

GST Council relief for alcohol industry inputs, millet flour to cost less

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New Delhi: The GST Council on Saturday decided to lower the levy on millet flour and foreign ships undertaking domestic cruise, while providing clarity and relief on taxation of two ingredients used by the alcohol industry.

The council, headed by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, also offered relief on corporate guarantees where notices were being issued, and sought to ease the rules for appointment of members of tax tribunals. Among the other changes, the council decided to lower the tax on molasses from 28% to 5%, arguing that it will leave more money with sugar mills to clear the dues of sugarcane farmers and also provide a boost to cattle feed production, for which it is a key ingredient. A section of the alcohol industry, too, uses molasses to make extra neutral alcohol (ENA).

For the alcohol industry, the bigger relief came as the council decided not to exercise its power to tax ENA and ce-

No retrospective tax on online gaming, casinos, says govt

The Centre insisted that it had not resorted to retrospectively taxing online gaming portals and casinos and the action taken against such entities was in line with legal provisions. At the meeting, Goa sought a review of the tax on casinos six months after it was imposed, while Delhi expressed concern over the impact of 28% tax on the gross value of bets on the industry.!

ded it to the states, which will decide whether they want to impose tax or not. The clarification came after the Allahabad high court ruled that after GST kicked in, states did not have the power to levy tax on ENA. The Centre also got the same legal opinion, resulting in the decision to cede the power to the state government, Sitharaman said.