

## **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO \*278**  
ANSWERED ON – 29.03.2022

**LOWER GST RATES ON DRUGS FOR CANCER TREATMENT**

278. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of GST rates on drugs used for cancer treatment in the country and whether it is a fact that some medicines are taxed at exorbitant rates;
- (b) whether Government intends to extend the tax benefits provided to drugs like Keytruda to other medicines used for the treatment of cancer;
- (c) if so, the status of the Committee looking after this matter, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time frame Government has set for a common man to receive relief of lower GST rates on the purchase of cancer drugs?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF FINANCE**  
**SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**

- (a) to (d): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 RAISED BY SHRI SUJEET KUMAR FOR 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022 ON LOWER GST RATES ON DRUGS FOR CANCER TREATMENT

(a) (b) (c) and (d) GST rates on all goods (including Medicines) are prescribed on the recommendations of GST Council which consists of Union Finance Minister and Ministers as nominated by respective State/Union Territory Governments. Medicines have been kept at lower rate of tax at 5% or 12%. Specified medicines, which generally include lifesaving and other critical medicines attract lower GST of 5%. The GST Council in its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting specifically examined the GST rate on Keytruda and recommended a GST rate of 5% on it. Further, in its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting, GST Council has decided to constitute a Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalisation with the objectives of simplifying the rate structure, correcting inverted duty structure, reviewing the current rate slab structure of GST.

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