

- (xi) RBI has advised banks to streamline flow of credit to MSEs for facilitating timely and adequate credit flow during their 'Life Cycle'.
- (xii) A Customer Support and Outreach initiative was conducted by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in October and November, 2019 during which loans of ₹ 37,210 crore in October, 2019 and ₹ 35,775 crore in November, 2019 have been disbursed to MSMEs.

Withdrawal of custom duty on newsprint

2464. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society urged Government to withdraw 10 per cent custom duty imposed on newsprint and uncoated paper for printing newspapers;
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and
- (c) whether Government would extend concessions to the media and newspaper industry, in view of their vital role in democracy and service to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) Certain representations have been received from Indian Newspaper Society to withdraw 10 per cent BCD on newsprint and uncoated paper used in printing newspaper.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal to withdraw 10 per cent BCD on these goods.

Abolition of GST on bicycles

†2465. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of GST being levied on an ordinary bicycle being used by a slippers-wearing common man;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the percentage of GST being levied on commercial e-rickshaws, auto rickshaws, taxies and luxury vehicles;

(c) whether Government would consider to abolish GST being levied on bicycles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) Electric-bicycles attract 5% GST. Other bicycles attract GST at the rate of 12%.

(b) 1. All kinds of electrically operated vehicles attract 5% GST.

2. Other categories of vehicles attract GST and compensation cess at the following rates:-

| Segment of Vehicles | GST rate | Comp. Cess rate |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| Auto rickshaws | 28% | Nil |
| Small Cars (length < 4 m; Petrol<1200 CC) | 28% | 1% |
| Small Cars(length < 4 m; Diesel< 1500 CC) | 28% | 3% |
| Mid Segment Cars (engine < 1500 CC) | 28% | 17% |
| Large Cars (engine > 1500 CC) | 28% | 20% |
| Sports Utility Vehicles (length > 4m; engine > 1500 CC; ground clearance > 170 mm) | 28% | 22% |
| Hybrid small Cars (length < 4 m; Petrol <1200 CC) | 28% | Nil |
| Hybrid small Cars (length < 4 m; Diesel < 1500 CC) | 28% | Nil |
| Hybrid Cars/ Sports Utility Vehicles (other small hybrid cars) | 28% | 15% |

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.