

DPIIT moots engaging consultant for reservation list for FTAs.

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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 would have to identify about 10-15 non-services sectors in which investment liberalisation commitments under International Investment Agreements can be taken and to identify the existing non-conformities in these shortlisted sectors.

"It is for the purpose of preparation of the list, DPIIT intends to engage a consultancy agency on a project basis," according to a request for proposal (RFP) floated by the DPIIT.

The agency could be a law firm, think tank, or a research institution. "It is for the purpose of preparation of the reservation list on investment liberalisation in non-services sector in international investment treaties, that this call for RFP from various firms in India has been invited by DPIIT," it added.