

# A Study of State's Own Tax Revenue in Mizoram

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**Abstract:** *This study is an attempt to examine the trend and composition of state's Own Tax Revenue (OTG) in Mizoram with the objectives of making empirical based recommendations to improve the yield of state's own tax revenue. The study is based on secondary data collected from Annual Financial Statements, Government of Mizoram during 2005-06 to 2014-15. Data are analyzed using the conventional methods of percentages, ratios, compound annual growth rates and tax buoyancy. From the result of the analysis the study found that Own Tax Revenue of the State has consistently increased over the study period with compound annual growth rate of 19.15 percent per annum. The estimate of buoyancy for own tax revenue is 1.31 which implies that there is positive significant relationship between Own Tax Revenue and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the State. The study concluded that there is ample opportunities to improve revenue collection from Own Tax Revenue by increasing the efficiencies of the existing system of taxation in the State.*

**Keywords:** Own Tax Revenue, Annual Financial Statements, Compound Annual Growth Rate, Tax Buoyancy, Mizoram

## 1. Introduction

In India, fiscal deficit is the core issue of most of the states over the past several decades. The reason behind the large increase in fiscal imbalance is the rapid expansion in expenditure and low revenue collection. States across the country typically face some critical challenges while establishing an efficient tax system, which resulted in a wide tax gap - that is a gap between what they could collect and what they actually collect.

Efficient tax system is crucial especially for the states which are incapable in terms of exports and natural sources. Less developed States in India are still highly dependent on central assistance. For poor and less developed States like Mizoram, taxation is the only viable strategy to exit central aid dependency in the long run. Besides it is important to note that when Central assistance is increasingly shrinking, need for an efficient internal resource mobilization system would become more essential than ever. Thus, it is very important for the State to contain a modest and efficient taxation system which can essentially supply sufficient internal resources in order; to meet budgetary demands, to make up for potential decreases in Central assistance, to tackle the inability of the State to carry out developmental works with its own resources and to reach economic take off stage.

In case of Mizoram, State's own revenue usually constituted between 4 and 7 percent of the aggregate receipts. This reflects the dependence of the State on Central transfers as well as its inability to carry out developmental works with its own resources. The State government has to take all requisite measures to tackle this problem. The issue of taxation in particular is crucial, especially from the point of view of income generation and poverty reduction. Thus, it would be worth examining the recent trend and scenario of taxation in Mizoram. The study of taxation would reveal the overall effects of taxation negatively and positively to arrive at useful empirical insights for effective policy formulation, which inter alia would lead to the improvement in the welfare of the people in Mizoram.

## 2. Review of Literature

Rao (2005) in his paper 'Tax system Reform in India: Achievements and Challenges ahead' has analysed the Indian tax system involving its structure as well as operations. The study found that broadening the base of both Central and State taxes and keeping the tax structures simple were important international lessons to be adopted in calibrating further reforms. Timsina (2007) made a revisit to the studies carried out earlier to measure tax elasticity and buoyancy in Nepal, in the context of the structural changes that have taken place in the tax system in recent years. He applied time series regression approach for this empirical measurement. According to his analysis, the tax system in Nepal was inelastic (less than unity) in the period 1975-2005 with more than unitary buoyancy coefficients, thus reflecting that the bulk of revenue collection emanated from discretionary changes in the tax policy, rather than from automatic responses. Roy & Raychaudhuri (2009) had provided a theoretical model of determining optimal fiscal policy of the State governments in India. The comparison of actual State own revenue and expenditure policies with the optimum policy revealed that States were spending more than estimated optimum level and collecting revenues less than the optimum level.

Chawhan (2010) has studied agricultural taxation in India during 1951-52 to 1997-98 within which the position of agriculture taxation was outlined. The study revealed that the share of agricultural taxes in total tax revenues collected by the Central and State governments has been falling more or less steadily since independence. He highlighted the importance of agricultural taxation in the acceleration of economic development as heavier agriculture taxation could help in the commercialization of agriculture which in turn would respond to prices and other market forces quickly and hence increased production and larger marketable surplus. Bandyopadhyay (2014) had made an attempt to review the status of Municipal finance in India. According to the study, Most of the cities had generated revenues much lower than their potentials. The study concluded that the urban local bodies face the problems of inadequate revenue generation and expenditure shortfalls leading to poor service delivery.

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### 3. Constitutional Provision of Taxing Power in India

India has a federal structure, in which a clear distinction is made between the Union and State functions and sources of revenue. Both the Central and State governments in the country have revenue raising power. The seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution determines the revenue sources of each jurisdiction by specifying the subject matter of different tiers of government as Union List (List I), State List (List II) and Concurrent List (List III).

The Centre has the exclusive powers to make laws in respect of matters given in the Union list (Article 246(1) of Indian Constitution) and State government has the exclusive jurisdiction to legislate on the matters containing in State list (Article 246(3) of Indian Constitution). With regard to the Concurrent list, both the Parliament and a State Legislature can make laws, but the laws made by the parliament shall prevail. The residuary functions, that is, those not listed in State list and union list, are vested with the Union. Thus, the Central government in India has supremacy over a wide range of legislature field including the power of taxation also. Although, the Constitution clearly provides the division of the tax powers between union and the State governments, such clear demarcation does not exist as regard to the distribution of tax powers between State and local governments.

### 4. Objectives

- 1) To examine the trend and composition of State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) in Mizoram.
- 2) To compute the buoyancy of the various components of State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR).
- 3) To suggest suitable measure to improve the yield of State's own tax revenue.

### 5. Data Source and Method

The present study is based on secondary data. The secondary data relating to the period of 10 years (2005-06 to 2014-15) was collected from Annual Financial Statements, Government of Mizoram.

Own tax revenue of the State is studied using the conventional methods of percentages, ratios, compound annual growth rates and tax buoyancy.

The compound annual growth rate of fiscal variables are estimated using the following formulae:

$$r = \sqrt[n]{F/A} - 1 \quad (1)$$

Where,  $r$  = the compound growth rate

$n$  = number of time periods

$F$  = the final value of a particular variable

$A$  = initial value of a particular variable

$n$  = number of time periods

In this study the model of log-linear regression was used to estimate tax buoyancy, which takes the following form:

$$\log(R_t) = b_1 + b_2 \log(GSDP_t) + u_t \quad (2)$$

Where,

$R_t$  = Revenue (nominal) in year  $t$ ;

$GSDP_t$  = Gross State Domestic Product in year  $t$

$b_1$  = intercept term in year  $t$

$b_2$  = buoyancy estimate or constant elasticity

$u_t$  = error term in year  $t$

### 6. Trends of State Own Revenue Receipts

The total own revenue of a State government is composed of tax and non-tax revenues. State's own taxes are those, which are imposed, collected and used by the State governments. Non-tax revenue of the State, on the other hand, is composed of non tax revenue mobilized by the State governments. Table 1 gives the trends of own tax revenue and own non-tax revenue of the State, while table 2 and graph 1 give percentage share of own tax revenue and own non-tax revenue in state's own revenue.

**Table 1:** Trend of Components of State's Own Revenue (Rs in crore)

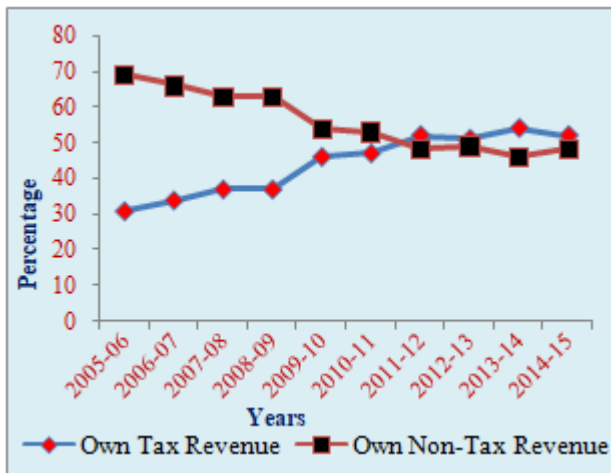
Years	State's Own Revenue	
	Own Tax Revenue	Own Non-Tax Revenue
2005-06	55.06	120.09
2006-07	67.62	133.38
2007-08	77.52	130.30
2008-09	94.62	158.67
2009-10	107.58	126.50
2010-11	130.08	146.71
2011-12	178.67	168.03
2012-13	223.15	212.08
2013-14	229.78	194.26
2014-15	266.53	241.96

Source: Annual Financial Statement, Government of Mizoram.

**Table 2:** Percentage Share of Components of State's Own Revenue

Years	State's Own Revenue	
	OTR	ONTR
2005-06	31	69
2006-07	34	66
2007-08	37	63
2008-09	37	63
2009-10	46	54
2010-11	47	53
2011-12	52	48
2012-13	51	49
2013-14	54	46
2014-15	52	48

Source: Annual Financial Statement, Government of Mizoram



**Graph 1:** Percentage Share of Components of State's Own Revenue

Source: Annual Financial Statement, Government of Mizoram

As shown in table 1, both tax revenue and non-tax revenue has been increasing in absolute term during the study periods. However, the percentage share of components of State's own revenue receipts (tax revenue and non-tax revenue) as shown in table 2 underwent a significant change over the years. While the percentage share of own tax revenue is increasing, the corresponding decrease in percentage share is visible in the case of own non-tax revenue. This highlighted the fact that the performance of State government in collecting tax revenue has been improved steadily in recent years. The share of own tax revenue impressively increased from 31 percent in 2005-06

to 52 percent in 2014-15, while non-tax revenue declined from 69 percent in 2005-06 to a low level of 48 per cent in 2014-15. The increase in the percentage share of own tax revenue can be attributed to the introduction of VAT in 2005 and revision of other tax rates over the years, which increase the contribution of tax revenue in State's own revenue. The decline in the percentage share of own non-tax revenue, on the other hand, is partly because of State government's failure in mobilising resources through various non-tax revenue sources and the continuous increase in the collection of own tax revenue on the others. As illustrated in table 1, own non- tax revenue is the main source of State's own revenue till 2010-11, as such, a fall in its relative percentage shares should be given special attention.

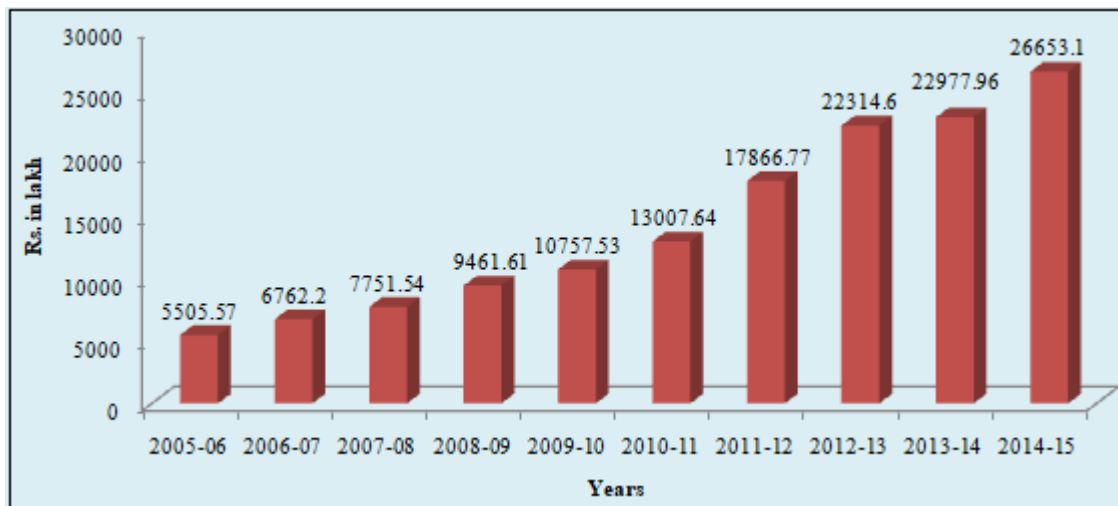
### Trends and Compositions of Own Tax Revenue of the State

The State's own tax revenue can be categorized under three heads: Taxes on income and expenditure, Taxes on property and capital transactions and Taxes on commodities and services. Each of these tax categories is further broken down into sub-categories as follows: (i) Taxes on income and expenditure which include taxes on professions, trades, callings and employment. (ii) Taxes on property and capital transaction which include land revenues and stamps and registration fees; (iii) Taxes commodities and services which include a variety of taxes like; VAT, state excise, motor vehicle taxes, passenger taxes, etc. Table 3 and graph 2 below show Trends and Compositions of Own Tax Revenue of the State.

**Table 3:** Trends and Compositions of Own Tax Revenue of the State (Rs in lakh)

Years	Taxes on Income & Expenditure		Taxes on Property and Capital Transaction		Taxes on Commodities and Services		Total Own Tax Revenue
	Amount (Rs)	Percent (%)	Amount (Rs)	Percent (%)	Amount (Rs)	Percent (%)	
2005-06	452.81	8.22	176.16	3.20	4876.6	88.58	5505.57
2006-07	499.95	7.39	93.61	1.38	6168.64	91.52	6762.20
2007-08	532.28	6.87	171.04	2.21	7048.22	90.93	7751.54
2008-09	592.86	6.27	209.07	2.21	8659.68	91.52	9461.61
2009-10	793.03	7.37	314.82	2.93	9649.68	89.70	10757.53
2010-11	839.47	6.45	467.68	3.60	11700.49	89.95	13007.64
2011-12	1186.15	6.64	321.01	1.80	16359.61	91.56	17866.77
2012-13	1368.18	6.13	368.60	1.65	20577.82	92.22	22314.60
2013-14	1473.52	6.41	606.59	2.64	2089785	90.95	22977.96
2014-15	1404.46	5.27	1478.46	5.55	23770.18	89.18	26653.10
CAGR	13.42		26.66		19.24		19.15
Buoyancy	1.07		1.64		1.32		1.31

Source: Annual Financial Statement, Government of Mizoram



**Graph 2:** Trends and Compositions of Own Tax Revenue of the State

Source: Annual Financial Statement, Government of Mizoram

The trend and composition of own tax revenue of Mizoram during the period 2005-06 to 2014-15 is shown in table 3 and graph 2.. From table 3, it is clear that the total own tax revenue has increased consistently over the study period. It recorded only Rs 5505.57 lakh in 2005-06, which was increased to Rs 26653.10 lakh in 2014-15, registering an increase of more than four (4.84) times. It has recorded compound annual growth rate of 19.15 percent and buoyancy of more than unity (1.31 per cent) during the study period. From table 3, the following broad trends in the changing composition of State's own tax revenue are revealed:

Taxes on income and expenditure have continuously increased with every year except for the last one year. For instance, the amount of revenue collection from Taxes on income and expenditure was of the order of Rs 452.81 lakh in 2005-06, this had increased to Rs 793.03 lakh in 2009-10 and Rs 1473.52 lakh in 2013-14. Although, taxes on income and expenditure has constantly increased in absolute term, yet its relative contribution to total own tax revenue of the State declined consistently over the study period. For instance, the contribution of taxes on income and expenditure in the total own tax revenue was 8.22 per cent in 2005-06, which declined to 5.27 in 2014-15, showing certain variations in term of its contribution in total own tax revenue. This can be attributed to the rising percentage share of taxes on commodities and services in the total own tax revenue. It recorded a compound annual growth rate of 16.18 per cent during the study period, which was the lowest growth rate among the components of own tax revenue. As regard to buoyancy, the recorded coefficient was greater than unity (i.e.1.07), which is quite satisfactory.

Taxes on property and capital transaction have been fluctuating up to 2011-12 ranging between Rs 93.61 lakh in 2006-07 to Rs 467.68 lakh in 2010-11. But from 2011-12 onwards, there has been a steady improvement in revenue receipt from taxes on property and capital transaction. It increased from Rs 321.01 lakh in 2011-12 to Rs 1478.46 lakh in 2014-15. On the whole, taxes on property and capital transaction have made an impressive jump from Rs 93.61 lakh in 2006-07 to Rs 1478.46 lakh in 2014-15, which registered an increase of almost sixteen ( i.e.15.8) times.

The relative contribution of receipt from taxes on property and capital transaction to total own tax revenue was almost negligible, hovering around 2 percent. However, the performance has been much improved in the last year of the study period (2014-15) with maximum record of 5.55 percent of the total own tax revenue receipts. Although, taxes on property and capital transaction has contributed only a marginal share in the State's own tax revenue, its performance in term of annual growth rate and buoyancy is unexpectedly quite impressive. The buoyancy estimated for taxes on property and capital transaction was almost two units ( i.e.1.64), indicating a strong response to change in GSDP. It also recorded the highest annual growth rate of 25.86 per cent per year among the three components of State's own tax revenue.

Revenue receipt from taxes on commodities and services are the main sources of own tax revenue over the study period in Mizoram. It showed a steady increase from Rs 4876.6 lakh in 2005-06 to Rs 23770.18 lakh in 2014-15, registering an increase of more than four ( i.e. 4.87) times. Throughout the study period (2005-06 to 2014-15), the average share of taxes on commodities and services was 90.61 percent of the total own tax revenue of the State, indicating its dominance in terms of contribution to own tax revenue. Its relative contribution to own tax revenue of the State almost remained constant. It marginally varied between 89 - 91 percent over the study period which is quite satisfactory. The estimated buoyancy and compound annual growth rate of taxes on commodities and services was exactly the same as that of State's own tax revenue during the study period. The similarity between the two can be attributed to the dominance of taxes on commodities and services over State's own tax revenue, since any sharp increase or decrease in other components did not affect the relative share of taxes on commodities and services in State's own tax revenue.

## 7. Buoyancy Estimate of State Own Tax Revenue

Tax buoyancy can be defined as the ratio of the percentage change in actual tax collections to the percentage change in



the tax base gross of changes in the tax system - e.g., changes in tax rates or introduction of a new tax. Buoyancy of taxes could be taken as indicator of overall performance of tax structure of the State. Tax revenue depends upon its base and any possible changes in tax rate. The tax structure determines the extent to which the tax actually covers the designated base. The widest possible tax base for a State level tax would normally be the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), since the base of any State level tax would be a part of the GSDP.

Buoyancy coefficient represents the increase in tax revenue on account of not only increases in the tax base (usually GSDP) but also due to discretionary changes. Changes in the tax base or rates of tax are known as 'discretionary changes'. A tax is said to be buoyant if the coefficient is more than 1 and vice versa. If the tax series is cleaned from discretionary changes, we get, what is known as 'elasticity' of the tax with respect to change in tax base (i.e. GSDP) only. However, the adjustment of tax series to be free from discretionary changes was not a simple task. As such, the estimation and detail analysis of tax elasticity was not included within the scope of the present study. Therefore, an attempt has not been made for it. As a practical matter, measures of tax buoyancy tend to vary a lot from year to year. Thus, it is more useful to measure buoyancy over a longer period - perhaps five or ten years at a time. Buoyancies of various components of own tax revenue during the study period is given in table 4.

**Table 4: Estimates of Tax Buoyancy**

Sl.No	Items	Coefficients
1	Taxes on Income and Expenditure	1.07
2	Taxes on Property and Capital Transactions	1.64
3	Taxes on Commodities and Services	1.32
4	Own Tax Revenue of the State	1.31

Source: Annual Financial Statement, Government of Mizoram.

The estimates of buoyancy of own tax revenue, and its major components for the period 2005-06 to 2014-15 can be found in table 4. It is evident from the table that the regression coefficient for taxes on income and expenditure, though more than unity, was the lowest among the various components of State's own tax revenue. It is 1.07, which indicates that every unit increase in GSDP is associated with more than one unit increase in taxes on income and expenditure. The buoyancy estimate for taxes on property and capital transaction was the highest, and almost touch two units (i.e. 1.64) indicating a stronger positive link between GSDP and the specific base for these taxes. The buoyancy estimates for taxes on commodities and services and own tax revenue as a whole are almost same and have recorded a buoyancy coefficient of 1.32 and 1.31 respectively.

On average, it can be concluded that the estimates of tax buoyancy for own tax revenue and its components are positively significant and are more than unity during the study period. From these results it can be comprehend that, on the average, a one percent increase in GSDP accompanies with more than one percent increase in State's own tax revenue and its various components. Further, it can

be inferred that the average propensity to tax was increasing with the increase in GSDP. Thus, in order to improve the tax collection of the State, increasing tax rates and broadening tax base is a must.

## 8. Recommendation

**Broadening the Tax Base:** From the result of the analysis, the various components of State's own tax revenue are buoyant. In such case, the productivity of tax or tax yield can be improved by broadening the tax base and increasing tax rates. Tax base can be increased by extending existing taxes and introduction of new taxes. There is more scope for extending existing taxes to new activities.

**Introduction of new taxes:** Tax base can also be increase by introduction of new taxes. The main shortcoming of State's tax structure has been its over-dependence on a small number of sources of tax revenue. The tax structure is still limited while there are scopes for widening the tax base like toll tax, entry taxes, property taxes, environmental taxes etc. Broadening the tax base by introduction of new taxes will not only increase revenue collection of the State, but can also generate surpluses in the revenue account which can reduce the borrowing requirements of the Sate.

**Upward revision of existing tax rates:** High rate of taxes may lead to tax evasion and violate the norms of equity. However certain tax rates in the State are lower than those in other States. In order to augment revenue potential of the State, tax rates which are lower than the neighbouring States should be increased. For example; POL tax rate imposed by Government of Mizoram is low as compared to neighbouring States. Besides increasing the tax rate on POL items, it is a high time to have an upward revision of existing tax rate like entertainment tax, stamp and registration fees etc.

**Simplifying Tax System:** Simplifying the tax system encourages voluntary compliance. Simple taxation law that can be understood and comprehended by even illiterate persons should be developed. The payment method should be simple and easy for the taxpayers. Simple channel and easy payment methods can increase the level of voluntary payments. Simplifications of tax laws, removal of loopholes in the tax system and proper processing of information can be best tool for improving the State tax system. There is a need for creating transparent, friendlier and less discriminatory administrative system. Further there is also a need to educate the people about tax laws and create such an environment in which they pay their due taxes, do not evade the tax and feel proud in discharging their duty to pay the taxes.

## 9. Conclusion

In conclusion, it could be stated that there is ample opportunities to improve revenue collection from own tax revenue by increasing the efficiencies of the existing State tax system. Since, State's responsibilities and functions have been increasing over the years, it utmost important for the State Government to generate larger amount domestic revenue to enhance its capacity to carry out its various

developments works and reduce over dependency on Central transfers.

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## Publications:

- Published Article "Rural Poverty in Mamit District, Mizoram: A Multidimensional Study" in *International Journal of Research in Social Science*.
- Published Article "Multidimensional Poverty: A Village-wise Study of Tlangnuam Block, Mizoram" in *Mizoram Economic Review*.

## Paper Presented:

- "Multidimensional Poverty: A Village-wise Study of Tlangnuam Block, Mizoram" in One Day National Seminar on 'Sustainable Development: The Way Forward', Jointly Organised by Mizoram Economic Association and Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- "Multidimensional Poverty in Mamit District: A Case Study" in One Day National Seminar on 'Socio-Economic Development in Mizoram: Qualitative and Quantitative Dimensions' Organised by Mizoram Economic Association in collaboration with Economics & Statistics Department, Government of Mizoram on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

## Seminar/Workshop Attended:

- 'Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals' organized by Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram with support from North Eastern Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at ATI Auditorium, Aizawl, Mizoram.
- One Day National Seminar on 'Socio-Economic Development in Mizoram: Prospects and Challenges' Organised by Mizoram Economics Association on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at Govt. Aizawl North College, Aizawl.
- 'Advanced Econometric Methods and Their Application', Organized jointly by the Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Department of Economics, Mizoram University from February 29<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram.
- One Day National Seminar on 'Economic Development of North East India: Introspection and Retrospection' Organised by Mizoram Economics Association on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 at I& PR Conference Hall, Aizawl, Mizoram.

## Special Achievements

- Four first class (i.e. HSLC, HSSLC, BA., MA.).
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