

## RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, 7th December, 2011/16 Agrahayana, 1933 (Saka)*

The House assembled at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### RE. FDI IN RETAIL TRADE

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Commerce and Industry.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has taken a view that the decision to permit 51 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in multi-brand retail trade is suspended till a consensus is developed for consultation among various stakeholders.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, will the hon. Minister clarify who all the stakeholders would include?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, we want all political parties as well as State Governments to be consulted. We would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether the definition of stakeholders includes them.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): The word 'stakeholders' is actually used in business. When we talk about it in politics, for Parliament, I think the Minister should clarify who the stakeholders are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Leader of Opposition and other Members have raised a point which would be clarified.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, as the hon. Leader of Opposition and hon. Members have asked, it is very clear that this policy, the enabling policy framework, is such that the States have a discretion. Therefore, when we say consultation with the stakeholders, that would include Chief Ministers and States, and it certainly does not exclude, but includes, the political parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 201.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I had give notice for suspension of the Question Hour to discuss the Mullaiperiyar Dam issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We would take it up during the Zero Hour.

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल (उत्तर प्रदेश): चेयरमैन सर, बहुजन समाज पार्टी की राय है कि FDI पूरी तरह से रोल बैक होनी चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: देखिए, वह आपने...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल: सर, बहुजन समाज पार्टी की राय है कि FDI किसानों के हित में, राष्ट्रीय हित में, खुदरा व्यापारियों के हित में नहीं है, इसलिए हम इसको पूरी तरह रोल बैक करने की बात कहते हैं। आप इसे स्थगित करने की बात कर रहे हैं। इसको स्थगित करने का मतलब यह है कि सरकार की मंशा ठीक नहीं है। यह वेंटिलेटर पर है, कभी भी यह इश्यु पुनर्जीवित हो सकता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not having a discussion on this, please.

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल: अगर आप इसको रोल बैक नहीं करते हैं, तो हम यहां से वाकआउट करते हैं।

*(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 201.

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#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Secretary level talks with Pakistan to improve trade relations

\*201. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have started talks at Secretary level to improve the trade relations between the two countries recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the two countries are going to have a Preferential Trade Agreement between them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

##### *Statement*

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Fifth round of Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was held on 27-28 April, 2011, in Islamabad (Pakistan). Sixth round of talks have been held on 14-15 November, 2011 in New Delhi. During the above discussion, following points have been agreed:—
  - (i) Both sides have agreed to jointly work to more than double bilateral trade within three years, from current levels of 2.7 Billion US dollars per annum to about 6 Billion dollars.