

Finmin may simplify GST profiteering complaint form

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THE FINANCE MINISTRY is planning to simplify the form which consumers are required to fill in to submit their complaints against businesses that are indulging in profiteering after the roll-out of the goods and services tax (GST).

The ministry wants to make the form more consumer-friendly and simpler.

As many as 170 complaints have been filed before the standing committee and screening committee by consumers against businesses for not passing on benefits of tax rate reduction since the imple-

GOVT MAY DROP PROPOSAL ON SELF REPORTING OF INCOME ESTIMATES

THE GOVERNMENT MAY drop the proposal to create a self-reporting mechanism for income estimates, tax payments and advance tax liability by certain taxpayers on a voluntary compliance basis in view of adverse comments received from stakeholders, sources said. The proposed mechanism for companies and tax audit assesseees was sought to be created by way of inserting a new Rule 39A and Form No 28AA in the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

"...the government has received representations (on the proposal) from stakeholders, which, inter alia, include proposal to drop the introduction of Rule 39A," said a source. — PTI

mentation of the GST from July 1. The profiteering complaint form, though a single page document, has about 44 columns seeking a number of details and half of these fields are mandatory.

The move to simplify the form comes after the standing committee received numerous representations red flagging the complicated nature of the form, an official said.

"A simplified form is on the

anvil so that even a common man can apply without the help of an accountant. No complex details would be sought," the official said.

In the existing form, the consumer has to specify the actual price or value charged per unit pre-GST and the same post GST. Also, the total tax per unit and the reduction in

tax amount post GST has to be filled up by the complainant. Details of pre-GST

rates of excise duty, VAT, service tax, luxury tax charged by the businesses against whom the profiteering complaint is being lodged too have to be filled in. Self-attested copies of all documentary evidences such as proof of identity, invoice, price list and detailed working sheet have to be submitted along with the form.

As per the structure of the anti-profiteering mechanism in the GST regime, complaints of local nature will be first sent to the state-level screening committee while those of national level will be marked for the standing committee. If the complaints have merit, the respective committees would refer the cases for further investigation to the Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS). Once DGS submits its report, it would be scrutinised by the Anti-Profiteering Authority for further action, which may include fine and extreme penalty like cancellation of registration.