

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

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**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.640**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018**  
**ASHADHA 29, 1940 (SAKA)**

**GST ON HAJ PILGRIMAGE AND CRUISE TOURISM**

**640. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY KOTHA:**  
**SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from the Ministry of Shipping to completely exempt the Cruise Tourism from Goods and Services Tax (GST) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken by the Government on this proposal;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to impose 18 percent GST on Haj Pilgrimage, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any representations seeking withdrawal of GST by associations of Haj Pilgrims, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE**  
**(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)**

**(a):** Yes, Sir. Secretary, Ministry of Shipping has requested vide letter dated 05.05.2018 addressed to Finance Secretary that the service of travel by cruise ships and supply of goods and services on board the cruise ships should be zero rated or taxed at lower rate under GST for an initial period of 5 years.

**(b):** The proposal was placed before the Fitment Committee constituted by the GST Council for formulation of GST rates on goods and services, for consideration in its meeting held on 09.07.2018 and 10.07.2018. The same was not agreed by the Committee.

**(c):** No, Sir. Services by a 'specified organisation' in respect of a religious pilgrimage facilitated by the Government of India, under bilateral arrangement are exempt from GST vide notification No. 12/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017, Sl. No. 60 and corresponding SGST, UTGST and IGST notifications. "Specified organisation" includes 'Committee' or 'State Committee' as defined in section 2 of the Haj Committee Act, 2002 (35 of 2002). However, services provided by private tour operators to persons undertaking Haj through them attracts GST of 5%.

**(d):** Yes, Sir. Representations were received from Tamil Nadu Haj Organisers Association and others for exempting the services provided by private tour operators to persons undertaking Haj through them.

**(e):** The request was examined by the Fitment Committee constituted by the GST Council for formulation of GST rates on goods and services, in its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The Committee did not recommend the proposal for acceptance.

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