

in the Rubber Sector to examine all relevant issues and recommend a National Policy on Rubber to address the concerns of various stakeholders of the rubber sector. The Committee has the task of reviewing, *inter-alia*, the issues connected with production, demand, marketing, trade including imports, taxation etc. and evolve a Policy aimed at protecting the interest of growers as well as the rubber industry.

FDI in e-commerce

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

- (a) whether there is a proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in e-commerce, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted about the possible impact of FDI in e-commerce on retail trade and on the manufacturing sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) As per extant FDI policy, FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is permitted in B2B e-commerce activities. The present policy does not permit retail trading, in any form, by means of e-commerce, for companies with FDI engaged in the activity of single/multi brand retail trading.

The following announcement in respect of FDI with reference to manufacturing sector was made by FM during his Budget Speech on 10.07.2014:

“FDI in the manufacturing sector is today on the automatic route. The manufacturing units will be allowed to sell its products through retail including E-commerce platforms without any additional approval”.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Increase in import of rubber

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

- (a) whether there is an increase in the import of rubber in the year 2014 compared to previous years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the price of indigenous rubber has fallen due to increase in the import of rubber; and