

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Royal Government of Bhutan has not imposed any blanket ban on import of chillies from India. However, Bhutan imposed temporary ban for the import of chillies from Falakatta area in West Bengal in July, 2016 due to the presence of pesticide residues above the Codex Alimentarius Commission's limits.

(b) Government Test House at Alipore, Kolkata has not done the test for the presence of presence of pesticides in chillies exported from Falakata in West Bengal.

(c) European Union has not imposed ban on import of food products including chillies from India. However, food consignments in which pesticide residues above the European Union's permissible limit (Maximum Residue Level) are detected, are rejected by the European Union.

100 per cent FDI in single brand retail trading

490. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to put 100 per cent FDI in Single Brand Retail Trading under the automatic route, accompanied by the long sought relaxation of mandatory local sourcing norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the concern being expressed by the small traders in the country against this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government *vide* Press Note No. 1 (2018 Series) on 23rd January, 2018 liberalised FDI policy provisions on various sectors including Single Brand Retail Trading (SBRT). Revised policy for FDI in SBRT is given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ. No 53 (Part (a) and (b))]. Further, FDI policy in this sector has been liberalised to the extent provided in Press Note 1 (2018) issued by this Department. All the other conditions prescribed for this sector like mandatory sourcing norms are still applicable for investee entities undertaking SBRT.

(c) No communication expressing concern over this decision has been received by this Department from the traders. Moreover, FDI Policy on different sectors is formulated/reviewed after intensive consultations with stakeholders including Ministries/ Departments concerned, apex industry chambers and other organizations.