

Bribes by a retail giant to Government officials

1125. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Mexican operations of the world's largest retailer have been under investigation after news-reports in the US stated that the company bribed local officials;

(b) whether it is a fact that the retail giant paid bribes running into millions of dollars to Government officials in India to obtain real estate licence or push goods through customs, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated against the Government officials involved in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) : (a) to (c) As per the records neither any investigation nor any inspection under the Companies Act, 1956 was conducted of any company registered in India by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs after news report in the U.S. stated that the company bribed local officials. However, after the assurance given by the then Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in Lok Sabha on 12.12.2012 to the effect that Government of India will hold an enquiry into media reports concerning Walmart's lobbying activities in India about promoting FDI in retail. Ministry of Corporate Affairs appointed a committee to look into the relevant issues and thereafter Hon'ble Justice Mukul Mudgal was appointed to head the committee of enquiry who submitted its report on 18.05.2013. The committee in its report stated that it was not possible for it to conclude, in the absence of any material evidence available on record up till then, that Walmart indulged in any lobbying/bribery to Indian officials.

Complaint against PSIAs regarding dumping of scraps

1126. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaint against Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies (PSIAs) regarding irregularities/violations for dumping of scraps in Indian Ports, particularly ports of the State of Tamil Nadu, which affects the environment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?