

Centre is taking steps to revive consumption, growth?

OUR BUREAU

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The Centre is taking several measures to boost consumption in a bid to put the country's economy on the growth path, said Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, on Thursday.

India is said to be facing the dual problem of a growth slowdown and high inflation, driven primarily by higher food prices.

Industry is hoping Budget 2020 to announce measures to revive consumption and spur growth, particularly in manufacturing.

The government is taking



Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs. DEBASISH BHADURI

various steps to increase the demand and the growth consumption. We have taken various steps in the past and will continue to do so in coming times as well. You wait and see

the upcoming Budget... that is why we are here for the consultation process to take the suggestion from industry leaders," Thakur said.

He was talking to newsmen on the sidelines of a special session jointly organised by several chambers of commerce including MCCI, BCC, CCC and the Association of Corporate Advisers and Executives and the Direct Taxes Professionals' Association.

With an aim to revive industrial growth and boost consumption, the Centre has taken various measures including reduction in the corporate tax rate, lowering of GST rates on select items and

removing 'angel tax' for entities registered with DPIIT among others. However, all these measures have not yet translated into a higher demand.

'Banks in good health'

Bank credit growth, which also has remained subdued due to poor demand, is also likely to start picking up in the coming quarters, he said. Talking about better credit availability, he said, that banks' balance sheet have been cleaned up after the asset quality review; they have been recapitalised and most banks are now out of the RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.