

Open to Practical Suggestions on GST: MoS Meghwal

The government is looking for concrete and practical suggestions from the Congress on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill, said Arjun Ram Meghwal, the newly appointed minister of state for finance and corporate affairs.

Meghwal's comment to ET comes at a time when the government has revived attempts to convince the Congress to enable passage of the Bill in Rajya Sabha, where the ruling coalition is a minority. He expressed the government's willingness for negotiations on all objections, but also sought clear suggestions as to how proposals could be implemented. For instance, he mentioned demand for capping GST rate at 18% in the constitutional amendment Bill and what he sees as the practical problem of implementing it.

“Let them tell us which country with a GST has written (GST) rate in their Constitution. How will it function, let them tell us,” he told ET.

“Whichever item, if (at some point) it is felt that its rate should be more than 18%, it will have to go into a constitutional amendment (to change the rate). It (the proposal) will then go to 50% states ... how can that happen? It is not possible. It isn't practical.”

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