

**Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1897  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

**PAUSHA 8, 1939 (SAKA)  
DUTY FREE FACILITY AVAILED BY NRIs**

**1897. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Revenue under his Ministry has withdrawn the duty free facility that was being availed by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) under Notification No.171/93/Customs dated 16 September 1993;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from various States/UTs to withdraw the Notification No. 27/2017- Customs dated 30 June 2017 and to restore the duty free facility for the NRIs that was provided under the notification dated 16 September 1993; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

**(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)**

(a) & (b) The exemption under Notification No. 171/93-Customs dated 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1993, which exempted the bonafide gifts imported into India from the basic customs duty (BCD) and additional duty of Customs (CVD) was withdrawn with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017. In the GST regime, the earlier exemption notifications were reviewed and the said exemption was withdrawn.

(c) No proposal from any State/ UTs has been received. However, references have been received from Members of Parliament recommending restoration of exemption on bona fide gifts stating that its withdrawal has resulted in hardships to Non Resident Indians (NRIs).

(d) The GST Council, in its 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 06.10.2017, recommended 'Nil' IGST rate for bona fide gifts imported by post or air upto CIF value limit of 5000 rupees. The same was prescribed vide notification No. 77/2017-Customs dated 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Further, BCD exemption for such gifts has also been granted vide the said notification dated 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

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