

- (b) if so, what action is being taken against the delinquent parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) References alleging involvement of some companies in retail trading, in violation of the FDI policy, have been received. The same were referred to the Reserve Bank of India, as violation of FDI regulations is covered by the penal provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). The Reserve Bank of India has informed that matters related to Bharti Wal-Mart/ Cedar Support Services Limited and M/s Flipkart Online Services Pvt. Limited, respectively, have been referred to the Directorate of Enforcement for further investigations.

Impact of apple import on domestic growers

†2028. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian apple growers have to bear losses due to import of apples from abroad;
- (b) whether Government has any proposed plan to increase import duty on apple and protect the interests of apple growing States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present import tariff is 50% which is also a bound rate of duty agreed in GATT/WTO. The scope for further increase in tariff rates without further negotiation under the WTO regime seems unlikely at present.

Increase in export of Agro-products

†2029. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the export of agro-products have increased drastically in the last two decade;
- (b) if so, Government's response thereto;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.