

CSR POLICY OF NSTFDC

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was incorporated in April, 2001 as a Government Company and granted licence under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013) "A Company not for Profit" for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes. NSTFDC is a fully Government of India owned Undertaking under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- 1.2. The comprehensive guidelines pertaining to CSR are available under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made there under. The CSR provisions within the act are applicable to Companies with an annual turnover of ₹1000 crore or more or net worth of ₹500 crore or more or a net profit of ₹5 crore or more during any financial year.
- 1.3. The new amendments which are brought forth vide Gazettee Notification, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 22nd January 2021 in the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules 2014 has been incorporated in the Policy of the Corporation. Further, any time to time amendments in the said Policy will be followed by the Corporation.

2. VISION

NSTFDC through its CSR initiatives will endeavor for the sustainable development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To take up welfare Projects/ development work in ST dominant areas thereby making an effort to improve the quality of life of Scheduled Tribes.
- 3.2. To provide development opportunities to Scheduled Tribes.
- 3.3. To align CSR programmes of other organisations to complement and support the developmental activities of ST Areas.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1. Activities which may be included by the Corporation shall be as per activities listed broadly in scheduled vii of the Companies Act.

- (i) Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, [“promoting health care including preventive health care”] and sanitation [including contribution to the Swach Bharat Kosh set-up by the Central Government for the promotion of sanitation] and making available safe drinking water.
- (ii) promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects.
- (iii) promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans; setting up old age homes, day care centres and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups.
- (iv) ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water [including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga].
- (v) protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional art and handicrafts;
- (vi) measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents, [Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Central Para Military Forces (CPMF) veterans, and their dependents including widows];
- (vii) training to promote rural sports, nationally recognised sports, paralympic sports and olympic sports;
- (viii) contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund [or Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)] or any other fund set up by the central govt. for socio economic development and relief and welfare of the schedule caste, tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women;
 - (a) Contribution to incubators or research and development projects in the field of science, technology, engineering and medicine, funded by the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector

Undertaking or any agency of the Central Government or State Government; and

(b) Contributions to public funded Universities; Indian Institute of Technology (IITs); National Laboratories and autonomous bodies established under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE); Department of Biotechnology (DBT); Department of Science and Technology (DST); Department of Pharmaceuticals; Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and other bodies, namely Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO); Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), engaged in conducting research in science, technology, engineering and medicine aimed at promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).]

(ix) rural development projects;

(x) slum area development.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this item, the term 'slum area' shall mean any area declared as such by the Central Government or any State Government or any other competent authority under any law for the time being in force.]

4.2. Further, as Notified in the Gazette in Jan 21 "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" means the activities undertaken by the Corporation in pursuance of its statutory obligation laid down in section 135 of the Act in accordance with the provisions contained in these rules, but shall not include the following, namely:

(i) activities undertaken in pursuance of normal course of business of the company: Provided that any company engaged in research and development activity of new vaccine, drugs and medical devices in their normal course of business may undertake research and development activity of new vaccine, drugs and medical devices related to COVID-19 for financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 subject to the conditions that

(a) 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 to the Act;

(b) details of such activity shall be disclosed separately in the Annual report on CSR included in the Board's Report;

(ii) any activity undertaken by the company outside India except for training of Indian sports personnel representing any State or Union territory at national level or India at international level;

(iii) contribution of any amount directly or indirectly to any political party under section 182 of the Act;

(iv) activities benefitting employees of the company as defined in clause (k) of section 2 of the Code on Wages, 2019 (29 of 2019);

(v) activities supported by the companies on sponsorship basis for deriving marketing benefits for its products or services;

(vi) activities carried out for fulfilment of any other statutory obligations under any law in force in India;

4.3. Special Focus Area: NSTFDC shall undertake CSR Projects in sectors as falling under the wider scope with a special thrust on the development of scheduled tribes and areas having predominant tribal population.

5. CSR Implementation

(1) The Board shall ensure that the CSR activities are undertaken by the Corporation itself or through:

(a) a company established under section 8 of the Act, or a registered public trust or a registered society, registered under section 12A and 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), established by the company, either singly or along with any other company, or

(b) a company established under section 8 of the Act or a registered trust or a registered society, established by the Central Government or State Government; or

(c) any entity established under an Act of Parliament or a State legislature; or

(d) a company established under section 8 of the Act, or a registered public trust or a registered society, registered under section 12A and 80G of the

Income Tax Act, 1961, and having an established track record of at least three years in undertaking similar activities.

(2) (a) Every entity, covered under sub-rule (1) above, who intends to undertake any CSR activity, shall register itself with the Central Government by filing the form CSR-1 as annexed in notification dated 22nd jan 2021 electronically with the Registrar, with effect from the 01st day of April 2021:

Provided that the provisions of this sub-rule shall not affect the CSR projects or programmes approved prior to the 01st day of April 2021.

(b) Form CSR-1 shall be signed and submitted electronically by the entity and shall be verified digitally by a Chartered Accountant in practice or a Company Secretary in practice or a Cost Accountant in practice.

(c) On the submission of the Form CSR-1 on the portal, a unique CSR Registration Number shall be generated by the system automatically.

(3) The Corporation may engage international organisations for designing, monitoring and evaluation of the CSR projects or programmes as per its CSR policy as well as for capacity building of their own personnel for CSR.

(4) The Corporation may also collaborate with other companies for undertaking projects or programmes or CSR activities in such a manner that the CSR committees of respective companies are in a position to report separately on such projects or programmes in accordance with these rules.

(5) The Board shall satisfy itself that the funds so disbursed have been utilised for the purposes and in the manner as approved by it and the Chief Financial Officer or the person responsible for financial management shall certify to the effect.

(6) In case of ongoing project, the Board shall monitor the implementation of the project with reference to the approved timelines and year-wise allocation and shall be competent to make modifications, if any, for smooth implementation of the project within the overall permissible time period. ”

6. CSR Expenditure

(1) The board shall ensure that the administrative overheads shall not exceed five percent of total CSR expenditure of the company for the financial year.

(2) Any surplus arising out of the CSR activities shall not form part of the business profit of the corporation and shall be ploughed back into the same project or shall

be transferred to the Unspent CSR Account and spent in pursuance of CSR policy and annual action plan of the company or transfer such surplus amount to a Fund specified in Schedule VII, within a period of six months of the expiry of the financial year.

(3) In case the Corporation spends an amount in excess of requirement as provided under sub-section (5) of section 135 which is ('shall ensure that the company spends, in every financial year, at least two per cent of the average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy'), such excess amount may be set off against the requirement to spend under sub-section (5) of section 135 i.e. up to immediate succeeding three financial years subject to the conditions that:

(i) the excess amount available for set off shall not include the surplus arising out of the CSR activities, if any, in pursuance of sub-rule (2) of this rule.

(ii) the Board of the company shall pass a resolution to that effect.

The CSR amount may be spent by a company for creation or acquisition of a capital asset, which shall be held by - (a) a company established under section 8 of the Act, or a Registered Public Trust or Registered Society, having charitable objects and CSR Registration Number under sub-rule (2) of rule 4; or (b) beneficiaries of the said CSR project, in the form of self-help groups, collectives, entities; or (c) a public authority: Provided that any capital asset created by a company prior to the commencement of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021, shall within a period of one hundred and eighty days from such commencement comply with the requirement of this rule, which may be extended by a further period of not more than ninety days with the approval of the Board based on reasonable justification

Transfer of unspent CSR amount. - Until a fund is specified in Schedule VII for the purposes of subsection (5) and(6) of section 135 of the Act, the unspent CSR amount, if any, shall be transferred by the company to any fund included in schedule VII of the Act.

In case the Corporation undertakes impact assessment, it may book the expenditure towards Corporate Social Responsibility for that financial year, which shall not exceed five percent of the total CSR expenditure for that financial year or fifty lakh rupees, whichever is less."

7. CSR COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

Composition of CSR Committee is Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Chairman of the Committee and Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NSTFDC and Executive Director, TRIFED are members.

The CSR Committee shall formulate and recommend to the Board, an annual action plan in pursuance of its CSR policy, which shall include the following, namely:

- (a) the list of CSR projects or programmes that are approved to be undertaken in areas or subjects specified in Schedule VII of the Act;
- (b) the manner of execution of such projects or programmes as specified in sub-rule (1) of rule 4;
- (c) the modalities of utilisation of funds and implementation schedules for the projects or programmes;
- (d) monitoring and reporting mechanism for the projects or programmes; and
- (e) details of need and impact assessment, if any, for the projects undertaken by the company: Provided that Board may alter such plan at any time during the financial year, as per the recommendation of its CSR Committee, based on the reasonable justification to that effect.”

8. MONITORING AND FEED BACK

To ensure transparency and effective implementation of CSR programmes undertaken, periodic progress reports, sight visits and documentary evidences including photographs, films and videos will be used.

9. REPORTING

The Board's Report of the Corporation covered under these rules pertaining to any financial year shall include an annual report on CSR containing particulars specified in Annexure I or Annexure II, as in the notification dated 22nd Jan 2021.

Display of CSR activities on its website - The Board of Directors of the Company shall mandatorily disclose the composition of the CSR Committee, and CSR Policy and Projects approved by the Board on their website, if any, for public access.

10. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 10.1. “Administrative overheads” means the expenses incurred by the company for ‘general management and administration’ of Corporate Social Responsibility functions in the company but shall not include the expenses directly incurred for the designing, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a particular Corporate Social Responsibility project or programme.
- 10.2. “Ongoing Project” would mean a multi-year project undertaken by a Company in fulfilment of its CSR obligation having timelines not exceeding three years excluding the financial year in which it was commenced, and shall include such project that was initially not approved as a multi-year project but whose duration has been extended beyond one year by the board based on reasonable justification.
- 10.3. The Corporation reserves the right to modify, delete and amend any of the provision of this policy.
- 10.4. The power to interpret and administer the Rules shall rest with Board, NSTFDC whose decision shall be final and binding. Board, NSTFDC is also empowered to make any supplementary rules/ orders to ensure effective implementation of the scheme.

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