WHY OPPOSE CORPORATE RETAIL

➤ Threat to Small Businesses, Traders, Hawkers & Cooperative Stores

Walmart and other corporations have driven out thousands of small businesses in countries where they operate and stand as a direct threat to India’s 12 million shops, the second largest source of livelihoods in the country.

➤ Threat to Farmers

Agriculture is the largest source of employment. Walmart, Reliance and others will and are entering directly into contract farming displacing already marginalized small and medium sized farmers.

➤ Threat to Suppliers & Small Scale Industries

Walmart is known for squeezing suppliers resulting in factory losses or closure and longer ours with less pay for factory workers.

➤ Threat to Employment

Corporations project they will create 2 million jobs however 200 million people are currently dependent or employed by the retail sector.

CHARTER OF DEMANDS

➤ Enact strict law to ban all corporations in retail

➤ Cancel all Wholesale Cash-N-Carry permission granted to foreign corporations & immediately stop the backdoor entry of Walmart

➤ Formulate a National Policy on Retail Trade and Small Manufacturing Industries

➤ Implement the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors

➤ Institute Independent Special Task Force comprising representatives of stakeholders to Study on the Socio-Economic-Environmental and Cultural Impact of Corporate Retail

➤ Enact a law against predatory pricing and anti-competitive conduct of corporations

➤ Repeal the Changes made in the APMC Act through APMC Model Act.
About India FDI Watch

India FDI Watch is building awareness and facilitating grassroots action to prevent the take-over of India’s retail sector by corporations. We are building Joint Action Committees (JAC) led by those who will be most affected, mainly; trade associations, unions, hawkers organizations, farmers groups and small scale industries. A National Steering Committee has formed in Delhi, of which India FDI Watch is a facilitator and member. The National Steering Committee has come under the banner Vyapaar Rozgaar Bachao Andolan. Similarly in Mumbai, India FDI Watch is a chair and member of the Vyapaar Rozgaar Suraksha Kriti Samiti. In Bangalore, India FDI Watch is a key member and coordinator of the Karnataka Joint Action Committee Against Corporate Retail. The National Steering Committee is working with partners across the country and the Joint Action Committees, based in Mumbai and Bangalore to facilitate broad-based action at the local and national level and to develop policy demands that will ensure the protection or enhancement of those people who stand to be most impacted. Over the next year India FDI Watch will work with the National Steering Committee to expand the grassroots base of the campaign by partnering with mass-based groups across the country. India FDI Watch has been key in coordinating and organizing national actions; mainly the February 22nd actions against the Wal-Mart Vice Chairman’s arrival in India to sign the Joint Venture with Bharti. To date the deal has not been signed and the PMO along with Sonia Gandhi have cautioned the Commerce Ministry to fully study the impact of corporate retail on existing retailers, farmers and manufactures throughout the supply chain. Studies are currently underway. On August 9th, 2007, India FDI Watch will again join with national, state and local partners for a National Day of Action, calling on “Corporations to Quit Retail”. As groups mobilize across the country we will put forth demands on the Center and State governments.

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