



Day 17; Tax Insight

ENABLEMENT OF SMS FOR FILING GSTR-3B

- To make the compliance easier for taxpayers, the Government on today i.e. 08.06.2020 allowed the filing of Nil GST monthly return in FORM GSTR-3B through SMS.
- This would give substantially benefit over 22 lakh registered taxpayers who had to otherwise log into their account on the common portal and then file their returns every month. Now, these taxpayers with NIL liability need not log on to the GST Portal and may file their NIL returns through an SMS.

1. Brief History

- At the **28th GST Council meeting**, The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has approved the new and simplified returns filing format, in which the SMS system has been enabled to ease the filing process for nil taxpayers.
- Later on in October 2019, Prakash Kumar, CEO of GST Network (GSTN) said, "Under the new system, assesseees with nil turnover will just need to send an SMS and they will receive an OTP (one-time-password) and based on the confirmation, filing of returns can be completed." GSTN provides shared IT infrastructure and service for the indirect tax regime to both central and state governments including taxpayers and other stakeholders.

2. Introduction of Rule 67A

People have run away within the era of technology, hence to bring such an enormous relief by exercising of the powers conferred by section 164 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), the Central Government, on the recommendations of the Council introduced Rule 67A of the CGST Rules 2017 vide NOTIFICATION No. 38/2020–Central Tax dated the 5th May 2020.

3. Bare text of Rule 67A

67A. Manner of furnishing of return by short messaging service facility:- Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, for a registered person who is required to furnish a Nil return under section 39 in FORM GSTR-3B for a tax period, any reference to electronic furnishing shall include the furnishing of the said return through a short messaging service using the registered mobile number and the said return shall be verified by a registered mobile number based One Time Password facility.

Explanation. - For the purpose of this rule, a Nil return shall mean a return under section 39 for a tax period that has nil or no entry in all the Tables in FORM GSTR-3B.

4. However, even after the introduction of such facility vide aforementioned Rule, it was still not available on the GST Portal. However, CBIC vide its official twitter handle introduced below mentioned clarification in such respect:-



**Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

New Delhi, the 8th June 2020

Press Release
Government rolls out facility of filing of NIL GST Return through SMS

In a major move towards taxpayer facilitation, the Government has today onwards allowed filing of NIL GST monthly return in FORM GSTR-3B through SMS. This would substantially **improve ease of GST compliance for over 22 lakh registered taxpayers** who had to otherwise log into their account on the common portal and then file their returns every month. Now, these taxpayers with NIL liability need not log on to the GST Portal and may file their NIL returns through a SMS.

2. For this purpose, the functionality of filing Nil FORM GSTR-3B through SMS has been made available on the GSTN portal with immediate effect. The status of the returns so filed can be tracked on the GST Portal by logging in to GSTIN account and navigating to [Services>Returns>Track Return Status](#). The procedure to file Nil returns by SMS is as follows: -

Step	SMS to 14409	Receive from VD-GSTIND
Initiate Filing	Nil NIL<space>3B<space>GSTIN<space>Tax period Ex. NIL 3B 09XXXXXXXXXXXXZC 052020	<u>123456</u> is the CODE for Nil filing of GSTR3B for 09XXXXXXXXXXXXZC for period 052020. Code validity 30 min.
Confirming Nil CNF Filing	Nil CNF <space>3B<space>Code Ex. CNF 3B 123456	Your, 09XXXXXXXXXXXXZC, GSTR3B for 052020 is filed successfully and acknowledged vide ARN is AA070219000384. Please use this ARN to track the status of your return.
For anytime	Help, HELP<Space>3B Ex. Help 3B	To file NIL return of GSTIN for Mar 2020: NIL 3B 07CQZCD111114Z7 032020 To confirm Nil filing: CNF 3B CODE More details www.gst.gov.in

Our View:-

- 1. As for paying taxes, India's score has risen somewhat to 115th. But we can, and need to, further simplify the indirect goods and services tax (GST) regime, and make taxes, both on income and consumption, easy and taxpayer-friendly. The average time for filing taxes can be significantly higher in lower-middle-income economies like India.*
- 2. Though, the GST eliminates challenges and bottlenecks that regularly occurred under the old tax regime. Greater transparency and easiness in compliances under GST makes more people want to try their hand at entrepreneurship. The incentive to start a business has grown immeasurably since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax. Entrepreneurs who commence a business today have a much easier time getting their venture off the ground. They also stand to gain much more financially by starting their enterprise.*

CA Udit Swami

For the detailed procedure/queries in respect of GST Law, please feel free to contact us at Contact@taxtru.in