

PRESS RELEASE

The 19th meeting of the GST Council was held through video conferencing on 17.07.2017. During the meeting the proposal to increase the levy of cess on cigarettes was discussed. At present the rate of cess on cigarettes is less compared to the tax paid by the cigarette companies prior to introduction of GST. To remove this anomaly the Council decided to increase the levy of cess on cigarettes. This has prevented the Cigarette companies from making windfall profit.

Hon'ble Minister (Fisheries, Finance and P&AR) highlighted that the various representations received from traders, industries and trade associations with regard to realignment of rate of tax under GST have been compiled and already forwarded to the Council for its consideration. Hon'ble Minister reiterated the said requests in today's meeting. In response to the request of the Hon'ble Minister, the Union Finance Minister agreed to consider the requests of Tamil Nadu in the 20th meeting of the Council to be held in the first week of August.

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