

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCIAL TAXES
14, BELIAGHATA ROAD, KOLKATA-700015**

TRADE CIRCULAR No. 42/2019 (Circular No. 121/40/2019-GST)

DATED: 17.10.2019

Subject: GST on license fee charged by the States for grant of Liquor licences to vendors.

Services proved by the Government to business entities including by way of grant of privileges, licences, mining rights, natural resources such as spectrum etc. against payment of consideration in the form of fee, royalty etc. are taxable under GST. Same was the position under Service Tax regime also with effect from 1st April, 2016. Tax is required to be paid by the business entities on such services under reverse charge.

2. GST Council in its 26th meeting held on 10.03.2018, recommended that GST was not leviable on license fee and application fee, by whatever name it is called, payable for alcoholic liquor for human consumption and that this would apply *mutatis mutandis* to the demand raised by Service Tax/Excise authorities on license fee for alcoholic liquor for human consumption in the pre-GST era, i.e. for the period from 01-04-2016 to 30-06-2017.

3. Grant of liquor licences by State Government against payment of consideration in the form of licence fee, application fee etc. was a taxable service under Service Tax, therefore to implement GST Council's recommendation, Central Government decided to exempt service provided or agreed to be provided by way of grant of liquor licence by the State Government, against consideration in the form of licence fee or application fee, by whatever name called, during the period from 01.04.2016 to 30.06.2017. Clause No. 117 of Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019 may be referred in this regard.

4. GST Council in its 37th meeting held on 20.09.2019 further recommended that the decision of the 26th GST Council meeting be implemented by notifying service by way of grant of alcoholic liquor licence, against consideration in the form of licence fee or application fee or by whatever name it is called, by State Government as neither a supply of goods nor a supply of service. Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section 2 (b) of section 7 of WBGST Act, 2017, Notification No. 1704-F.T. [25/2019-CTR] dated 30th September, 2019 has been issued.

5. GST Council further decided in the 37th meeting held on 20.09.2019, to clarify that this special dispensation applies only to supply of service by way of grant of liquor licenses by the State Governments as an agreement between the Centre and States and has no

applicability or precedence value in relation to grant of other licenses and privileges for a fee in other situations, where GST is payable.

6. Difficulty, if any, in implementation of this circular may be brought to the notice of the Commissioner.

7. This Trade Circular shall be deemed to have come into force on 11.10.2019.

Sd/-
(Smaraki Mahapatra)
Commissioner, State Tax,
West Bengal

Memo. – 414 CT/PRO
3C/PRO/2019

Date: 17.10.2019

Copy forwarded to the Additional CST/ISD for information and for uploading it on the official website of the Directorate for information of all concerned.

Sd/-
(Adesh Kumar)
Special CST & PRO