

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding ambiguities in implementation of GST in Lakshadweep.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to draw your kind attention to the difficulties being faced by the people of Lakshadweep in implementation of GST. In Lakshadweep, the only produce we have is coconut and fish. All the essential commodities have to be brought from the mainland and there are a lot of overheads incurred by the traders. Whether it is soap, oil, stationery items or any other item, they have to buy them from Kerala or from Mangalore. The packets are taken to the wharf where the port shipping is happening. From there onwards, there are overheads like loading, transportation, unloading in the mid-sea and again transportation into the island and finally when the items reach the stores, the traders incur Rs. 250 to Rs. 350 extra cost per bundle. As per the Packaged Commodities Act, the price of a product is fixed as MRP, but we are forced to sell the products at a price higher than the MRP. This is the issue which I would like to flag.

For proper implementation of GST, all the traders have to register their details on internet. The facility of internet in Lakshadweep is very poor. The registration itself is taking 10 to 15 days. There are no tax experts to help the traders and Lakshadweep administration.

The next point is that there is no wholesaler available to get the products in the island. The most important part is that in the GST Council, there is no representative from Lakshadweep, either from the ethnic people or from the Government side, who can raise these problems in the GST Council.

Just as Delhi Metro is the lifeline of Delhi, our lifeline is ship. The ship ticketing has been included in the GST. Our people travel to mainland for medical treatment or other purposes in ships. So, I would request the Government to exclude ship travel from the GST ambit.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : लक्षद्वीप की सारी समस्याएँ आज ही कह देंगे।

MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Madam, I think there is no other place like Lakshadweep where we have so many issues related to implementation of GST. We are totally supporting GST but I would request the Government that it can be deferred for some time so that all the ambiguities and confusion may be cleared. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : लक्षद्वीप की सभी समस्याओं पर क्या आज ही बोलेंगे?

MOHAMMED FAIZAL: This is a unique place. There is no other place like Lakshadweep where we have so many issues regarding the implementation of GST. We are totally supporting GST but it could be deferred for some time. Till we clear all these ambiguities and confusions, it could be deferred.

Thank you very much.