

**Increase in e-commerce business**

20. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the rapid increase in e-commerce business in the country;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of e-commerce in the country in the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no definition for e-commerce in the country;

(d) whether any consultations have been held with States in this regard and also on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in e-commerce;

(e) if so, the outcome of the same;

(f) whether any study has been conducted on the impact of e-commerce portals on the retailers in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) At present no official data on e-commerce industry is being compiled/available.

(c) As per extant FDI policy e-commerce activities refer to the activity of buying and selling by a company through the e-commerce platform.

(d) and (e) Review of FDI policy is an ongoing process and significant changes are made in the FDI policy regime, from time to time, to ensure that India remains an attractive investment destination. Changes are made in the policy after having intensive consultations with stakeholders including concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments, apex industry chambers and other organizations after taking approval of the competent authority. The policy on this sector is also decided with similar consultations.

(f) and (g) No such study has been conducted by the Government.

**Trade deficit**

†21. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total rise in trade deficit during the financial year 2014-15 and the reasons therefor;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.