**Vikram Sahney calls on Finance Minister to improve Health of Punjab**

While thanking the Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on settling the issue relating to GST on the Gurdwara Sarais and clarifying that there is no GST onÂ  the same, Vikramjit Singh Sahney Punjab Rajya Sabha discussed with the Finance Minister regarding various steps to improve the fiscal health of Punjab.

Shri Sahney stated thatÂ  the State of Punjab is the biggest contributor to the national buffer stocks and contributes about 250 Lakh MT of food grains into it every year. To achieve this objective the State has, now been availing Cash Credit Limits (CCLs) from a consortium of banks after due approval of the RBI and the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Sahney said that FCI is  able to avail Short Term Loans (STLs) at rates much lower than that charged by the Bank consortium due to the sovereign guarantee being offered by the Union Government.

Mr. Sahney requested the Finance Minister to facilitate CCL and short term loans at lower rates of interest for Punjab.

Mr. Sahney also took up the issue that  Central Government  should contribute Rs. 1500/- per acre for discontinuation of stubble burning which is causing havoc in northern India in winter. Punjab Govt. and Delhi govt. have already agreed to pay Rs. 500/- per acre.

Shri Sahney also discussed the issue of burgeoning debt of Rs. 2.63 Lac Crores which is 45.88% of GSDP â€œwhereas Punjab govt. is strengthening public finance and World Bank assisted Building fiscal and Institutional resilience (BFAIR) project. Centre should immediately consider interest waiver on the said loans

“Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman agreed to consider all the requests especially cash credit loan at lower interest rates for procurement of good grains” said Mr. Sahney

