

- (a) whether Government has decided to allow FDI in retail sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any specific study regarding these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The existing policy allows for 51 % FDI in only single brand retail subject to specified conditions. Government has received suggestions from associations / trade bodies for allowing FDI in multi brand retail. The objective will be to enhance the operational efficiency of back-end infrastructure in the retail sector, reduce wastage in the agricultural sector, enhance benefit to producers, integrate the retailer in the value chain, and benefit consumers through greater competition. Towards this end, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has released a Discussion Paper on the subject of 'Foreign Direct Investment in Multi-Brand Retail Trading', with the aim of generating informed discussion on the subject and obtaining the views and comments of various stakeholders. The discussion paper is available in the public domain. It is expected that the views/suggestions received in response to this Discussion Paper will enable the Government to take an appropriate policy decision at the appropriate time.

(c) Government commissioned ICRIER to study the impact of organized retailing on the unorganized sector. Their report is available in the public domain.

India-EU FTA

296. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether negotiations are in progress for an India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA);
- (b) if so, whether in view of its impact on the Indian agriculture and manufacturing sector, Government had any consultation with the State Governments before finalizing the FTA; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when the agreement is expected to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, India is negotiating a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with the European Union (EU).

(b) and (c) Government consults all stakeholders including State Governments, stakeholding Ministries / Departments, Industries, Associations, Export Promotion Councils etc. in order to develop India's negotiation strategy. This is an ongoing process.

While India is committed for an early and balanced outcome of the negotiations, it is not possible to indicate a timeline for conclusion of negotiations.

EU asking for extension rights in copyright portion

297. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in copyright portion European Union (EU), is asking for an extension of the rights of publishers and music/film companies; and

(b) if so, whether Government is of the opinion that these need careful examination to ensure that we are not giving away public's rights to satisfy big EU copyright holding media companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No Sir, No representation from European Union (EU) for an extension of rights of publishers and music/film companies has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Intellectual property rights cases of crops

298. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Intellectual Property Rights' cases of Indian crops filed during 2007 and 2008;

(b) the number of cases contested;

(c) how many cases were decided in India's favour; and

(d) whether any study has been made to find out reasons of mounting cases of intellectual property rights being contested since 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No information is available with the Government of any case filed abroad relating to intellectual property rights of Indian crops during 2007 and 2008.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.