

Press Release

23rd January, 2022

CCI transfer Amazon Investigating officer irked Traders CAIT has sought meeting with CCI Chairman

CAIT, today, has sought a meeting with Sh Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairman Competition Commission of India to impress upon the need of early investigation and consequent action against Amazon and Flipkart in the matter of predatory pricing, capital dumping through the preferred sellers through the vertical arrangement. It is learnt that CCI has transferred the officer mid way who was investigating Amazon, which has irked the business community of the Country.

On 13-Feb-2020, CCI had ordered its Director General (Investigation) for investigation against Flipkart and Amazon and submit the report within 60 days. However, both Amazon and Flipkart challenged that order in High Court of Karnataka and got it stayed.

Karnataka High Court vide its order dated 23-07-2021 passed the final order in favour of CCI and against Amazon and Flipkart and allowed the investigation to continue. Hon'ble Supreme court also did not find any merit in the challenge by Amazon and Flipkart and while dismissing their SLP on 9-08-2021 had ordered the investigation to continue.

CAIT National President Mr B C Bhartiya & Secretary General Mr Praveen Khandelwal said that while we are eagerly waiting for an early closer of investigation, but to our utter surprise we have learnt from the reliable sources that CCI has decided to change the investigating officer of the case, Sh Rajinder Kumar, that in our view will further derail the investigation and will cause further hardship to the small traders. In our opinion, change of investigating officer at such crucial stage of investigation will send the wrong signal and show the Indian authorities in a poor light that they are playing under the pressure of Amazon and Flipkart. Therefore, instead of making any change, CCI must close his investigation asap.

Therefore, CAIT along with its delegation has sought a meeting with Chairman CCI to appraise him about the anger and anguish of small retailers on the delay in investigation and subsequent action against Amazon and Flipkart whose anti-competitive behavior has led to closure of millions of Kirana shops and taken away their livelihood and the latest development which may derail the investigations.