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Title : Need to exempt GST for restaurants running in the vicinity of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) at Tirumala.

SHRI BALLI DURGA PRASAD RAO (TIRUPATI): Thank you, hon. Speaker Sir.

Tirupati is one of the world-famous heritage temples. Daily, around 1,50,000 pilgrims come to Tirumala for darshan of Lord Balaji not only from all parts of the country but also from abroad. Around one lakh devotees are taking food from the Annaprasadam complexes maintained by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) without monetary benefits. This food is supplied only from 10 a.m. in the morning to 3 p.m. in the afternoon. With regard to the night dinner and morning breakfast, pilgrims are forced to depend on private restaurants in the vicinity of TTD.

With effective machinery, TTD is running Annaprasadam programme whereas the private restaurants are facing a lot of problems because of GST in running their businesses. GST paid by institutions are different compared to GST paid by private tenants and restaurants. Also, the charges inclusive of GST for choultries and rooms are high, which are maintained by TTD. It is difficult not only for the poor people but also for the middle-class people. If GST charges on choultries are relaxed, the pilgrims would be happy. Further, TTD can also extend more facilities with the available funds.

Keeping in view the prevailing situation and in the interest of the pilgrims, I request the hon. Minister of Finance, through you Sir, to

kindly recommend this issue to the GST Council for giving GST exemption only at Tirumala, which would give great benefit to the pilgrims.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री राजमोहन उन्नीथन - उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री राहुल कस्वां - उपस्थित नहीं ।