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Title: Need to exempt the service tax on government lotteries.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, in the State of Kerala, the Government is running a lottery and this is really a model to other States also. The income of the lottery is fully utilized for charitable purposes. There is a health scheme known as *Karunnya* which provides financial assistance to poor patients. Till this day, Rs. 700 crore have already been given to the patients in various hospitals. Thousands of poor people are getting employment as agents and a large number of them are physically disabled. In the new Budget, 14 per cent service tax is imposed on the commission of these poor agents. It would adversely affect their income and also their initiative to work for the lottery. So, I request the Government to exempt the service tax on Government lotteries.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.