

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4743.
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2021.**

PRICES OF CONSUMER ITEMS

4743. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether major companies have excessively increased the prices of consumer items recently as per a news item published in Hindustan Times newspaper on 08/03/2021;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the companies which have increased the prices; and
- (d) the steps taken to check the said price rise?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम प्रकाश)

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

- (a):** The news item published in Hindustan Times newspaper on 08/03/2021 is titled "Biz confidence at India Inc soars to 10 year high". A copy of article is enclosed at Annexure. The article states that based on a business survey, domestic firms are optimistic about greater pricing power that would drive their profits over the next two quarters with better hiring prospects. The article says that Business Confidence Index is currently highest in a decade. There is no reference to increase of prices of consumer items in the news item.

- (b) to (d):** Do not arise.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4743 FOR ANSWER ON 24.03.2021.

BIZ confidence at India Inc soars to 10- year high

Rajeev Jayaswal
Letters@hindustantimes.com
Hindustan Times, Delhi
Monday, 08th March,2021; Page-13

New Delhi: Domestic firms are optimistic about greater pricing power that would drive their profits over the next two quarters with better hiring prospects, though fears of a fresh wave of Covid inflections, lack of affordable credit and rising costs are some of the key concerns, a business confidence survey revealed.

Overall, the Business Confidence Index witnessed further improvement at 74.2 in Q3 of the current financial year, the highest in a decade, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) said in its latest round of survey involving 190 companies from various sectors. The survey captures the mood of the industry for the two quarters ending June 30, 2021.

“For the past few months, green shoots of recovery have been strengthening. The pick-up in activity has broadened and the same is being reflected in the various lead indicators. The demand conditions, which have been a major cause of concern for a majority of businesses, are also seen improving,” it said. Respondents have been unanimous that the Centre’s capital expenditure push in the Union budget 2021-22 would lead to faster revival in growth. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 raised the capital expenditure budget by 34.5% to 5.54 lakh crore(INR) in 2021-22.

The survey has been conducted against the backdrop of the economy coming out of recession in Q3 with 0.4% growth, after remaining in contraction mode for two consecutive quarters.

India Inc, however, remains cautious. The uncertainty surrounding a fresh surge in Covid cases remains the topmost concern for the corporate India, the survey showed. “A further acceleration in the pace of vaccination should help maintain stability in recovery,” it added.
