

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-193
ANSWERED ON – 20.07.2021

IMPORT DUTY ON COVID-19 RELATED GOODS

193 Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is levying highest i.e. 15.2% import duty on COVID-19 related goods and inputs;
- (b) whether due to above, the treatment cost of COVID-19 also goes up in the country;
- (c) the reasons for not making zero import duty on all COVID-19 related goods and inputs which will help poor and middle class in the treatment; and
- (d) the reasons that exemptions are only on oxygen-related equipment and COVID-19 vaccine and not on others?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): In order to ensure the availability and affordability of goods being used for Covid-19 relief and management, the Government has for specified period provided the following indirect exemptions/concessions on such items:-

- (i) Customs Duty including cesses wherever applicable, has been exempted on (a) medicines such as Remdesivir injection, Remdesivir API, Amphotericin B and specified inputs for their manufacturing (b) oxygen and oxygen related equipment (c) Covid-19 Vaccines (d) specified inflammatory diagnostic kits, etc.
- (ii) Specified Covid relief items have also been exempted from payment of IGST when imported for donation to Central Government, State Government or any relief agency, entity or statutory body for free distribution.
- (iii) GST rate has been reduced on specified goods like Covid-19 related medicines, oxygen, oxygen related equipment, specified Covid-19 testing kits, Pulse oximeters, hand sanitizers, temperature check equipment, Gas/electric furnace for crematorium and ambulances.
