

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of foreign and Indian companies engaged in e-commerce business and their growth and top 30 item-wise growth in a commerce product sale achieved in last three years and revenue generated;

(c) whether Government is keen in adopting effective strategies to promote and control e-commerce business;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken by Government to protect the interest of retail trade with advent of fast emerging e-commerce business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) With a view to promote foreign investment, as per regulations framed under Foreign Exchange Management Act, (FEMA) 1999, FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is permitted in companies engaged in e-commerce provided that such companies would engage in Business to Business (B2B) e-commerce.

Foreign investment in Business to Customer (B2C) e-commerce activities has been opened in a calibrated manner and an entity is permitted to undertake retail trading through e-commerce under the following circumstances:

- (i) A manufacturer is permitted to sell its products manufactured in India (through e-commerce retail).
- (ii) A single brand retail trading entity operating through brick and mortar stores, is permitted to undertake retail trading through e-commerce.
- (iii) An Indian manufacturer is permitted to sell its own single brand products through e-commerce retail. Indian manufacturer would be the investee company, which is the owner of the Indian brand and which manufactures in India, in terms of value, at least 70% of its products in house, and sources, at most 30% from Indian manufacturers.

No such data is centrally maintained for foreign and India companies engaged in e-commerce business and their growth and top 30 item-wise growth in e-commerce product sale and revenue generated.

#### **Import of onions and pulses**

2744. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantum of onions and pulses imported in last 12 months, and whether they are still in Government or Government authorized warehouses, if so, when will they be disbursed to open markets;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain quantity of onion imported by Government did not match domestic consumption requirement, if so, what happened to those onions; and

(c) prior to 2015, whether MMTC had any experience in pulses import, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) To augment the domestic supply of onions and pulses, the Government has imported 1989 MT of onions and about 4927 MT of pulses (Tur) through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) during financial year 2015-16 under the Price Stabilization Fund, a plan scheme under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. Entire quantity of onions have been sold in the domestic market through tender. In so far as Tur is concerned, 4830 MT have been allocated to various State Governments and to Central Agencies like Mother Dairy and Kendriya Bhandar. A quantity of 4115.39 MT has already been lifted and for balance allocated quantities, lifting is in progress. The residual quantity of 97.11 MT imported Tur would be liquidated by MMTC as soon as allocations are made.

(b) The onions imported by MMTC were compliant with the prescribed FSSAI/Phytopsanitary standards. The price of onions started showing a downward trend with the arrival of fresh crop and imports of onions by private traders and there was absence of firm requirements from State Governments for imported onions in September and October 2015 and as a result, the entire quantity was sold in the domestic market through tender.

(c) MMTC has imported pulses during 2008-2011 on Government account as well as for its own commercial transactions. The year-wise quantity of pulses contracted under Government account are as under:-

Year	Quantity
2007-08	2,47,250 MT
2008-09	1,81,000 MT
2009-10	1,02,000 MT
2010-11	69,500 MT