Panel on internal trade reforms to start work by month-end

Our Bureau

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The inter-Ministerial committee, set up to look into issues concerning internal trade reforms, will begin operations by this month-end, said K.V. Thomas, Minister of State (Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution), on the sidelines of an Assocham event.

"The Government is aware of problems faced by transporters who traverse through different States, with each region having its own set of rules and regulations with regard to trade, industry and environment. The committee will interact with State Governments and traders to find out their concerns," he said.

Thomas said the Ministry of Agriculture was working on formulation of an Inter-state Agricultural Produce Trade and Commerce (Regulation) Bill to make provisions for development and regulation of inter-State trade and commerce of agricultural produce and related commodities.

Sanjay Mitra, Head (Indirect Taxes), ITC, said implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), as envisaged by the Government, would go a long way in removing inter-State trade barriers.

For easing trade: K.V. Thomas (right), Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, releasing a study on Inter-State Trade Barriers with Suresh Chandra Mohanty (left), Vice-President, Institute of Cost Accountants of India, and D.S. Rawat, Secretary-General of Assocham in the Capital on Thursday. – Kamal Narang

Thomas also released an Assocham study, which observed that the multi-layered indirect tax structure had fragmented the Indian market into 28 State markets. The study suggested setting up of a national-level single market by removing all barriers and improvement in tax administration.

heena.k@thehindu.co.in