

**PRESS STATEMENT OF SELVI J JAYALALITHAA,  
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU -14.9.2012**

The shocking decision of the Government of India to open up Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Multi Brand Retailing and the Aviation Sector, ignoring the concerns expressed by the States and other stakeholders shows the utter disregard for the sensitivity of the issue and panic in the UPA Government. This decision is totally undemocratic and against the public interest. The UPA Government has been making blunder after blunder by adopting many anti-people policies and this latest decision will only add up to one more such serious blunder committed by the Central Government which seems to be totally unmindful of the interests of the common people.

After giving a rude shock to the people of this country by making an unprecedented hike in the price of diesel yesterday, the Central Government has given yet another blow to the common man. This announcement will only increase the woes of the people and the local traders. I have already opposed FDI in multi brand retail on the ground that it will affect the livelihood of millions of small and petty traders. This is an ill-advised move of the Government of India and I reiterate my opposition to this unfortunate and untimely decision.

The UPA Government is always in the habit of diverting the attention of the people from the main issues by confusing them with such policies. As I have earlier stated, FDI in retail is neither going to bring down the prices nor will it improve the investment climate. It will only promote the growth of large monsters in the name of MNCs which will destroy the small and marginal traders and exploit the consumers through their predatory pricing as has already happened in many countries all over the world in the past.

I understand that the States will be allowed to decide whether they want to opt for it or not. I think there is going to be a lot of confusion as well as administrative problems in dealing with this issue which will only fuel uncertainty thereby crippling the growth of our economy further. Therefore, I would like to register my unequivocal opposition to the decision of the Central Government to allow 51% FDI in multi-brand retailing and demand that the Central Government should withdraw its decision immediately. Further, my Government will never allow FDI in retail trade in Tamil Nadu.

**J JAYALALITHAA**

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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