

**श्री कामाख्या प्रसाद तासा:** महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो फॉरेन और डोमेस्टिक टूरिस्ट्स आए हैं, उन्होंने उनका विस्तृत हिसाब दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्ट्री उन लोगों के लिए क्या व्यवस्था करती है? क्या टूरिस्ट्स के लिए किसी हैल्पलाइन की व्यवस्था है? हम लोग जान लें कि टूरिस्ट विशेषकर जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट जाते हैं, क्या नार्थ-ईस्ट जाने वाले लोगों के लिए मिनिस्ट्री ने कोई विशेष व्यवस्था की है?

**श्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल:** महोदय, नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए वैसे भी भारत सरकार ने पहले से सुविधाएं प्रदान की हैं, बाकायदा उन्हें एयर फेयर में राहत मिलती है। बाकी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए सरकार वैसे भी मदद करने के लिए तत्पर रहती है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के जितने भी राज्य हैं, उन सबके साथ, डोनर मिनिस्ट्री के साथ पर्यटन मंत्रालय अपने स्तर पर भी उनको मदद करता है। कोई गुप्स यदि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट से भारत के भीतर भी आते हैं तो उनको भी मदद करता है।

माननीय सदस्य को यह भी पता है कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में आईटीएम का अलग से एक आयोजन होता है, जो इस वर्ष मणिपुर में हुआ है। लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से उनके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि पहले सौ दिनों में जो फैसले हुए हैं, ई-वीजा का, उसकी फीस कम करने का और खासकर पीक्स का, जो हिमालयन स्टेट्स उसमें लगती हैं, उसका एक सकारात्मक प्रभाव नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में आया है।

**DR. SASMIT PATRA:** My question to the hon. Minister is, last year there were 17 Iconic Tourist Sites that were identified by the Government of India and the Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, had also written for including Odisha which was omitted. Sir, during your recent visit to Odisha also, there was a discussion about it. It has been a year now. I would like to know: When is Odisha going to be included among the 17 Iconic Tourist Sites.

**श्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल:** महोदय, कल लोक सभा में जब पर्यटन मंत्रालय पर चर्चा हो रही थी तो 17 के अलावा दो और हो गए हैं, उसमें गुजरात और कोणार्क का मैंने उल्लेख किया है। यह माननीय सदस्य की जानकारी में नहीं होगा। वहां के मुख्य मंत्री जी का मुझे पत्र मिला था, हमारे पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर का पत्र मिला था, तमाम डेलिगेट्स भी आए थे, लोगों की सहमति थी, कोणार्क उसमें है और कोणार्क के रेत निकालने वाले मामले में भी जल्दी फैसला करेंगे।

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA):** Now, Q. No. 247

**Separate watchdog for online and offline retail trade**

**\*247. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:** Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI) through a study of retailers' business practices is advising the e-commerce majors like Amazon and Flipkart, etc. to adopt a self-regulatory approach; and

(b) whether the All India Mobile Retailers' Association has demanded setting up of a separate watchdog other than the CCI to ensure a level playing field for offline and online retail trade?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) The Competition Commission of India (CCI) conducted a Market Study on E-commerce in India in 2019. The study was initiated by the Commission with a view to better understand the functioning of e-commerce in India and its implications for markets and competition. The insights gained from the study will help antitrust enforcement in these markets. Nonetheless, bargaining power imbalance and information asymmetry between e-commerce marketplace platforms and their business users are at the core of many issues that have come up in the market study. Thus, the report enumerates certain areas for self-regulation by the e-commerce marketplace platforms. These include transparency in search ranking parameters, clear and transparent policy on the actual and potential use of data collected by platforms, adequate transparency over user review and rating mechanisms, notification to business users regarding proposed revision in contract terms and clear and transparent policies on discounts including discount rate and participation in discount schemes.

(b) There is no such proposal received in this Ministry.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, my question to the Minister is: How does the Government plan to regulate the e-commerce space in the light of rising technology? What are the steps taken to effectively control the practice of deep discounting by e-commerce companies?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, actually, the regulation of e-commerce has learnt a lot from the two Committees which have gone into this matter. One was based on a complaint given to the Competition Commission of India. The Competition Commission came up with a report in which several practices which were not true to

the ideals of free and fair market practice had been identified. And, the Commission took an approach that through the advocacy powers that it has, it will talk with these companies and have them do a lot of self-regulation. Specific details of how the self-regulation works, have also been defined and probably made a part of this answer. Other than this, whilst the complaint which went to the Competition Commission of India was in April and they came up with the finding and started the advocacy as of January, 2020, there was a court order from Karnataka which stopped the Competition Commission from taking further steps so that it can be better regulated. Aside from this Competition Commission's matter, there was also a Committee which went into these practices, which was constituted by the Ministry itself. And the Competition Law Review Committee under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), even they have come up with a lot of regulatory processes which is now a part of the stakeholder consultation and the Competition Act is getting amended to that extent. Even the Cabinet has looked into it. That is something which we will be taking up. And, that is one of the ways in which we are trying to regulate. The Competition Act Amendments will now bring in greater regulations.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, I would like to know whether the small retail shops that could potentially sprout in the country is being curtailed by the financial and the network strength of global e-commerce companies! Does the Government have any figures for the number of jobs created or lost in the last couple of years in the domestic small retail segment?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, such impacts have also been understood in the Competition Commission's review and findings. So, that has been understood even by the Committee which has been formed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs itself. Sir, action is being taken through various amendments that we are suggesting, so that, the impacts may not be very severe.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA): Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Trauma Centres on NH-31

\*248. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: