

## **Government seeks ideas from public for Budget 2016-17**

The Centre has asked citizens to send in ideas and proposals for the next Union Budget, saying many such suggestions had made it to the budget for 2015-16.

The Ministry of Finance has decided to ask for suggestions on the MyGov.in platform by January 20 to foster 'Jan Bhagidari' and infuse more transparency into the budgetmaking exercise and involve people as partners in the process. The budget is usually presented in Parliament on the last day of February.

PM Narendra Modi asked BJP MPs on December 22 to reach out to the public to get inputs for the upcoming Budget. A week earlier, he reminded his council of ministers about the budget preparations and asked them to contribute ideas. The government will launch a crowd-sourcing exercise for the Rail Budget as well.

The government said many crowdsourced ideas earlier this year had made it to the Union Budget and Railway Budget of 2015-16. They included proposals to monetise gold and launch sovereign gold bonds, abolish wealth tax and simplify tax structures, create special tax incentive for promotion of Yoga and make sharing of PAN mandatory for cash transactions above a specified value.

*(Economic Times)*