IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF)
e-ISSN: 2321-5933, p-ISSN: 2321-5925.Volume 8, Issue 2 Ver. II (Mar. - Apr. 2017), PP 06-08
www.iosrjournals.org

A Study on the Impact of Gst in Indian Economy

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Abstract: *Even in the worldwide economic crisis India showed remarkable survival in its economic system. The well insulated economic structure in India is the basis of such an amazing withstand. The proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) is expected to be another milestone in the economic growth in India. The fundamental aim of GST is to make uniform the scattered indirect tax system in India and avoid the cascading effect in taxation. The impact going to make by GST will be a transformation in the entire tax system in India. The effect will go beyond Indian borders. The implementation of GST will reduce tax burden on manufacturers and thus encourages for the higher production. This process will increase the export of India and it will increase the total GNP. Avoidance of cascading effect empowers the manufacturers to produce to their optimum capacity and retards growth. The study intends to exhibit the detailed impact of GST implementation in Indian economic system.*
Keywords: *GST, Indirect Tax, Indian Economy, Tax Administration, Cascading effect.*

I. Introduction

The tax system is the backbone of any developing nation. The revenue generated through tax collection is the biggest source of income for that nation. In India also revenue from tax collection is the biggest source of income for its social welfare activities. The Constitution of India, the charter of the nation clearly discussed about the tax collection and its various aspects. The prevailing tax system in India is adhered from those sections in the constitution.

The tax decisions in India are doing by the central and state governments with local governments nevertheless it doesn't meant that the government can impose any tax that it wishes to. All the taxes imposed by the government must be laws passed according to Indian constitution. An important restriction on this power is Article 265 of the Constitution which states that "No tax shall be levied or collected except by the authority of law". In India the entire tax system has divided into two, one is direct taxes and the other one is indirect taxes. Direct taxes are those taxes which are directly paying to government. These taxes are levied directly on an entity or an individual and cannot be transferred onto anyone else. The administrative body of direct taxes is Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) which is a part of the Department of Revenue. The major source of direct tax in India is coming from Income Tax. As the name implicate income tax is the tax levied on the income generated in the hands of assessee. All the individuals, various institutions and companies are liable to pay income tax as per the specified rules unless and otherwise it is stated by the act to exempt them from levying income tax. Another source of direct tax is Capital Gains Tax. It is a tax that is payable whenever the assessee receive revenue from an investment or from the sale of a property. There are two divisions for capital gain tax, short term capital gain and long term capital gain. Short term capital gain is coming under the purview of income tax whereas the tax on long term gains has a special rate, presently it is 20%.

Wealth Tax was another tax levied by the government, which was charged based on the net wealth of the assessee. Net wealth is equal to all the assets an individual owns after adjusting the cost of acquiring them. Wealth tax is no longer operational as it was abolished on 2015. Indirect taxes are those taxes that are collected indirectly from the peoples. This tax is usually levied on goods and services. The basic difference between direct taxes and indirect taxes is also because of this basis of levying. Direct taxes are levying on various assessee but indirect taxes are instead levied on products and are collected by an intermediary, the person selling the product. These taxes are levied by adding them to the price of the service or product which tends to push the cost of the product up. The types of indirect taxes are sales tax, Service tax, VAT, customs duty, excise duty, entertainment tax, Stamp Duty, Registration Fees and Transfer Tax etc...

Sales tax is a tax that is levied on the sale of a product. This product can be either produced in India or imported the tax is levied on the final retailers. Sales tax is levied under both central and state legislations and it is the largest source of tax revenue to the state governments. Basically, all the states in the country follow their own Sales Tax Act and charge different percentages. Service tax is the tax added to services provided in India. It is applicable on companies that provide services and is collected on the periods of intervals as per the company. If the establishment is an individual service provider then the service tax is paid only once the customer pays the bills however, for companies the service tax is payable the moment the invoice is raised.

Value Added Tax (VAT) is also known as commercial tax. The method of tax levying is at all the stages of the supply chain, right from the manufacturers, dealers and distributors to the end user. VAT is purely the discretion of the state government and not all states implemented it when it was first announced. When peoples purchase products imported from another country, a charge is applied on it and that is called customs duty. Any medium of transportation like land, sea or air all the products are liable to customs duty. Excise Duty is a tax that is levied on all the goods manufactured or produced in India. It is different from customs duty because it is applicable only on things produced in India and is also known as the Central Value Added Tax or CENVAT. This tax is collected by the government from the manufacturer of the goods. It can also be collected from those entities that receive manufactured goods and employ people to transport the goods from the manufacturer to themselves. Entertainment Tax is yet another type of tax commonly seen in India. It is levied on feature films, television series, exhibitions, amusement, and recreational parlors. This tax is collected taking into account a business entity's gross collection based on audience participation. Stamp Duty, Registration Fees and Transfer Tax are collect as a supplement of property tax. For instance, when an individual purchases a property, they also have to pay for the cost of stamps (stamp duty), fee charged by local registrar to legalize a property transaction which is called as registration fees and tax paid to transfer the ownership of a commodity.

These are all the types of taxes that are present in India's current economic scenario. Even there is another head for tax division called other types which includes Toll Tax & Road Tax, Swachh Bharat Cess, Krishi Kalyan Cess, Infrastructure Cess, Entry Tax Etc... The funds collected from these sources are the real means of developmental activities in the country.In answer to the question whether direct or indirect taxes are better, better to say on both sides.The best way to conclude that no country can do with one type only. Both types have to be mixed in a good system of taxation.

II. Introduction to GST

India is having the most complicated tax structure in the world, especially Indian indirect tax systems. The mechanism of imposing taxes, exemptions, abatements other benefits is different in different states. The existing law has a number of issues of interpretation in various provisions and the category of the products and services. India needs a simple tax structure which can describe the tax mechanism as simple as possible. The basic two drawbacks of existing indirect tax system are cascading effect and non-uniformity of tax collection among states. Introduction of Goods and Service Tax (GST) will compensate those drawbacks. Following are the mainstay of GST:-

(1) Removing Cascading Effect:

GST removes "Tax on Tax Effect" and provides common national market for Goods and Services.

(2) Single Umbrella Tax Rate:

GST will harmonize indirect taxes being levied by Union and State Governments.

The reference of GST was first made in the Indian Budget in 2006-07 by the then Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram as a single centralized Indirect tax. The Bill was introduced on December 19, 2014 and passed on May 6, 2015 in the Lok Sabha and Passed in Rajya Sabha on 3rd August 2016. The Government wants to implement GST Bill From 1st April 2017.

Clause 366(12A) of the Constitution Bill defines GST as "goods and services tax" means any tax on supply of goods, or services or both except taxes on the supply of the alcoholic liquor for human consumption. So GST is a comprehensive tax levy on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods and services at a national level.

The Prospects of GST over current indirect tax system in India

A well unity in various tax types will give the following prospects to GST:-

1. GST ensures a competitive pricing mechanism. The implementation of GST will reduce ne tax payment by final consumers which will reduce the prices of commodities. The process will boost up the consumption and increase in production. When the cost of Production falls in the domestic market, Indian Goods and services will be more prices competitive in foreign markets which will improves export.
2. Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) is one of Prominent Factor for the success of GST. The government revenue would be less compared to the current system for the initial two years. By RNR Government ensures that its revenue remains the same despite of giving tax credits. So there is no question of loss for the states.
3. The online backup is one of the magnificent benefits of GST. The Government has already incorporated Goods and service tax network (GSTN). It will develop GST portal ensures the technology support for registration, return filing, tax payments, IGST settlements etc. An effective database system will always surpass all the hurdles.
4. As per Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) central government will levy GST on inter-State trade and such tax shall be apportioned between the Union and the States in the manner as may be provided by Parliament by law. Import of goods or services would be treated as inter-state supplies and thus it would be subject to IGST in addition to applicable custom duties. Exports would be zero rated. The problem of

different rate for different states on different products will be eliminated through the process. The confusion among dealers will reduce die to this process.
5. There will be only one law because GST shall subsume various taxes as specified above.
6. The will be one CGST rate and a uniform rate of SGST across all states. The current scenario of differential tax rates will be abolished, which will accelerate the interstate transfers which will ultimately increase the production.
7. The problem of Cascading effect arises because credit of CST and many other taxes not allowed. This situation will not arise as CST concept is being eliminated with introduction of IGST. Elimination of cascading effect will of course increase the production capacity of manufacturers and this will leads to improved production and export opportunities.
8. Tax burden is expected to reduce since all taxes are integrated and possible the burden to be split equitably between manufacturing and services. Over pricing of a particular product or service can avoid through this mechanism.
9. As GST mechanism removes cascading effect by providing credit, cost burden is also reduced. Reduction in production cost will lead to increased production.
10. The tax compliance would be easier as only one law subsuming other taxes need to be followed.
11. GST is to be levied only at final destination of consumption and not at various points. This brings more transparency and corruption free tax administration.
12. A single taxation system could eliminate the roadblock for products in check posts and toll plazas lead to a lot of wastage for perishable items being transported.
13. GST would add to government revenues by widening the tax base.
14. For GST there will be uniform process and common dates for collection/deposit of tax and filing of returns but in prevailing system only Central Excise and Service has uniformity, VAT is different from State to State.
15. GST helps in system based validation and consistency checks on Input Credit availed, utilization and Tax Payments however now validation is doing Partly by system, full verification is doing by Central/State authorities.
16. There will be no entry tax as per GST, additional 1% of Tax to be levied on inter-state supply of selected goods. But currently being charged by selected states for interstate transfers.
17. Eliminates the multiplicity of taxation will help to reduce the paper work and clean up the current existing indirect taxation laws.

To design an equitable tax structure, the country requires a well defined tax system. The laws must be as simple as it can in order to comply with all group of peoples in India. Introduction of GST aims in such a way to reduce the complexities prevailing in the indirect tax structure in India. A uniform tax system for a nation is the slogan of GST and this proposed mechanism will remove the effect of tax cascading in the nation. Goods and Service Tax will effectively surpass the various tax barriers persisted n the present indirect tax system. Elimination of tax credit problems, over tax burden problems, double taxation etc… will enhance the production of the country which will ultimately led to increased GDP. The experts are expecting a growth of 1.5% - 2% in GDP, once the GST is implemented in India.

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