Press Release
15.2.2006

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CONVENTION ON “NO TO FDI IN RETAIL TRADE”
15 February 2006, India International Centre, New Delhi

On February 15th 2006 a consortium of Trader’s Associations, Political Parties, Trade Unions, Mass Organizations and NGO’s expressed its strong opposition to the Union Government’s decision to open up the Retail Trade sector to foreign capital. The speakers opined that allowing FDI in Retail would have several adverse consequences for the Indian economy and society. It would lead to:

- Displacement of domestic retailers, especially the small and unorganized retailers
- Rise in unemployment
- Growth of Monopoly in retailing
- Squeeze on domestic produces, especially farmers

They also opined that in the context of persisting high unemployment, allowing FDI in Retail trade is totally unwarranted. The Traders Association felt that Indian retailers are capable of making the retail structure responsive to present day needs. If there are impediments in obtaining latest technology and management skills for creating a modern retail structure, the Union Government should invest in acquiring such know-how and build up an efficient supply chain for our producers. Dependence on foreign capital in this area would not be in the national interest.

This Consortium also decided to urge upon the Union Government to desist from opening up the retail sector to the multinational retailers.

**LIST OF EMINENT MEMBERS PARTICIPATED**

**Political Parties:**
Shri. Nilot Pal Basu M.P (Communist Party of India – Marxist)
Shri. Atul Aneja (Communitst Party of India)
Shri. Shrivastav (Nationalist Congress Party)
Shri. Sippiparai Ravichandran M.P. (Murumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhgam)
Shri. Shukla (All India Kisan sabha)
Shri. Kuldeep (Swadeshi Jagran Manch)

**Trader’s Association:**
Shri. Praveen Khandelwala (Confederation of All India Traders)
Shri Satyendra Jain (Federation of Delhi Traders Association)
Shri Rajesh Bansal (Federation of Manufacturers)
Trade Unions:
Shri. Tapan Sen (Centre for Indian trade Unions)
Shri Nagpal (Hind Mazdoor Sabha)
Shri Joshi (Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh)

Experts:
Prof. CP Chandrasekhar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Prof. Ruddar Datt (Institute for Human Development)
Shri. Kunwar Jalees (Navdanya)
Shri. Prabhakar Jan (Centre for Civil Society)
Shri. Prabhir Purkayastha (Delhi Science Forum)
Shri. Ashutosh Saxena (South Asian Research & Development Initiative)
Shri. Shivsakthi (Akhil Bharatiya Vidyapeeth Parishad)
Shri. Arun (Student Federation of India)
Shri. Dhananjay (Jawaharl Nehru University Student’s Union)
Shri. Shubanil (Student Federation of India – JNU)

Indian Liberal Group
Postal Address: 1st Floor, Sassoon building, 143 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai, India
Telefax: 91-022-2384-3416
Email: freedom@vsnl.com
Web: www.liberalsindia.com

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)
Party President: Dr. J. Jayalithaa
Postal Address: 226 Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Royapet, Chennai 600 014
Telephone: 91.044-813266
Email: aidmkho@aiadmkindia.org
Web: www.aiadmkindia.org

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation
General Secretary: Dipankar Bhattacharya
Postal Address: U-90, Shakarpur, New Delhi, 110 092, India
Telephone: 91-011-225-18248
Email: mail@cipmi.org
Web: www.cpiml.org