

(c) Chinese Customs authorities through Embassy of India in Beijing have informed the detection of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Infectious Hypodermal and Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV) in 10 consignments of Vannamee shrimp exported from India and suggested to investigate the cause of detection and take effective control measures in this regard. Since this issue of detection of viruses occurred before India opting out of RCEP, it may not be linked to the same.

#### **Protection of India's interests in RCEP**

2934. SHRI V. VIJAYSAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of deliberations and agreements arrived at in the recently concluded Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) meeting;
- (b) how interests of India have been protected in RCEP;
- (c) whether India has any advantage with regard to services if it joins RCEP;
- (d) whether India entered goods agreement with ASEAN countries without entering into agreement on services; and
- (e) if so, how India is going to correct this and how China is going to address RCEP problems raised by India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):  
(a) to (e) During the 3rd RCEP Summit, which was held on 4th November, 2019 in Bangkok, India highlighted the fact that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in light of which it did not join RCEP. India's position in the RCEP negotiation was formulated to achieve balanced outcomes, balancing ambitions with addressing domestic sensitivities. RCEP was intended to facilitate and thereby increase goods and services trade as well as investment flows amongst the participating countries. India and ASEAN have agreements on Trade in Goods as well as Trade in Services. India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement was signed on 13th August, 2009 and India-ASEAN Agreement on Trade in Services was signed on 13th November, 2014.

#### **e-Commerce penetration into rural and uncovered areas**

2935. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is the fastest growing e-Commerce market in the world;
- (b) if so, the details of growth during the last five years and the current year, year-wise and compound annual growth;
- (c) whether Ministry found any bottlenecks which are hampering further growth of e-Commerce in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and how Ministry is planning to clear those bottlenecks; and
- (e) how Ministry is going to help e-Commerce penetration into rural and uncovered areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) and (b) At present no such data is Centrally maintained. However as per the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM); "The Information Technology-Business Process Management Sector in India: Strategic Review 2019" report, Indian e-commerce market registered an estimated growth of approximately 24% in 2018 to reach USD 43 billion.

(c) to (e) :

- (i) A draft E-commerce Policy was put up on the public domain on February 23, 2019 for comments/suggestions. Comments/suggestions from over 120 stakeholders (companies, Industry associations, think tanks, foreign governments) have been received. The draft National e-Commerce policy identifies challenges and lays out strategies to overcome these. These include *inter-alia* strategies that promote infrastructure development, anti-counterfeiting, anti-piracy, consumer oriented service, authentic reviews/ratings, prevention of sale of prohibited items and resolution of regulatory issues.
- (ii) The draft policy aims to attain holistic and inclusive growth whereby access to technology extends to every section of society and every corner of India.
- (iii) Outreach of Indian entities can be further enhanced by promoting export of their products through e-commerce. The draft policy also seeks to put in place strategies to achieve this. While Digital India is already unfolding, the draft e-commerce policy aims to accelerate its pace by providing a facilitative ecosystem.