

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1542  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

**OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE**

1542. DR. C M RAMESH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC);
- (b) whether it is true that some Fair Price Shops (FPSs) have been onboarded onto the ONDC network as a pilot project;
- (c) if so, the details of FPSs identified for this pilot project from the State of Andhra Pradesh including the outcome of the pilot project; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expand ONDC to other FPSs in the country?

**A N S W E R**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,  
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a): Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is aimed at democratizing digital commerce to enable every seller, MSME, merchant, farmer and consumer to access, participate and benefit from market access through digital commerce.

ONDC is not a platform or app. Instead it is an open protocol that enables buyers, using any app to discover and purchase products or services from any other app.

Some of the major objectives of the ONDC are as follows:

- (i) Promote interoperability to create an open, inclusive and competitive marketplace,
- (ii) Be an enabler with minimal public digital infrastructure,
- (iii) Be scale efficient and build for population-scale adoption,
- (iv) Make digital commerce, small-business friendly,
- (v) Pave the way to unlock innovation for reimagining digital commerce.

**(b) and (c):** The Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India has launched a pilot project to onboard Fair Price Shops (FPSs) with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). As part of this initiative, 11 FPSs (5 FPSs in Una and 6 FPSs in Hamirpur districts) in Himachal Pradesh were piloted on ONDC by the Department of Food & Public Distribution.

**(d):** Presently, only the pilot scheme has been launched to assess the viability of onboarding ONDC in FPSs.

\*\*\*\*\*