

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY & PROMOTION**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.166.
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 18TH JULY, 2016.**

e-COMMERCE PLATFORM

166. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

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

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री

- (a) whether the e-commerce platform is fast emerging as a new trend in global trade and Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) should use this medium to get direct access to world markets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the e-commerce platform significantly reduces the interference of middleman and can provide best value for the products manufactured by SMEs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether India has given huge market access to the products of least developed countries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)(श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)**

- (a) to (c):** The government has not commissioned any study on e-commerce. However, independent studies conducted on the sector indicate that e-commerce platform is fast emerging as a new trend in global market, especially in terms of cost efficiency and convenience.
- (d):** India gives duty free tariff preference to 31 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through its Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme, which was announced in April 2008. The product coverage under the DFTP scheme is at 98.2% of tariff lines (at HS 6-digit level of classification) at present.
