

A study on impact of GST on MSME

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Abstract

An entrepreneur is one who plays significant role in the economic development of a country. Basically an entrepreneur can be regarded as a person who has the initiative, skill and motivation to set up a business or an enterprise of his own and who always looks for high achievement. Entrepreneur looks for opportunities, identifies them and seizes them mainly for economic gains. A person who is able to express and execute the urge, skill, motivation and innovative ability to establish a business or industry of his own either alone or in collaboration with others. His motive is to earn profit through the production or distribution of socially beneficial goods or services.

1. Introduction

An entrepreneur is one who plays significant role in the economic development of a country. Basically an entrepreneur can be regarded as a person who has the initiative, skill and motivation to set up a business or an enterprise of his own and who always looks for high achievement. Entrepreneur looks for opportunities, identifies them and seizes them mainly for economic gains [1-5]. A person who is able to express and execute the urge, skill, motivation and innovative ability to establish a business or industry of his own either alone or in collaboration with others. His motive is to earn profit through the production or distribution of socially beneficial goods or services.

2. Impact of GST on MSMEs

2.1 Negative Impact:

While the MSMEs will enjoy the tax neutrality, reduction in duty threshold is one of their main concerns in warming up to the GST bill.

3. The burden of lower threshold

The GST bill proposes a reduction in threshold to be Rs.9 lakh to increase the tax net, Rs. 41akh for North Eastern states. (However, GST council has increased the threshold limit from 10 lakh to 20 lakh and from 41akh to 10 lakh for North eastern states) Under the reform, any service provider or retailer be subject to tax levy. In the current central excise law threshold is Rs.1.5 crore [1, 2]. This reduction will significantly impact the MSMEs' working capital. For example, a manufacturer who trades today at Rs. 25 lakhs without any tax levy will be expected to pay GST post implementation. As the threshold is low, most MSMEs are now exempted and will have to pay a chunk of their capital towards tax in future.

3.1 No tax differentiation for luxury items and services

The tax neutrality will not differentiate luxury goods and normal goods. Currently the state and central government levy higher taxes on luxury goods and services. Under GST implementation, all goods and services will have to pay the same tax which will lead to rich becoming richer and poor becoming poorer. It is not an ideal situation for MSMEs competing against large businesses.

3.2 Selective tax levying

GST will not be applicable to Alcoholic liquor for human consumption and Petroleum based businesses, which creates further gap and does not support the 'unified market' ideology of GST.

3.3 The burden of higher tax rate for Service Provider

Presently Service Tax rate is 15%. GST rate will be around 18%. The scenario in the service sector will further be impacted as the concept of Centralized Registration has been done away with and each unit in different states will have to take separate registration. Thus even if services are supplied by company's one Unit in State A to another Unit in State B, then also taxes will be payable.

3.4 Excess Working Capital Requirement

Taxation of stock transfer will primarily impact the working capital requirements. The quantum of impact will vary depending on stock turnaround time at warehouse, credit cycle to customer, quantum of stock transfer, etc. Higher amount of Capital Requirement will increase interest cost which ultimately will increase the price of Finished Goods.

3.5 Realignment of Purchase and Supply Chain

Under GST credit will not be available to a compliant company if the vendor from whom MSME is purchasing goods does not show the same in his return. Thus sourcing strategies will change on account of GST credit mechanism. Also there will be re-consideration of Supply Chain on account of taxation of Stock Transfers, Confederation of Indian Industry.

3.6 Dual Control

In recent GST Council Meeting it was decided by the Ministry that those assesses having turnover of less than 1.5 Crores will be assessed by State Government and existing Service Tax assesses, irrespective of turnover will be assessed by Central Government as there is lack of expertise with the State Government in relation to Service Tax matters [4, 5]. As a result of this, small traders dealing in both goods and services will have dual administrative control both by Centre and State.

4. Positive Impact

GST boosts competitiveness of MSMEs.

They will benefit as follows:

4.1 Starting business becomes easier:

Currently, the Sales Tax department has various turnover slabs which require VAT registration. A business with multi-state operation in this case has to follow varied tax rules applicable to different states. This not only creates excess complication but also adds to procedural fees, due to which the price sensitive MSMEs will be burdened. Uniform GST will standardize the process.

5. Improved MSME market expansion:

In the current system, big corporations procure goods based on MSME's locality in order to reduce overheads. Thus MSMEs limit their customers within state as they will bear the ultimate burden of tax on interstate sales, reducing their customer base. With implementation of GST, this will be nullified as tax credit will transfer irrespective of location of buyer and seller. This allows MSME segment to expand their reach across borders.

5.1 Lower logistical overheads:

As GST is tax neutral it will eliminate time consuming border tax procedures and toll checks posts and encourage supply of goods across borders. Accordingly the logistical cost for companies manufacturing bulk goods will be reduced. Such costs can be crucial for the survival of MSMEs.

5.2 Aids MSMEs dealing in sales and services:

GST will not distinguish between sales and services. This is good news for the MSMEs that deal with sales and services model of business, for them the taxation is simplified and will be calculated on total.

5.3 Unified market:

GST will allow flexibility in transfer of goods across states and reduce the cost of doing business, as the reform will cut down multiple taxes imposed by state and central government.

5.4 Purchase of Capital Goods:

In the current system, only 50% of the input tax credit against purchase of Capital Goods is available in the year of purchase and the balance amount in subsequent years. Under GST regime, entire amount of input tax credit can be availed in the year of purchase itself.

6. Conclusion

Entrepreneurship is one of the important factors of industrialization. In the absence of entrepreneurship, industrialization cannot take place. Entrepreneurs are playing an important role in the economic development of both underdeveloped and developed countries. The government has realized the importance of small scale entrepreneurs as a output it offers a variety of training programmes, subsidies and incentives. The Micro Small Medium Scale Industries in India has today become a growth engine for the economy, contributing substantially to increase in the GDP, employment and exports. Small scale Industries play a dominant role in Indian economy. Probably developing countries facing chronic unemployment problem now India has only one possible solution for this problem is industrialization and entrepreneurship.

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