

GST on liquor and petro-products

1760. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are making demand to keep liquor and petro-products out of the purview of the Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what is Government's stand regarding this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Governments have demanded to keep these products out of the purview of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the ground that taxes on these products are an important source of revenue.

(c) The Union Government holds that all goods and services, except alcoholic liquor for human consumption, should be brought under the purview of GST. However, to protect the revenues of the States from petroleum, Centre has proposed that present taxes levied by the States and the Centre on petroleum and petroleum products, *i.e.*, Sales Tax/VAT and Excise Duty respectively, will not be subsumed, and will be levied over and above GST. The tax rate under GST may be nominal or zero-rated for the time being. This has been proposed to insulate the revenues of States from the impact of GST, with the expectation that in due course, GST will be levied on petroleum and petroleum products.

Vacancies in IT department

†1761. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that top posts like Chief Commissioner, Principal Chief Commissioner and even Members of Board are lying vacant for the past many years in Income Tax (IT) Department;
- (b) if so, whether Government has carried out any Cadre Review;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is proposing any specific plan to fill these vacant posts;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.