

‘Trade restrictions to hit small vendors’

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Restrictions for outlets selling multiple products of everyday use such as bread, eggs, juices, soft drinks, wafers etc. and controls on in-shop advertising will lead to intense harassment of poor retailers and a sharp increase in the cost of doing business and reduction of their income, said Federation of Retailer Association of India (FRAI) here.

The FRAI appealed the Chief Minister to protect the interests of over 2 lakh micro retailers who sell multiple products to earn a meagre sum to look after their families and save them from the potential harassment.

Foreign funded NGOs are pressurizing the Government with misleading information campaigns to frame anti-small retailer policies.

Explaining the issue, FRAI member and president, Bhubaneswar Khilipan Mahasangh B Srinibas said that introduction of trade / product restrictions for outlets selling multiple products of everyday use such as bread, eggs, juices, soft drinks, wafers etc. along with tobacco products will only increase the cost of doing business as rent-seeking by inspectors would return.

“Retailers who also sell tobacco in Odisha are already facing immense financial pressure because of extreme regulation of the tobacco industry. Simultaneously, controls on advertising at the point of sale will remove differentiation between a retailers selling legal tobacco products and fly-by-night retailers selling smuggled / illicit tobacco products. Together these measures will increase the cost of doing business for these poor retailers and a consequent reduction in their earnings to the extent of a minimum 40 per cent, which will be a big blow to our members,” he stated.

Over 1,000 FRAI members and representatives gathered to plead the State Government to protect their interests. The members also gave a representation, listing their demands.

Source: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/trade-restrictions-to-hit-small-vendors.html>