

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3789

**TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025/CHAITRA 3, 1947 (SAKA)**

**REDUCTION OF GST ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT  
AFFORDABILITY**

**3789. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that reducing GST rates on higher education and educational payments could significantly alleviate the financial burden on students;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has considered to reduce GST on higher education and related payments to the slabs 12%, 5% or 0%;
- (c) if not, the reasons for maintaining the current GST rates on educational services; and
- (d) whether any consultations has been made with stakeholders regarding GST reforms for the education sector particularly addressing the financial burden on students of tier-2 and tier-3 cities such as Sangli where access to higher education is already constrained by economic factors?

ANSWER  
**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)**

**(a), (b), (c) & (d):** GST rates and exemptions are prescribed based on the recommendations of the GST Council, which is a Constitutional body comprising members from both the Union and State/UT Governments. Any decision regarding change in rates/exemptions or otherwise is made only after GST Council's deliberative process. Currently, no differential GST rates based on category of cities are in effect.

At present various exemptions provided under the GST framework to education sector are as under:

A. Notification No. 12/2017 - Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017

1. SI No. 66:

a. Services provided by an educational institution to its students, faculty and staff;

b. Services by an educational institution by way of conduct of entrance examination.

c. The following services provided to an educational institution:

i. Services relating to admission to, or conduct of examination by, such institution;

ii. If provided to pre-school or upto higher secondary school:

- Transportation of students, faculty and staff;
- Catering, including mid-day meals scheme sponsored by the Central Government, State Government or Union territory;
- Security or cleaning or housekeeping services performed in such educational institution;

iii. Supply of online educational journals or periodicals (provided to higher educational institution);

“educational institution” has also been defined as an institution providing services by way of,-

(i) pre-school education and education up to higher secondary school or equivalent;

(ii) education as a part of a curriculum for obtaining a qualification recognised by any law for the time being in force;

(iii) education as a part of an approved vocational education course;

2. Sl No. 66A: Services of affiliation provided by a Central or State Educational Board or Council or any other similar body, by whatever name called, to a school established, owned or controlled by the Central Government, State Government, Union Territory, local authority, Governmental authority or Government entity.

B. Notification No. 02/2017 - Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017 provide exemption to various items which are as under:

1. Printed books, including Braille books
2. Newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated or containing advertising material
3. Children's picture, drawing or colouring books
4. Slate pencils and chalk sticks
5. Slates

At present, there is no recommendation from the GST Council regarding exemption or clarification for any other educational service.

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