

production and therefore, does not drastically impact the prices of coffee in the domestic market.

### **Growth of e-commerce industry**

42. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether e-commerce has become one of the fastest growing trade channels facilitating cross-border trade of goods and services due to advanced technological innovations;
- (b) if so, the details of e-commerce industry's growth;
- (c) whether e-commerce industry and its consumers are facing various problems during transactions and post-transactions in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (e) whether Government is seriously considering to bring national e-commerce policy, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) E-commerce is one of the trade channels facilitating cross-border trade of goods and services. As per 'Information Economy Report 2017' published by UNCTAD, worldwide e-commerce sales in 2015 reached US \$25.3 trillion, 90 per cent of which were in the form of business-to-business e-commerce and 10 per cent in the form of business-to-consumer sales. UNCTAD estimates that cross-border business-to-consumer e-commerce was worth about US \$189 billion in 2015. As per Economic Survey 2017-18, e-commerce market in India is estimated at US \$ 33 billion with a 19.1 per cent growth in 2016-17.

(c) and (d) Consumers are facing problems while doing transactions in e-commerce. Complaints relating to delivery of defective goods, damaged goods and also non-delivery of products are being received in the National Consumer Helpline being run by the Department of Consumer affairs. Complaints regarding e-commerce received in-National Consumer Helpline are referred to the companies concerned for redressal. In some cases, consumers are advised to file complaints in the appropriate consumer forum for redressal.

(e) The department of Consumer Affairs has introduced Consumer Protection Bill 2018 in the Lok Sabha on 5th January, 2018. There is provision for making of rules by the Central Government to regulate unfair trade practice in e-commerce. Department of Commerce initiated an exercise and established a Think Tank on "Framework for National Policy on E-commerce" and a Task Force under it and has deliberated on the challenges confronting India in the arena of the digital economy and e-commerce.

**Denial of financial assistance to startups**

43. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of startups under the 'Startup India' scheme have been denied financial assistance on one pretext or the other;

(b) if so, year-wise number of startup proposals received and number of entrepreneurs to whom financial assistance has been granted since 2015;

(c) whether it is a fact that the authority responsible for scrutinizing the proposals is a big hindrance in the success of the scheme; and

(d) whether Government would review the procedure to help startups grow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No Sir. Direct funding support to startups is not envisaged under Startup India Programme. Government of India has established Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), to meet the funding needs of startups. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS.

As per the operating guidelines issued by DIPP, FFS contributes to the corpus of SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). These AIFs in turn have to invest at least twice the contribution under FFS in startups, as defined by the Government of India. Each AIF sets up its own Investment Committee and the investment Committee of each Fund takes a decision on its investment decisions. The AIFs under FFS have supported 142 startups as on June 30, 2018. Year wise figures for number of Startups provided financial assistance are given in the Statement (*See below*).