

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2595.
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11TH AUGUST, 2023.**

IMPLEMENTATION OF ONDC

2595. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) the status and progress of the advisory committee for the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) project;
- (b) the steps suggested and implemented for curbing digital monopolies by online companies;
- (c) the number of e-commerce entities registered with the Ministry;
- (d) whether e-commerce sites have mechanisms for coordination with law enforcement agencies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures undertaken by Government to ensure data protection and cyber security of user information with online companies?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI SOM PARKASH)**

(a) & (b): An Advisory Council was constituted by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to advise the Government on measures needed to design and accelerate adoption of ONDC. The Advisory Council meets regularly to assess the progress of ONDC, advising on its technical strategy, network growth, outreach initiatives and giving special attention to enable undigitized sellers.

To prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, the Competition Act, 2002 was enacted establishing Competition Commission of India (CCI). Since its inception, CCI has been enforcing the Act and promoting fair competition in the markets. It has issued orders against entities, including big online companies, that have violated provisions of the Act, imposing monetary penalties besides issuing other remedies, to address market distortions.

(c): e-Commerce operators are required to be registered under Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017. Total 19,355 e-Commerce entities are registered under CGST Act, 2017.

(d) & (e): Central Government has notified the Consumer Protection (E- Commerce) Rules, 2020. The rules prescribe the duties of e-commerce entities which inter-alia includes the duty to appoint a nodal officer or an alternate senior designated functionary who is resident in India to ensure compliances.

Further, Central Government, in exercise of its powers under section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act), has prescribed reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information through the Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011.

Sections 43 and Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for legal provisions in respect of penalty and punishment for cyber attacks. Further, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been established as the nodal agency responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on cyber incidents and taking emergency measures to contain such incidents.
