PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC E-COMMERCE INDUSTRY

1831. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to protect domestic e-Commerce industry from global competition in order to become self-reliant, protect the domestic industry and benefit the Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate National Policy in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the National Policy is likely to come into existence?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A national e-commerce framework is imperative for India to benefit from rapid digitization of the domestic economy. The formulation of a national policy on e-Commerce is already underway in the Government.

On the 23rd February, 2019, the first draft of the proposed National e-Commerce Policy was placed in public domain for comments and suggestions. The draft Policy seeks to create a facilitative regulatory environment for growth of e-commerce sector. It is aimed at empowering domestic entrepreneurs and to encourage Make in India while safeguarding interests of the consumers and facilitating job creation.

Details of what the Policy framework should include, in order to best promote domestic industry and benefit the Indian economy, is currently being deliberated based on the comments received from stakeholders. Comments from over 120 stakeholders (companies, Industry associations, think tanks, foreign governments) have been received. A series of meetings have been held at the level of Secretary, DPIIT with different stakeholders, including major e-commerce companies, start-ups, industry associations, think-tanks, academicians etc. as well as data centre providers, logistics companies, export promotion councils to discuss the issues facing the sector and the provisions contained in the draft Policy.

Since this is a new issue, it has necessitated detailed consultations over the last few months to ensure that the policy is drafted in a manner that interests of all stakeholders are taken into account. Therefore, no timeline has been fixed for finalisation of the same.

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