

# GST BULLETIN

Bhasin Sethi & Associates

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## **Government introduces 4 GST bills in Parliament**

On March 27, 2017, FM Arun Jaitley introduces four bills on GST in Parliament.

Once these Bills are cleared by Parliament, the states will then take the state GST (SGST) Bill to their respective assemblies. SGST has been

prepared as a model of the CGST, with each state incorporating state-specific exemptions.

Lok Sabha will debate on GST Bill on March 29, 2017

**COMMENT:** This is a crucial step towards implementation of GST w.e.f. July 1, 2017.

## **Finance Ministry has constituted GST working groups**

The Finance Ministry has constituted GST working groups to address trade and industry concerns. In this regard, the Ministry has set up 10 working groups which are led by senior officials.

The Government has identified Nine issues that may need a closer look, including services provided between establishments of same entity, compliance challenges for SMEs, cascading due to exclusion of certain products from GST,

Government has directed the working Groups to submit reports by April 10, based on which decision on further action to expand the working groups by including officers from the state governments may be taken.

**COMMENT:** This is a great initiative by the government to ensure a smooth transition in to new tax regime.

## **GST migration mela inaugurated in Puducherry**

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The deputy commissioner of service tax, Puducherry III Division, is holding a goods and services tax (GST) migration mela from March 23 to 25 at Chamber de Commerce to help members of trade, who have not migrated from central excise /service tax to the GST network. Organised by the GST outreach committee of the office of the deputy commissioner of service tax, the mela aims to serve as a one-step destination providing the necessary facilities for taxpayers to enroll with the GST network.

**Comment:** This is a great initiative by Revenue to reach out to assessee.

**Tamil Nadu Foodgrains Merchants Association demands to exempt basic agriculture produce from GST**

Tamil Nadu Food grains Merchants Association has sought exemption of basic agricultural produce and their derivatives from tax.

In a memorandum submitted to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on Thursday, the association said when agricultural produce and their derivatives were packed and branded for retail sale to ensure hygiene and health for consumers, they should be exempt from tax, as otherwise it would go against the government's policy.

**GST to make exports competitive: Nirmala Sitharaman**

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, when implemented, will result in eliminating barriers between the States and make exports more competitive, according to Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman.

"GST gives a feeling that market in India is one now and there are no barriers between regions or provinces. Even within the country, the value chains which will get integrated will have a simpler and straightforward flow (of goods) and therefore, it should make exports more competitive rather than expensive," Ms. Sitharaman said.

COMMENT: This idea seems to be based on assumption. The real impact would can only be assessed once GST rolls out.

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