Healthcare sector demands exemption from GST

An apex body of the healthcare sector today urged the government to exempt healthcare services from Goods and Services Tax (GST), increase tax exemption on preventive health checkup and set up healthcare infrastructure medical innovation funds.

In its pre-budget recommendations, Healthcare Federation of India (Nathealth) said exemption from GST will help in achieving the goal of universal healthcare coverage.

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Levying service tax on healthcare services and facilities will be a retrograde step which will push back the agenda to provide universal healthcare. The current stage of development of the healthcare industry cannot afford service tax, Bose said.

Highlighting the need to focus on preventive healthcare, Bose stressed that in order to achieve the government’s stated objective of universal health coverage, the tax exemption on preventive health checkup should be raised from the current Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 under section 80-D of Income Tax Act, 1961.
The healthcare body also recommended the government to withdraw service tax on health insurance premium. Healthcare is not taxed for services, so the same principle should be applied for healthcare financing as well, Bose said.

Nathealth president Sushobhan Dasgupta said, "We have urged the government to increase the depreciation rate applicable on medical and pathological equipment and medical devices from 15 to 30 per cent."

At present, corporate income tax incentives are given on capital expenditure for hospitals with 100 beds and above, which needs to be revised for greenfield hospitals with 50 beds. This will encourage much-needed healthcare facilities in tier 2, 3 and 4 cities, Dasgupta said.

Government should also set up a healthcare infrastructure fund and a medical innovation fund which would encourage entrepreneurship and newer business models, it said.

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Budget 2016: Healthcare sector demands exemption from GST

By PTI | 8 Jan, 2016, 09.30PM IST

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Exempt healthcare services from GST: NATHEALTH

By EH News Bureau | The Financial Express – 10 hours ago

Urges the government to increase the tax holiday for establishing healthcare facilities from the current period of five to ten years in non-metros

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Anjan Bose, Secretary General, NATHEALTH said that GST once implemented, would put various sectors under the purview of service tax. Healthcare is currently exempted from service tax and this should continue after the GST regime at least for a period of ten years and only thereafter should a decision to levy service tax be considered, after assessing the status of healthcare coverage, costs and performance on key healthcare metrics. Levying service tax on healthcare services and facilities will be a retrograde step which will push back the agenda to provide universal healthcare. The current stage of development of the healthcare industry cannot afford levy of service tax.

Bose emphasised, “Given the long payback period, extension of the tax holiday to ten years instead of five will improve the business case for investment. The lack of skilled healthcare resources in non-metros and tier II, III, IV cities makes the payback period even longer”.

Highlighting the need to focus on preventive healthcare, Bose stressed that in order to achieve the government’s stated objective of Universal health coverage, the tax exemption on Preventive Health checkup should be raised from the current Rs 5000 to Rs 20000 under section 80-D of Income Tax Act 1961.

NATHEALTH recommends the government to withdraw service tax on health insurance premium which acts as a deterrent to consumers. Healthcare is not taxed for services so the same principle should be applied for healthcare financing as well added Bose.
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“We appeal to the government to come out with policies that will enable the environment to fund long-term growth and help develop/optimise healthcare infrastructure,” said Dasgupta.

“The government should set up a healthcare infrastructure fund and a medical innovation fund which would encourage entrepreneurship and newer business models which are the need of the hour for improving access, availability and quality, especially in tier II and III and rural areas,” said Dasgupta.

To bolster skill development in healthcare, the government needs to consider introducing special incentives for health sector skill development and make it easier to collaborate with eminent overseas training partners. This would necessitate increased budgetary provisions for healthcare sector skill council and relaxation of taxes on training aids and import of training materials said Bose.

Considering the huge demand and supply gap of doctors, health sector needs strong incentives to set up medical colleges. Free and concessional land in setting up private medical colleges will incentivise more players to get into medical education. To encourage quality and innovation govt. should provide a longer term (10 year window) for 250 per cent deduction of approved expenditure on R&D activities.

Anjan Bose said, “We are hopeful that in the upcoming budget the government will consider the recommendations for the entire healthcare value chain, which will result in progress of Indian healthcare sector.”

http://article.wn.com/view/2016/01/08/Exempt_healthcare_services_from_GST_NATHEALTH/
Exempt Healthcare Services from GST: NATHEALTH

Posted on January 8, 2016 by romiya in Health Policy, News

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With the huge impact of NCDs (Non-communicable diseases) on the Indian population, it is absolutely imperative to increase the focus on prevention and preventive healthcare. WHO cautions clearly states that more than 52 lakh lives are lost annually in India alone. The death rate in urban India is expected to rise by 12 per cent by 2051 out of which NCD alone will account for around 62 per cent. DALY (disability adjusted life year) losses. One person dies of a stroke every minute in India. Every 6th patient below 40 years is a victim of cancer and CVD. The economic burden of NCDs in India will be 6.2 trillion USD from the period of 2016-2030.

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The government should set up a healthcare infrastructure fund and a medical innovation fund which would encourage entrepreneurship and newer business models which are the need of the hour for improving access, availability and quality, especially in tier 2, 3 and rural areas. "Govt. can consider providing seed capital for such fund" emphasised Sushobhan.

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Further Arjan said that they are hopeful that in the upcoming budget the government will consider the recommendations for the entire healthcare value chain, which

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PD Hinduja Hospital hosts conference on ‘Redefining healthcare: Value based delivery’

January 9, 2016

The conference brought together an interdisciplinary group of professionals working in the field of healthcare management.

PD Hinduja Hospital & Medical Research Center recently hosted its third national conference on the theme, Redefining healthcare: Value based delivery”. It was held on December 4-5, 2015 at the Conference Hall of PD Hinduja Hospital & MRC (Hinduja Hospital). This conference brought together an interdisciplinary group of professionals working in the field of healthcare management.

Joy Chakraborty, Organizing Chairman of the conference and COO of Hinduja Hospital gave the opening remarks and set the tone for the event. The conference saw more than 50 key opinion leaders from the industry and academicians share their knowledge, views and experiences with the delagates. The conference aimed to capture a 360o view of value-based delivery in the healthcare system.
The first session of the conference focused on the topic of ‘Developing Hospitals for Good Health’. The panel of speakers included Dr Vivek Desai, MD, Hosmac India; Gaurav Chopra, MD, India; and Dr Yash Paul Bhatia, MD, Astron Hospitals & Healthcare Consultants, India. The session was chaired by Maj Gen Naresh Vij, Director – Projects, Hinduja Hospital. The panelists discussed how infrastructure planning can help better patient experience and achieve value-based healthcare delivery.

The session was followed by the inauguration of the event by Usha Raheja, Board Member; Trustee: Gautam Khanna, CEO; and Joy Chakraborty. Dr Deepak Sawant, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest of the event. Addressing the attendees, Dr Sawant said, “More hospitals and other players in the healthcare sector should come forward to share, discuss and come up with suggestions to provide focused healthcare services. Forums like these are welcome as they set the stage for public players to work in synergy for the benefits of the patients.”

The second session of Day 1 focussed on delivering right and appropriate healthcare. The session was chaired by Dr Sanjay Agarwala, Director -Professional Surgery, Chief of Surgery and Head-Orthopedics & Traumatology, Hinduja Hospital. The speakers were Dr Gayatri V Mahindroo, Director, NABH and QCI; Dr Anupam Sibal, Group MD, Sr Pediatric Gastroenterologist & Hepatologist, Apollo Hospitals Group; Dr Parag Rindani, AVP & Head Wockhardt Hospitals, South Mumbai; and Chitrangjan Chatterjee, Faculty member in Corporate Strategy & Policy, IIM Bangalore.
The next session was on improving patient experience and achieving patient-centric care. Session speakers were Dr Harish Pillai, CEO-Aster Medcity & Cluster Head Kerala Aster Healthcare; Muralidharan Nair, Partner – Consulting Practice, Ernst & Young; and Beje Misra, International Consumer Policy Expert, and Founder Trustee, Consumer Online Chakraborty also elaborated with examples on how patient experience has been given importance in his organisation.

The fourth session was on ‘Enhancing quality and safety in healthcare: A mandate or choice?’ was a very interesting session that brought together all the key quality experts of the Indian healthcare industry for presentation of their perspective. Speakers of this session were Dr Prabhu Vinayagam, MD-Asia Pacific Office Singapore, JCI; Dr Mahindroo and Dr Ravindra Karanjekar, Group CEO, Jupiter Hospital. It was chaired by Dr FD Dastur, Consultant Physician & Director Education & Hospital Quality, PD Hinduja Hospital & Research Centre.

KPMG, one of the three Knowledge Partners of the conference also released a Point of View (POV) paper titled ‘Next generation care: Helping create value-based healthcare organs was released by Utkarsh Palnitkar, Partner - Head of Advisory, Head – Life Sciences, KPMG and Usha Raheja. The paper proposed three amendments in the current thought process, transforming the state of affaires in healthcare – first, mapping the outcomes of care that are felt by patients, rather than process outcomes which is of importance to the providers; second, integrating quality measurement to proper cost measurement; and finally, leveraging patient data source and other forms of existing data, instead of capturing new information, to form a strategy. This was followed by Palnitkar’s session on ‘Value Based Care Del Blue Print for Change.’

Information technology was the focus for the next session. Titled ‘Harnessing the power of information technology’, it put forth opinions, experiences and offerings of the IT industry in delivering value-based care. The speakers were Shailesh Mallya, AVP – Information Management, Lauren Information Technologies; Jeyaseelan Jeyaraj, Asia Pacific Director – Health Sciences Global Business Unit, Oracle Corporation; and Niranjan Ramakrishnan, CIO-IT, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi. The session was chaired by Mahesh Shinde, Director IT – Hinduja Hospital.

The last session of the day was dedicated to customer’s voice which has lot of importance in terms of customer experience and the relationship between the provider and the customers. Titled, ‘New paradigm of healthcare delivery – Voice of customer’, it was chaired by Phalakshi Manjrekar, Director-Nursing, Hinduja Hospital. The speakers were N Santhanam, CEO – Breach Candy Hospital and Dr Anuradha Sovani, Professor & Head, Department of Psychology, SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai.
The second day of the conference began with a session on ‘Healthcare Service Delivery Excellence, Uniqueness and Outcomes’. It brought to light the efforts made by healthcare providers to provide superior quality outcomes and distinguish themselves as a good healthcare provider. The session was chaired by Rana Mehta, Partner & Leader Healthcare – PwC. Dr Si Singh, CE – Max Institute of Health Education & Research and Dr Ravi Shankar Sing, Director – Paras Hospitals in this session.

PwC, another Knowledge Partner, also released a white paper at the conference. Titled ‘Enterprise performance management in hospital’, it highlighted the importance of enterprise performance management (EPM) in overcoming the various challenges the hospital sector is faced with, providing better outcomes.

The next session was delivered by sponsors and partners. Col (Dr) Ashok Kaushik, Professor – Dean IIHMR – Student and Academic Affairs. He gave an overview about IIHMR and the hospital sector. Harshad Kheur from Cisco spoke about his company’s offerings and how they help in delivering value-based healthcare in the current healthcare scenario.

‘Building Human Competencies: Leveraging Human Assets’, was the subsequent topic under discussion. It was chaired by Dr Rajiv Yeravdekar, Dean of Faculty of Health & Biomedical Sciences – Symbiosis International University. Rajiv Kapoor, EVP-Chief People Officer, Fortis Healthcare, Swami Swarmanathan, Chairman – Manipal Health Enterprises, Ashish Jain, CEO – Health Sectors Skills Council and MS Venkatesh, Sr Director HR – Hinduja Hospital were the speakers. They spoke on how human capital is important and how to motivate, empower and retain human competencies.

The first keynote speaker for Day 2 was Dr Girdhar J Gyan, Director General - AHPI. Dr Gyan addressed the attendees on ‘Adding value in healthcare delivery’.
‘Moving to value-based COMPETITION': Improving health insurance and access' was a session. It focussed on the insurance sector and the steps that it has taken towards achieving the theme of the conference. The session was chaired by Gautam Khanna. Speakers were Anaswamy Vaideesha, VP, South Asia & MD, India-GSK Pharmaceuticals and Bhargav Dasgupta, MD & CEO, ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company.

The next topic discussed was ‘Healthcare: Competing on values and outcomes’. Dr Sujit Chatterjee, CEO, Dr LH Hiranandani Hospital, presented examples of how working with partners of healthcare delivery helps an organisation to deliver better values and outcomes. Pavan Chaudhary, MD, Vygon was the chairperson for the session.

AB Ravi, Editor, CNBC TV18 anchored a CEO Forum on solutions to redefine value-based healthcare and the future of the Indian healthcare sector. The panel for this session included Khanna; Prashant Jhaveri, President Strategy - MediAssist; Dr Sudhir Naik, President - of Medical Consultants Mumbai and Director, Sree Guru Hospital and Oyster Hospital; Dasgupta, MD, J&J Medical India, President of the Governing Council of the Healthcare Federation of India – NATHEALTH, and Chairman, FICCI Medical Devices Forum & CCI Finance, Healthcare Sector Skills Council; and Dr Gyani, Director General, Association Healthcare Providers India - AHPI. The panelists highlighted the issues and challenges and current healthcare system.

Sanjit 'Bunker' Roy, Founder & Director, Barefoot College and Meagan Fallone, CEO, T College International were key note speakers. Fallone presented on the activities of Barefoot College for the Tilonia village and its residents in Rajasthan. She showcased how they made the small village self-sufficient and the village's progress.

The session by Roy was a case study of how a highly educated person from going back to Tilonia and his struggles to tackle the complexities in making the villagers self-sufficient. He demonstrated how innovation and adoption of available resources helped improve healthcare delivery for the villagers.

Knowledge Partner, IMS Health also presented a research paper on 'The new frontiers in Healthcare Delivery and Innovation'. The paper was released by Amit Mookim, Country Principal South Asia, IMS Consulting Group and Chakraborty. The paper addresses the basic challenges of accessibility and affordability to ensure healthcare for all.

The conference concluded with a session on 'Innovation – Shaping future of healthcare.' It was chaired by Mookim. The speakers were Dasgupta, VT Bharadwaj, MD, Sequoia Capital; Probir Das, MD, Terumo India; and Dr Deepa Joshi, Director-Ultrasound, GE Healthcare, South Asia. They spoke on how innovation has been taking place in their respective organisations for better healthcare delivery and shaping the health industry.
Thus, over the course of two days, the speakers discussed many thought provoking issues and suggested possible solutions that would redefine the country’s healthcare system. The conference concluded with the three attendees winning a tablet each in a lucky draw.

Juhi Bhandari, Asst Director Administration, Hinduja Hospital & Organizing Secretary of the conference gave a valedictory address and closed the two-day conference.

Exempt healthcare services from GST: NATHEALTH

By EH News Bureau on January 8, 2016

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Posted on January 9, 2016 by Admin in 2015, Latest News

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Exempt Healthcare Services from GST: NATHEALTH

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09 January 2016, 7:57 AM IST

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EXEMPT HEALTHCARE SERVICES FROM GST: NATHEALTH

- Increase the tax holiday for establishing healthcare facilities from the current period of five to ten years in non-metros
- Tax exemption on Preventive Health checkup should be raised
- Set up a healthcare infrastructure fund and a medical innovation fund

In line with the goal of achieving Universal Healthcare Coverage, NATHEALTH (Healthcare Federation of India), India's apex Healthcare body, presents pre-budget recommendations to the Govt. to exempt the healthcare services from Goods & Services Tax or GST.

Mr. Anjan Bose, Secretary General, NATHEALTH said, GST once implemented, would put various sectors under the purview of service tax. Healthcare is currently exempted from service tax and this should continue after the GST regime at least for a period of ten years and only thereafter should a decision to levy service tax be considered, after assessing the status of healthcare coverage, costs and performance on key healthcare metrics. Levying service tax on healthcare services and facilities will be a retrograde step which will push back the agenda to provide universal healthcare. The current stage of development of the healthcare industry cannot afford levy of service tax.

Mr. Bose emphasized, “Given the long payback period, extension of the tax holiday to ten years instead of five will improve the business case for investment. The lack of skilled healthcare resources in non-metros and tier 2, 3, 4 cities makes the payback period even longer”.

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Highlighting the need to focus on preventive healthcare, Mr. Bose stressed that in order to achieve the Government’s stated objective of Universal health coverage, the tax exemption on Preventive Health checkup should be raised from the current Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 20000/- under section 80-D of Income Tax Act 1961.

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“We appeal to the Govt. to come out with policies that will enable the environment to fund long-term growth and help develop/optimize healthcare infrastructure,” said Mr. Sushobhan Dasgupta.

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http://healthtechnology.in/2016/01/08/exempt-healthcare-services-from-gst-nathealth/
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By EH News Bureau | The Financial Express – 10 hours ago

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http://in.shafagna.com/EN/IN/1487698
Healthcare services should not brought under GST at-least for next 10 years: NATHEALTH

India Infoline News Service | Mumbai | January 12, 2016 09:34 IST

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[Link: http://www.indiannewsandtimes.com/2016/01/08/exempt-healthcare-services-from-gst-nathealth/]
Healthcare sector demands exemption from GST

PTI
January 8, 2016 | UPDATED 19:50 IST

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Government should also set up a healthcare infrastructure fund and a medical innovation fund which would encourage entrepreneurship and newer business models, it said.

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This is unedited, unformatted feed from the Press Trust of India wire.

BUDGET 2016: Health sector demands exemption from GST

By PTI | 8 Jan, 2016, 09.30PM IST

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http://livenetworknews.com/bz/article/100100100101575217
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By PTI | 8 Jan, 2016, 09:30PM IST

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http://www.mozaaf.com/post/4011913
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"GST, once implemented, would put various sectors under the purview of service tax. Healthcare is currently exempted from service tax and this should continue after the GST regime at least for a period of ten years and only thereafter should a decision to levy service tax be considered, after assessing the status of healthcare coverage, costs and performance on key healthcare metrics," Nathealth Secretary General Anjan Bose said in a statement here.

Levying service tax on healthcare services and facilities will be a retrograde step which will push back the agenda to provide universal healthcare. The current stage of development of the healthcare industry cannot afford service tax, Bose said.

Highlighting the need to focus on preventive healthcare, Bose stressed that in order to achieve the government’s stated objective of universal health coverage, the tax exemption on preventive health checkup should be raised from the current Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 under section 80-D of Income Tax Act, 1961.

The healthcare body also recommended the government to withdraw service tax on health insurance premium. Healthcare is not taxed for services, so the same principle should be applied for healthcare financing as well, Bose said.

Nathealth president Sushobhan Dasgupta said, "We have urged the government to increase the depreciation rate applicable on medical and pathological equipment and medical devices from 15 to 30 percent."

At present, corporate income tax incentives are given on capital expenditure for hospitals with 100 beds and above, which needs to be revised for greenfield hospitals with 50 beds.
This will encourage much-needed healthcare facilities in tier 2, 3 and 4 cities, Dasgupta said. Government should also set up a healthcare infrastructure fund and a medical innovation fund which would encourage entrepreneurship and newer business models, it said.

"Government can consider providing seed capital for such fund, Dasgupta added.

https://www.news-pr.in/healthcare-sector-demands-exemption-from-gst.html
Healthcare sector demands exemption from GST

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An apex body of the healthcare sector today urged the government to exempt healthcare services from Goods and Services Tax (GST), increase tax exemption on preventive health checkup and set up healthcare infrastructure medical innovation funds.

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स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को जीएसटी से मुक्त करें: नैटेल्थ

“यूनिवर्सल हेल्थकेयर कर्नेल के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के महत्त्वपूर्ण नैटेल्थ (हेल्थकेयर फेडरेशन ऑफ़ इंडिया), देश की शीर्ष स्वास्थ्यरक्षा निगम, ने स्वास्थ्यरक्षा सेवाओं को गुद्धा एंड सर्विसेज टैक्स (जीएसटी) के दायरे में बाहर करने के लिए सरकार के सम्मेलन बूथ-बाजट सिफारिशों को पेश किया है।”

नैटेल्थ के महासचिव अंजन बोस का कहना है कि एक बार जब जीएसटी का क्रियान्वयन हो जाएगा, तब अनेक क्षेत्र अन्तर्गत सेवा कर के दायरे में आ जाएंगे। हेल्थकेयर अभी तक सेवा कर के दायरे बाहर रहा है और यह स्थिति जीएसटी की स्थिति के पारित होने के बाद भी कम से कम 10 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए जारी रहनी चाहिए और उसके बाद ही उस पर शुल्क आर्सेप्ट करने के विषय में सीधा जाना चाहिए। इसका निर्णय हेल्थकेयर कर्नेल के स्टेटस के आकलन एवं प्रमुख हेल्थकेयर क्षेत्र में लागत एवं परफॉर्मेंस के अनुशीलन के बाद ही लिया जाना चाहिए। बोस के मुताबिक लंबी लेवेल अवधि को प्रदान करते हुए कर हूट की अवधि की 5 वर्ष की अवधि से बढ़ा कर 10 वर्ष के लिए किए जाने से निर्देश के विज्ञापन केस में मुश्किल होगा।
नेटहेल्थ के अध्यक्ष सुशीमन दासगुप्ता ने बताया कि स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुधार के लिए सरकार से यह गुजारिश की गई है कि वह मैडिकल, पेयोलॉजिकल इक्विपमेंट एवं डिजिल मैडिकल उपकरणों पर लगूकरण वीम्स विदावट दर को 15 से 30 प्रतिशत बढ़ा दे। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्तमान समय में 100 बिस्तरों एवं इससे अधिक बिस्तरों वाले अस्पतालों के पूर्वी निवेश पर कॉरपरेट आय कर इंसेंटिव दिया जाता है, जिसे 50 बिस्तरों वाले फील्ड हॉस्पिटल्स के लिए संशोधित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। यह पहले छोटी सुविधाओं को लाभ पहुंचाने वाली होनी चाहिए एवं वह निश्चित रूप से टियर 2, 3 व 4 शहरों के लिए अति आवश्यक हैं। इसके बाद सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करेंगे।

NATHEALTH (Healthcare Federation of India), India’s apex healthcare body, has urged the government to exempt the healthcare services from Goods & Services Tax (GST). Healthcare is currently exempted from service tax and the federation demands this should continue at least for a period of ten years. Only after 10 years a decision to levy service tax should be considered, after assessing the status of healthcare coverage, costs and performance on key healthcare metrics.

Anjan Bose, secretary general, NATHEALTH said that GST once implemented, would put various sectors under the purview of service tax. Levying service tax on healthcare services and facilities will be a retrograde step which will push back the agenda to provide universal healthcare. The current stage of development of the healthcare industry cannot afford levy of service tax.

Bose emphasized, “Given the long payback period, extension of the tax holiday to ten years instead of five will improve the business case for investment. The lack of skilled healthcare resources in non-metros and tier 2, 3, 4 cities makes the payback period even longer”.

With the huge impact of NCDs (non-communicable diseases) on the Indian population, it is absolutely imperative to increase the focus on prevention and preventive healthcare. WHO statistics clearly states that more than 52 lakh lives are lost annually in India alone. The death rate in urban India is expected to rise by 42 per cent by 2021, out of which NCD alone will account for around 62 per cent DALY (disability adjusted life year) losses. One person dies of a stroke every minute in India. Every 6th patient below 40 years is a victim of cancer and CVD. The economic burden of NCDS in India will be 6.2 trillion USD during the period of 2016-2030.

Highlighting the need to focus on preventive healthcare, Bose stressed that in order to achieve the government’s stated objective of universal health coverage, the tax exemption on preventive health checkup should be raised from the current Rs.5000 to Rs.20000 under section 80-D of Income Tax Act 1961.

NATHEALTH recommends the government to withdraw service tax on Health Insurance Premium which acts as a deterrent to consumers. Healthcare is not taxed for services so the same principle should be applied for healthcare financing as well, added Bose.

To bolster skill development in healthcare, government needs to consider introducing special incentives for health sector skill development and make it easier to collaborate with eminent overseas training partners. This would necessitate increased budgetary provisions for healthcare sector skill council and relaxation of taxes on training aids and import of training materials, said Bose.

Considering the huge demand and supply gap of doctors, health sector needs strong incentives to set up medical colleges. Free and concessional land in setting up private medical colleges will incentivize more players to get into medical education. To encourage quality and innovation, government should provide a longer term (10-year window) for 250 per cent deduction of approved expenditure on R&D activities.

Further he said, “We are hopeful that in the upcoming budget the government will consider the recommendations for the entire healthcare value chain, which will result in progress of Indian healthcare sector.”
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Health care service providers want tax sops in Budget

BS Reporter/Mumbai 09 Jan 16 | 12:35 AM

Healthcare Federation of India (Nathealth), which represents hospitals, medical equipment manufacturers, and insurance companies, has sought tax sops and creation of funds to boost medical innovation and healthcare infrastructure in India.

Anjan Bose, secretary-general of Nathealth, said, “Goods and services tax (GST), once implemented, would put various sectors under the purview of service tax. Patient treatment service is currently exempted from service tax and this should continue under the GST regime for at least 10 years.

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In its pre-Budget memorandum, Nathealth also demanded increase in tax holidays for establishment of healthcare facilities in non-metros from five to 10 years and rise in tax exemption limits on preventive health check-up.

Sushobhan Dasgupta, president of Nathealth, said the government should increase depreciation rate applicable on medical and pathological equipment and medical devices from 15 to 30 per cent and extend tax incentives to hospitals with 50 beds. At present, tax incentives is given for capex on hospitals with a minimum 100 beds. “This initiative will extend benefits to smaller facilities and will encourage healthcare facilities in Tier-II and -III cities,” he added.