

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 73
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2018

NATIONAL E-COMMERCE POLICY

*73. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to frame a National e-Commerce Policy (NEP) to deal with issues including competition, regulation, data privacy, taxation and technical aspects such as localisation of servers and technology transfer and if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has set up a task force to finalise the contours of the said policy and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented;
- (c) whether India is under intense pressure to negotiate international rules on e-commerce under the World Trade Organisation, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the companies operating taxi-aggregator services etc. are in violation of policy and if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken to address the issue; and
- (e) whether the Government has incurred a major fiscal loss in the absence of any such NEP and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 73 FOR ANSWER ON 23rd JULY, 2018 REGARDING
“NATIONAL E-COMMERCE POLICY”.**

(a) & (b): 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 electronic commerce (e-commerce). Some of the issues that were discussed by the think tank included aspects of e-commerce and the digital economy like physical and digital infrastructure, the regulatory regime, taxation policy, data flows, server localisation, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), technology flows, skill development and trade-related aspects. The first meeting of the Think Tank was held on 24.04.2018; meeting of the subgroups was held during 20th-22nd June, 2018 and the first meeting of the Task Force was held on 6th July, 2018.

(c): Electronic Commerce at the World Trade Organization (WTO) is discussed under the 1998 Work Programme which has an exploratory and experience sharing focus. There was a strong push in the run up to the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) held from 10 to 13 December 2017 in Buenos Aires at the WTO to prematurely obtain a mandate to initiate comprehensive negotiations on all aspects of E-commerce, covering goods, services and intellectual property rights, without adequate deliberations to reach a common understanding. However, through the efforts of India and various countries at the MC11 of the WTO in December 2017, it was decided to, inter alia, continue with the non-negotiating mandate of the existing Work Programme on E-commerce.

A Joint Ministerial Statement (JMS) was issued on behalf of around seventy WTO members, supporting rule-making on E-commerce. Under this initiative, discussions are underway on several proposals tabled by the participants. India is not a member of the JMS initiative.

(d): The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has come out with the taxi policy guidelines in December 2016, in which they have proposed certain guidelines for taxi aggregators.

(e): Since 1998, WTO members have agreed not to impose custom duties on electronic transmission during the meetings held every two years. The moratorium has been extended periodically at the Ministerial Meetings which are held every two years.
