

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to mention that the question of Chaudhary Munavver Saleem is clear and categorical. The question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The information will be given to him. What is your supplementary?

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: I am submitting that the question was that the patient was made to wait for eight years. It was categorical and the hon. Member is in possession of record. The answer of the hon. Minister is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is completely wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not your supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is not a supplementary question. Leave it to the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No.485.

Mandatory CSR activities by companies

*485. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making it mandatory to all the companies registered under the Companies Act to take up Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities compulsorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also planning to establish a separate Department to look into the CSR activities taken up by the companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Companies Act, 2013 does not mandate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for all companies registered under the Companies Act. Under Section 135(1) of the Act, however, every company having net worth of rupees five hundred crore or more, or turnover of rupees one thousand crore or more net profit of rupees five crore or more during any financial year shall constitute a CSR Committee of the Board and take up CSR activities.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.485. Hon. Member not present. Any supplementary?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the reply the hon. Minister has said that the Companies Act, 2013 does not mandate Corporate Social Responsibility for all companies registered under the Companies Act. I would like to submit that recently the Ministry of Corporate has made it mandatory that certain percentage of profit should be spent on CSR for public and social activities. If any company fails to adhere to that rule, what is the actual implication and action taken? I would like to know the details about it. Is it mandatory or not?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, first of all, the hon. Member is right in pointing out what actually is the provision. The Companies Act does not mandate Corporate Social Responsibility for all companies. However, under Section 135 of the Act, companies with a net worth of ₹ 500 crores or more, or a turnover of Rs .1000 crores or more, or a net profit of ₹ 500 crores, or more are expected to have the CSR, to constitute a board and also to take up activities. So, it is not as if all companies are exempted, but categories are very clearly mentioned. Then, for such companies, certainly, when the CSR fund is being spent, no specific tax exemptions are given. However, when they start contributing or participating in activities which are mentioned in Section 7 of the Companies Act, for example, - - I am mentioning one or two examples - - donation to the PM's National Relief Fund or if they are spending on scientific researches in educational institutions which are recognized or for example, any expenditure on agricultural extension activities taken by the CBDT and so on, there are exemptions given under various sections of the Income Tax Act and under 80G, different proportions of exemptions are provided.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Thank you, Sir. My question is specific; if a company which meets all the criteria laid down does not undertake CSR activities, are there any penal provisions? Can the company be punished for not doing any CSR activities? Does the Government have any plans to make it mandatory? The public sector undertakings are required to spend 2 per cent of their profit on CSR activities. But there is no specific rule for private companies. I repeat my question. Will the Government consider making some penal provisions for those who do not undertake such activities?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I might express one thing here that the Companies Act implementation has only started this year, not even full year is completed after this Act has come into force. The companies which do not spend will certainly be asked as to why they did not. We would want to know the reasons for this from them. So, let the implementation happen. We are certainly very keenly watching as to how the CSR spending is happening. This is something on which the Ministry of Corporate Affairs is going to be keenly observing the developments. But to be fair, this is the first year.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: I would like to know whether the Government is requested by the corporates for tax exemption on CSR spending. If so, what is the logic behind that tax exemption? What is the Government's stand on the request?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, it was specified a minute ago and I would certainly be glad to repeat it that there are no tax exemptions provided for CSR. However, there are 11 specific activities which are mentioned in Schedule VII of the Act, and on those if they are spending under various provisions of Income Tax Act, there are exemptions given. But those are specified 11 activities which are very clearly laid out. It is only for those that there are exemptions. There are no special or additional requests from the companies to us about giving more exemptions.

ASHA karmi workers

*486. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of ASHA karmi workers in the country;
- (b) whether they have been given or will be given all the benefits like those to Government employees; and
- (c) if so, the details of their service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) Currently, there are 8.95 Lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) selected under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- (b) Under NRHM, ASHAs are given performance based incentives in line with their role as honorary volunteers. There is no proposal to give them benefits like Government employees.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 486. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Rajeev, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't shout like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a system by which names are taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, minimum awareness in life does not require any educational qualification. सभापति महोदय, जो आशाकर्मी हैं, ये सारे देश में बहुत ही अच्छे तरीके से अपना काम कर रही हैं। मंत्री जी ने इनके लिए यह नॉर्म बताया है कि 1000 की पॉपुलेशन वाले गाँव