

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 233.
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 04TH FEBURARY, 2025.**

UNIFORM POLICY FOR E-COMMERCE

**233. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:
SHRI RAMASAHAYAM RAGHURAM REDDY:**

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no comprehensive e-Commerce Policy in the country and if so, the efforts being made by the Government to formulate such a policy;
- (b) whether the Government has concerned about the threat from major e-Commerce players to the employment opportunities in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the rapid growth of e-Commerce affected the livelihood and job opportunities of millions of small retailers of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to have a separate law to deal with e-Commerce with a nodal agency or regulator for overall monitoring and development of e-commerce in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government has any uniform policy to ensure the business practices of major e-Commerce companies at par with citizen-centric and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a) (d) & (e):** The e-commerce sector is governed by a comprehensive legal and policy framework. Some of the Acts applicable to e-Commerce Sector are Consumer Protection Act, 2019; Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020; Competition, Act, 2002; Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017; Information Technology Act, 2000; Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007; Companies Act, 2013; Copyright Act, 1957 etc. FDI policy and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999

contain provisions related to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in e-Commerce Sector. Any violation of FDI regulations is covered by the penal provision of the FEMA, 1999. RBI administers the FEMA and Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is the authority for the enforcement of FEMA. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) established under the Competition Act, 2002 decides matters of anti-competitive practices, including inter alia predatory pricing, on a reference by the aggrieved party. In addition, the interests of the consumers are protected under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

(b) & (c): Government has been focusing on protection of the interest of small retailers of the country. Various measures in the form of Acts, Rules and Policies have been put in place to ensure level playing field. In addition, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has pioneered the initiative of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The initiative aims at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC makes e-Commerce more inclusive wherein small and medium-sized businesses can use any ONDC compatible applications instead of being governed by specific platform centric policies. This provides multiple options to them to be discoverable over network and conduct business. It also encourages easy adoption of digital means by the small retailers and distributors, who may be currently not on digital commerce networks.

(f): Government has implemented the Competition Act, 2002 that mandates the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India. The CCI looks into the matter relating to the anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance by enterprises in all sectors of the economy.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to safeguard consumers from unfair trade practices in e-commerce. These rules, inter-alia, outline the responsibilities of e-commerce entities and specify the liabilities of marketplace and inventory e-commerce entities, including provisions for customer grievance redressal.
