

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:798
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has given final shape to the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) proposal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the concurrence of all the States have been obtained in this regard;
- (d) if so, the name of States which have not yet accorded their approval alongwith the reasons of their non-approval;
- (e) the measures taken by the Union Government to bring consensus on GST; and
- (f) the present status of the GST proposal and the time by which the same is likely to be finalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) to (f) The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a joint initiative of the Union and the States. Hence, the Union Government cannot unilaterally give final shape to the proposal. The Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers, which includes representatives of the Union Government also, has been discussing all issues related to Goods and Services Tax. Although some States have expressed their concerns about certain aspects of the GST, however, a broad consensus has emerged over the design and structure of GST. Accordingly, a Bill to further amend the Constitution to enable introduction of GST has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd March, 2011. The said Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for their examination.