AMENDMENT TO CSR POLICY

QUESTION

178. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:
SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:
DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended the coverage of CSR Policy to include research and development of new vaccine, drugs, and medical devices undertaken in the normal course of business and research and development activity related to COVID-19 for three financial years from 2020-21 to 2022-23; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is compulsory for such research activity to be carried out in collaboration with Central or State Government or specified public institutes; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received the data regarding CSR compliance during the ongoing financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the total amount spent under CSR funds to combat the pandemic; and

(e) other steps taken by the Ministry to boost R&D funding for Covid-19 vaccines and drugs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a), (b) & (e): Yes, Sir. As per proviso to Rule 2(1)(e) of the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014, such research and development activities shall be carried out in collaboration with any of the institutes or organisations mentioned in item (ix) of Schedule VII of the Act.

(c) & (d): As per Companies Act, 2013, companies are required to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) within six months from the end of financial year. Thereafter, financial statements and board report containing disclosure about CSR, are to be filed with Ministry of Corporate Affairs within 30 days of the AGM. Thus, for the ongoing financial year no such data is available.

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