Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG) tax applies to profits from selling assets held for ≤ 12 months (listed equity/mutual funds) or ≤ 24 months (real estate/gold). Listed equities are taxed at a flat 20% under Section 111A. For other assets, gains are added to your income and taxed at your applicable slab rate. [1]

1. Holding Periods

- **Listed Equity Shares & Equity Mutual Funds:** ≤ 12 months
- **Real Estate, Gold, & Unlisted Shares:** ≤ 24 months
- **Debt Mutual Funds & Market-Linked Debentures:** Always classified as STCG, regardless of holding period [1, 2]

2. Tax Rates

- **Listed Equities & Equity Mutual Funds:** Taxed at 20% (subject to Securities Transaction Tax/STT).
- **Other Assets (Real Estate, Gold, etc.):** Taxed as per your standard income tax slab (e.g., 10%, 20%, or 30% depending on total taxable income).
- **Indexation:** Indexation benefits are **not** available for STCG. [1, 2]

3. Calculation & Set-Off Rules

- **Formula:** STCG = Sale Consideration - (Cost of Acquisition + Cost of Improvement + Transfer Expenses)
- **Loss Adjustment:** Short-term capital losses can be offset against both short-term and long-term capital gains. Unabsorbed losses can be carried forward for up to 8 assessment years, provided you file your Income Tax Return (ITR) on time. [1, 2, 3]

For further guidance or to calculate your specific tax liabilities, you can use the official Income Tax India E-Filing portal. [1, 2]