

Legislation for online shopping

2258. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that according to the Google annual online shopping growth trends report, the country will have 100 million online shoppers by 2016;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to bring in a legislation to prevent online frauds and fraudulent activities in the name of online shopping;

(c) how many cases have come to the notice of Government for online fraud in the country during past three years; and

(d) how Government monitors online shopping activities and verify that the sellers are genuine and whether there is any system for registration of online sellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) Government is aware of media reports regarding growth of online shopping in the country. However no official data on the sector is available.

(b) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration. However, keeping in view the increased number of online fraud/cheating cases, the Government has initiated steps for incorporating sufficient provisions for protection of consumers of online shopping/e-commerce under Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(c) No such official data is available.

(d) At present there is no single set of law/regulations to govern E-commerce industry and therefore E-commerce activities including online shopping come under the purview of different laws like Information Technology Act, 2000, Contract Law and Indian Penal Code. E-commerce industry is also required to comply with other business laws like Company law, Labour law, Income Tax laws, Sales Tax law, etc.

Implementation of NFSA

2259. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has got clearance from PMO for implementing National Food Security Act (NFSA); and

(b) if so, the actions taken to implement the same in co-ordination with Ministries of Agriculture, Food Processing Industries, Communications and Information Technology, Road Transport and Highways, etc. and the State Governments, State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) After passing by the Parliament, Government of India notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) on 10.09.2013. The NFSA has deemed to have come into force on 05.07.2013. Based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries for coverage under the Act, reported by them, allocation of foodgrains to 11 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan has started under the Act.

Remaining 25 States/UTs have not completed the preparatory measures required for implementation of the Act. Implementation of the Act is reviewed on a regular basis and necessary advisories are issued to States/UTs, wherever required. In order to ensure proper implementation of the Act, stress is on proper identification of beneficiaries through a transparent and participative process, delivery of foodgrains by designated State agencies upto the door-steps of fair price shops, availability of adequate scientific storage facilities at various levels, end-to-end computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) operations and setting up of effective grievance redressal mechanism, among others.

Proposal to exclude taxpayers from PDS

†2260. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to exclude taxpayers and Government employees from the purview of Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has issued necessary guidelines to State Governments for implementation of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the States which are working on this scheme at present;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.