



Press Release

20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

## CAIT PETITION TO MODI FOR EARLY ROLL OUT OF E COMMERCE POLICY & RULES\*

Strongly urging for immediate release of e-commerce policy and the rules, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) today sent a petition to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to protect traders from the catastrophic impact due to rampant violation of Conditions of Press Note 2 of the FDI policy by E-Commerce Companies.

In its petition to PM Modi, the CAIT has mentioned that E-Commerce Policy and the rules under Consumer Protection Act, have already been drafted by DPIIT and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, as was informed in the meeting of the stakeholders held on 2nd August, 2023 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

CAIT National President Mr B.C. Bhartia & Secretary General Mr Praveen Khandelwal said that the reason for making this petition to PM is founded on the fact that the retail trade of Bharat conducted by small business is under great threat from foreign funded e-commerce companies who are habitually offending the FDI policy and the rules by indulging into predatory pricing, loss funding, owing inventory etc and are not discharging their responsibilities for making a level playing field, as spelled out in Press Note No 2 of FDI policy, 2018. It is noteworthy to mention that absence of specified policy and the rules have given them an open route to adopt and execute mal-practices in their business format-added trade leaders.

Mr Bhartia & Mr Khandelwal said that these online retailers have been rampantly violating the policy both directly and indirectly influencing the sales price of the commodities and other goods which has led to enormous damage to retail trade and making them non-competitive and substantial loss of employment.

Had these online retailers been playing by the law, we could have created many of our own entrepreneurs in the E Commerce industry and subsequently lakhs of jobs-said both trade leaders.

Mr Bhartia & Mr Khandelwal further said that If we add the opportunity of creating lakhs of jobs by our own entrepreneurs in the E- Commerce sector and the job losses in other sectors in mainline retail through capital burning by these Companies, it could not be termed even a bit less than the act of economic terrorism against a country.

In our country, E-Commerce is a critical element in the digital economy and is like a boon for creating lakhs of businesses and jobs, which is much needed for the economic and social stability of our country, but due to lack of insight and understanding we are losing our trade to whims & wishes of these e-commerce companies.

Both trade leaders assured that Bhartiya traders are more willing to adopt & accept digital technology in trade but having an even level playing field will give more opportunities for the entrepreneurs to form a large landscape of online retail involving lakhs and lakhs of people.

For more details, please contact CAIT Secretary General Mr. Praveen Khandelwal at +91-9891015165

