GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5156 ANSWERED ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022/ CHAITRA 14, 1944 (SAKA)

DECREASE IN CSR SPENDINGS

QUESTION

5156. DR. T.R.PAARIVENDHAR:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the social spending by companies mandated by law plunged by a sharp 64.24 per cent in the pandemic year of 2020-21 and contributions towards Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) slumped to Rs.8,828 crores compared to Rs.24,689 crore spent in the preceding financial year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the number of companies engaged in CSR activities dropped by about 93 per cent during the pandemic year and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase CSR spending and also increase the number of companies to engage in CSR activities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

[RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a) & (b): No, Sir. As per the filings made by the companies in the MCA21 registry, an amount of Rs. 20,360.25 crores have been spent by 8633 companies under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Financial Year(FY) 2020-21 (data upto 31.12.2021) as against Rs. 24,863.84 crores by 22,664 companies in FY 2019-20.

As per the Companies Act, 2013 ('Act'), the 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 in MCA21 within 30 days of the AGM. In view of the disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic, Registrars of Companies had accorded extension of time till 30th November, 2021 for conduct of AGMs by companies. The Ministry vide General Circular No. 01/2022 dated 14.02.2022 had relaxed the levy of additional fees till 15.03.2022 for filing of financial statement in respect of the financial year 2020-21 and thus the data regarding number of companies as well as their CSR spent for financial year 2020-21 is subject to change.

(c): The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been undertaking various initiatives by way of making necessary amendments in the CSR provisions of the Act and issuing clarifications including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to create an enabling environment for the CSR mandated companies, to facilitate effective implementation of CSR projects and to develop a CSR eco-system. The Ministry also constituted two High Level Committees (HLC) to review the CSR framework, developed National CSR data portal, instituted National CSR Awards to recognise companies that have made positive impact on the society through their innovative and sustainable CSR initiatives and issued various clarifications allowing CSR expenditure towards COVID-19 related activities.
