

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing	Date of Implementation / ratification
3.	SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan)	29.04.2010	29.11.2012 (ratification)

(c) to (e) These agreements provide preferential opportunities for sourcing of raw material and exports of goods and services of interest for States, including Odisha.

Tax concessions to Corporates and Business Houses

3706. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving tax concessions to the corporates and business houses; and

(b) if so, the details of amount of concessions given in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The details of tax concessions and changes effected for direct and indirect taxes payable by the corporate sector during the last three years are as per the Finance Acts 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively, which are available on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

Investment Protection Pact with Canada

3707. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Canada propose to sign investment protection pact, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between these two countries; and

(c) whether it is proposed to boost manufacturing sector of both the countries under the above agreement, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, India and Canada have been negotiating Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) which had been inconclusive even after the 14th round of negotiations held in April, 2010. The negotiations are presently in abeyance in view of review of the model text of BIPA.

(b) India and Canada formally launched Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in November, 2010. Eight rounds of negotiations have taken place.

(c) The India-Canada CEPA covers chapters on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Rules of Origin, Origin Procedures, Trade Remedies Customs and Trade Facilitation and Institutional Provisions.

Allowing FDI in rural India

3708. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in rural India;
- (b) if so, the details of the sectors where it is proposed to be implemented;
- (c) whether it is proposed to permit MNCs in retail sector in the country;
- (d) whether a survey in the matter has been conducted;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether this would not cast an impact on the small retailers in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The extant FDI policy is applicable throughout entire territory of India.

(c) As per extant FDI policy FDI up to 100% is permitted under the Government approval route in Single Brand Product Retail Trade, subject to specified conditions. No decision has been taken with regards the Multi-Brand Retail Trade (MBRT) policy.

(d) and (e) Government had instituted a study on the subject of "Impact of Organized Retailing on the Unorganized Sector", through the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Stakeholders' views, in response to the discussion paper, have also been considered.

The ICRIER study has projected that both organized and unorganized retail will not only co-exist but also achieve rapid and sustained growth in the coming years. The study also indicates that the growth of organized retail will enhance the employment potential of the Indian economy. Further, it is said that organized retail leads to creation of high-quality, productive jobs, while generating a number of jobs for unskilled labour. As such, organized retail may be expected to lead to an enhancement in the quality of employment, through skill development.