

# FTA talks: DPIIT plans consultancy agency to draw reservation list

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has proposed to engage a consultancy agency to draw a reservation list to be used during negotiations of a free trade agreement (FTA). The list deals with items which do not qualify for commitments under a trade agreement. The DPIIT, being the nodal department for formulation of FDI policy and investment screening, leads the negotiations on investment chapters within FTAs on non-services sectors. The chapter on investment liberalisation is accompanied by a 'reservation list' which allows host countries to restrict the commitments to specific sectors/activities. The agency could be a law firm, think tank, or a research institution.

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