

**Shri Rajesh Verma**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
New Delhi

**Founder and Chief Patron:**

**R.S.Krishnaswamy**

CSR Professional, Certified by IICA  
Member, Steering Committee, Siruthuli

**Patrons:**

**Dr.K.Jayakumar, IAS**

Additional Chief Secretary to Governor,  
Sikkim  
Principal Secretary, Tourism

**Nagendran Ramamurthy**

Former Managing Director  
Citigroup

**S.Shivkumar**

Founder & CEO, Shivcreative Solutions  
Founder Trustee, Karam Korpom Foundation

**P.P.Subramanian**

Founder & CEO, PP Associates  
Member, Steering Committee, Siruthuli

**M.Bhasker**

Chartered Accountant  
Past President, The Auditors Association of  
Southern India

**Prabu Sekar**

CEO / Founder, HoffenSoft  
Cloud Solution Provider  
Member, Steering Committee, Siruthuli

**V.Chandrasekar**

Founder, TEKNO Plastic Systems  
Member, Steering Committee, Siruthuli

**Venkatesh Narayanasamy**

Founder, Innovative HR & Training Services  
Pvt Ltd  
Past President, Rotary Club of Madras North

**Advisors:**

**Nikhil Pant**

Former Chief Programme Executive, National  
Foundation for CSR, IICA,  
Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India  
Chief Development Officer, REACHA

**Vanitha Mohan**

Chairperson, PRICOL Ltd  
Managing Trustee, Siruthuli

**Mohan Sankar**

Managing Partner, Sankar Group of  
Companies  
Vice Chairman, Coimbatore District Welfare  
Association

**16<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

**Sub: Request for amendment to Schedule VII**

The incidence of COVID 19 pandemic has come as a rude shock to the global community and the absence of proven immediate treatment methods and vaccines have thrown open a daunting challenge to mankind. The situation in our country is becoming alarming with a daily increase in the number of infections and fatalities.

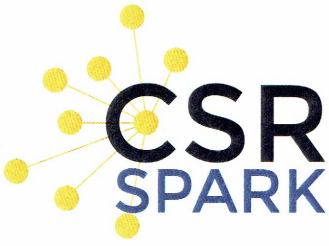
**PM CARES** fund has been set up for the sole purpose of addressing support at times of such distress situations and it has also been clarified vide your office circular dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 that contributions to this fund will qualify as CSR expenditure.

Apart from this, our Honourable Prime Minister has envisioned the creation of **"Atmanirbhar Bharat"**, being truly **self-reliant**. The third phase of Atmanirbhar Bharat is Agriculture, for which several support mechanisms were rolled out on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 to support, rejuvenate and sustain this sector.

The first intervention will go a long way in mitigating the sufferings of COVID affected persons and the second one will assist by providing food security at the times of such calamities and beyond.

It is opined that support to the agricultural sector should not stop with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, but be seamless over the years to ensure that even at times of unexpected calamities, food should never be an issue.

The agrarian community in our country should be hand-held and made a robust entity by assisting the farmers, right from crop selection, infrastructure, field activities, fertilisers, pest control,



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irrigation, harvest, storage, marketing and agro products development. Community farming is to be encouraged by supporting the Farmer Producer Organisations.

Such activities do not find a direct reference in Schedule VII of Section 135 of The Companies Act 2013. A separate item may kindly be added as item xiii of the schedule, which will go a long way in channelising CSR funds for such activities and making our nation truly **Atmanirbhar** on the food front.

We request you to kindly use your good office to include this part as drafted below.

***xiii) support to improve agricultural practices which shall include assistance to Farmer Producer Organisations, propagation of best agricultural practices, eradication of harmful chemical pesticides and manures, improved utilisation of water, creation of cold storage units, value addition, marketing and all other activities as may be considered beneficial to the farming fraternity and also funding for research in recognised Agricultural Universities run by the Central and State Governments.***

With kind regards

R S Krishnaswamy  
Founder & Chief Patron