

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**

Press Release

Chandigarh, 19th December, 2017: The Government of India has implemented Good & Service Tax (GST) w.e.f. 1/07/2017 and has further amended the GST rates on various commodities through various notifications, from time to time.

It has brought to the notice of Sh. Ajit Balaji Joshi, IAS, District Magistrate, U.T., Chandigarh by the Department of Food & Supplies and Consumer Affairs & Legal Metrology that the suppliers (earlier known as sellers) are not passing on the benefit of reduction of taxes, to the consumers within the jurisdiction of Chandigarh. It is pertinent to mention that the GST Council, in its meeting held on 10th November, 2017 at Guwahati (Assam) in order to ensure the reduction of prices, recommended the reduction of taxes on more than 170 items. Subsequently to give effect to the recommendation of the council, notifications were issued giving list of items on which taxes has been reduced.

The reduction in the rates of taxes has been implemented with effect from 15th November, 2017 and as such the prices of listed goods should have been brought down, but it has not happened. The denial of the benefits of reduction of tax means that the unjustified costs are being imposed on the consumers which is clearly a restricted/unfair trade practice and covered under section 2(nnn) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Sh. Ajit Balaji Joshi, IAS, District Magistrate, U.T., Chandigarh, is of the opinion that the non-reduction of prices as per notifications is without any sanction of law and is a restrictive/unfair trade practice and this practice must be discontinued in the public interest.

Therefore, Sh. Ajit Balaji Joshi, IAS, District Magistrate, U.T., Chandigarh, in exercising the powers conferred under the section 144 of the Cr.P.C, prohibit the supply (sale) of notified commodities within the jurisdiction of U.T. Chandigarh without passing the benefits of reduced taxes to the consumers.

This order shall come into force at zero hour on **16/12/2017** and shall be effective for a period of 60 days upto and including **13/02/2018**.