

Regulation of e-commerce

1838. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers the need to regulate e-commerce sector to check frauds and tax evasion;

(b) if so, how does Government proposes to go about the task, particularly firewalling the retail trade; and

(c) whether Government agrees that e-commerce portals also should be brought under local taxation net in the State of their origin and the State of delivery?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) E-commerce companies are liable for paying income tax like any other company engaged in trading. Appropriate action against tax evasion including tax evasion by e-commerce is allowed under direct tax laws covering searches, surveys, enquiries, assessment of income, levy of taxes, penalties etc. and filing of prosecution complaints in criminal courts wherever applicable.

India's investment rating by Moody's Investors Service

1839. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether credit rating global player Moody's Investors Service has commented that India's sovereign rating might get a boost if Government goes ahead with implementation of recommendations of high-powered panel for revamping FCI and restructuring the food security law;

(b) whether presently Moody's has assigned to India, the lowest investment rating Baa3 with stable outlook; and

(c) whether employees' union of FCI has threatened to launch a nation-wide agitation, if Government implements recommendations of the reform panel on downsizing the FCI operations?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Moody's in its report titled "India's proposed food subsidy and distribution reforms would mitigate fiscal