

CSR activities by Pune based corporate firms

†1620. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corporate firms in Pune have complied with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) norms as per the Companies Act, 2013 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the list of all corporate houses/firms/ companies of Pune which come under the purview of CSR; and

(c) the details of activities carried out by Pune based corporate firms with regard to CSR related expenditure during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (c) Under the Companies Act, 2013, district-wise data related to non-compliance of CSR provision is not maintained by the Ministry. CSR is a Board driven process. The Board of the company is free to decide the activities to be undertaken as per Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 taking into consideration the recommendation of its CSR committee. The entire CSR architecture is disclosure based and CSR mandated companies are required to file details of CSR initiatives annually in MCA 21 registry. Data regarding CSR amount spent filed by companies in MCA 21 registry is available in public domain and can be accessed at www.csr.gov.in.

Decriminalisation of many sections of the Companies Act

1621. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to decriminalise many sections of the Companies Act and do away with provisions of jail term where compounding is permitted;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals and number of sections of the Companies Act proposed to be decriminalised; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to bring in new stringent steps to deter violators, without putting them behind bars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (c) This Ministry has undertaken several reforms towards easing the business environment in the country by providing Ease of Doing Business to law abiding corporates, fostering improved corporate compliance for stakeholders at large and also to address emerging issues having impact on the working of corporates in the country, a Company Law Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide order dated 18.09.2019 for examining and making recommendations to the Government on various provisions and issues pertaining to implementation of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and other related matters.

The Committee has submitted the first phase report to the Honourable Corporate Affairs Minister on 18th November, 2019, proposing amendments in the Companies Act, 2013 for further decriminalizing the offences under the said Act and to facilitate ease of doing business and ease of living. The main recommendations of the Committee with regard to decriminalization of compoundable offences are as under:

(i) Re-categorising 23 offences out of the 66 remaining compoundable offences under the Act, to be dealt with in the in-house adjudication framework wherein these defaults would be subject to a penalty levied by an adjudicating officer.

(ii) Omitting, altogether, 7 compoundable offences; limiting punishment for 11 compoundable offences to only fine by removing provision for imprisonment and recommending that 5 offences be dealt under alternative frameworks;

(iii) Reducing the quantum of penalties in respect of certain provisions, which were shifted to the in-house adjudication framework through the recently passed Companies (Amendment) Act, 2019;

(iv) Retention of status-quo in case of the non-compoundable offences.

Support to artists in the cultural mapping database

1622. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: