the Executive Magistrate” shall be inserted.

(ii) in sub-section (5),-

(a) after the words “the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise” the words “and / or the Deputy Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau and / or the Superintendent of Police / or the Executive Magistrate” shall be inserted; and

(b) after the words “the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise”, the words “and / or to the Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau and / or District Magistrate as the case may be” shall be inserted.

(iii) in sub-section (6), for the words “Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise”, the words “District Magistrate / Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise and / or the Deputy Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau and / or the Superintendent of Police / or the Executive Magistrate” shall be substituted.
5. In the principal Act, in section 46-B, after the words “the Prohibition and Excise Superintendent”, the words “and / or the Assistant Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau and / or the Executive Magistrate” shall be inserted.

6. In the principal Act, in section 46-C,-
   (i) after the words “Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise”, the words “and / or the Deputy Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau and / or the Superintendent of Police / or the Executive Magistrate” shall be inserted; and
   (ii) after the words “the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise”, the words “or the Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau or the District Magistrate as the case may be” shall be inserted.

7. In the principal Act, in section 48, for the words “Prohibition and Excise Officer”, the words “Executive Magistrate or Prohibition and Excise Officer, Special Enforcement Bureau Officer” shall be substituted.

8. In the principal Act, in section 50-A, for the words “Prohibition and Excise Officer” occurred in both places, the words “Executive Magistrate or Prohibition and Excise Officer or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer” shall be substituted.

9. In the principal Act, after section 50-A, the following new section shall be added, namely,-

   “50-B Penalty for Criminal Conspiracy : When two or more persons agree,-
   (a) to commit any offence punishable under this Act, or
   (b) to commit breach of condition(s) of licence, permit etc., each of such persons shall on conviction be liable for the punishment in the same manner as if he had abetted such offence.”

10. In the principal Act, in section 51,-
   (i) in sub-section (1), in sub-clause (iii) of clause(b),-
   (a) after the words “building is situated”, the words “or the Grama / Ward Mahila Samrakshana Karyadarshi employed in Village / Ward Secretariat or Grama / Ward Volunteers employed in Village / Ward Secretariat,” shall be inserted; and
(b) for the words "Revenue Department", the words "Executive Magistrate or Special Enforcement Bureau" shall be substituted.

(ii) in sub-section (2),-

(a) after the words "Every Prohibition and Excise Officer", at the beginning, the words "and Special Enforcement Bureau Officer or Revenue Officer" shall be inserted; and

(b) for the words "Prohibition and Excise Inspector", the words "a Prohibition and Excise Inspector or to Inspector of Special Enforcement Bureau or to Executive Magistrate" shall be substituted.

(iii) in sub-section (3), in clause (b), for the words "the Commissioner", the words "the Commissioner of Prohibition & Excise and / or the Commissioner, Special Enforcement Bureau / or an Executive Magistrate" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 53.

11. In the principal Act, in section 53, in sub-section (1), for the words "Revenue Department", the words "Executive Magistrate or Special Enforcement Bureau" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 53-A.

12. In the principal Act, in section 53-A, -

(a) after the words "Police and Revenue", the words "and Department of Gram Volunteers/ Ward Volunteers and Village Secretariats/ Ward Secretariats" shall be inserted; and

(b) for the words "a Prohibition and Excise Officer", the words "an Executive Magistrate or a Prohibition and Excise Officer or a Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 55.

13. In the principal Act, in section 55,-

(a) after the words "a Collector", the words "or Executive Magistrate" shall be inserted; and

(b) after the words "Prohibition and Excise Sub-Inspector", the words "or any Special Enforcement Bureau Officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector" shall be inserted.

Amendment of section 56.

14. In the principal Act, in section 56,-
(i) in the marginal heading, after the words "Prohibition and Excise Officer", the words "and Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" shall be inserted.

(ii) in sub-section (1), after the words "Excise Sub-Inspector", the words "or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector" shall be inserted.

(iii) in sub-section (2), after the words "Prohibition and Excise Officer", the words "or a Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" shall be inserted.

15. In the principal Act, after section 56, the following new section along with a proviso shall be added, namely,-

"56-A. Cognizance and trial of offence:- Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, all offences under this Act shall be cognizable and the provisions of the said code with respect to cognizable offences shall apply to them.

Provided that the offences punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years under this Act shall be tried in accordance with the procedure prescribed by chapter XXI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

16. In the principal Act, in section 57, after the words "Prohibition and Excise Sub-Inspector", the words "or a Special Enforcement Bureau Officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector" shall be inserted.

17. In the principal Act, in section 58,-

(i) in the marginal heading, after the words "Prohibition and Excise Officer", the words "or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" shall be added.

(ii) after the words "Prohibition and Excise Sub-Inspector" the words "or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer, not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector" shall be inserted.

18. In the principal Act, in section 60,-

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words "Prohibition and Excise Officer", the words "Executive Magistrate or Prohibition and Excise Officer and/ or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" shall be substituted.
(ii) in sub-section (2), in clause (a), after the words "Prohibition and Excise Officer", the words "or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer," shall be inserted.

Amendment of section 61.

19. In the principal Act, in section 61,

(i) in the marginal heading, after the words "Prohibition and Excise Department", the words "or to Special Enforcement Bureau" shall be added at the end.

(ii) in sub-section (1),

(a) in clause (a), after, the words, "the Collector or", the words "Executive Magistrate or" shall be inserted.

(b) in clause (b), after the words "a Prohibition and Excise Officer or Police Officer", the words "or Special Enforcement Bureau Officer" shall be added at the end.

GONTU MANOHARA REDDY,
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Legal and Legislative Affairs & Justice,
Law Department.