

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1303

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

RETAIL TRADE

Pandey Saroj;Venugopal Shri P.

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the percentage of population dependent upon retail trade for their livelihood;
- (b) whether the entry of Foreign Direct Investment is likely to affect the livelihood of the said people engaged in unorganised small scale retail;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action plan proposed by the Government for tackling such a situation and providing relief to small/unorganised retail traders;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a regulatory authority for retail trade; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the proposals received in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c) : According to NSSO's Employment and Unemployment Survey for 2004-05 employment in the retail trade has been 35.6 million which constitutes about 7.3 % of the workforce in the country. The Government had instituted a study on the subject of "Impact of Organized Retailing on the Unorganized Sector", through the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), which in its report submitted in 2008, indicated that there was no evidence of a decline in overall employment in the unorganized sector as a result of the entry of organized retailers. The majority of unorganized retailers surveyed in this study, indicated their preference to continue in the business and compete rather than exit. The Government is fully aware of the concerns of all stakeholders on the impact of entry of Foreign Direct Investment on small retailers and vendors and fully recognizes the need for ensuring that the small retailers are not adversely affected by this.

(d) : No, Madam,

(e): Question does not arise in view of the above.