

## **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY**

### **I. BACKGROUND:**

The Ion Exchange Group believes in being part of the community where it has its businesses operations and making a significant and sustainable contribution which makes a meaningful difference to the community. Our vision is to contribute to the social and economic development of the community where we operate. Our CSR activities are implemented by Ion Foundation, a Company incorporated under section 8 of the Companies act 2013.

### **II. OBJECTIVE:**

The CSR Policy of the Company has been formulated and adopted in terms of Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") and the Rules made thereunder. The Company will undertake CSR activities specified in Schedule VII to the Act.

### **III. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS:**

- 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;
- 2) **"CSR Policy"** means a statement containing the approach and direction given by the board of a company, taking into account the recommendations of its CSR Committee, and includes guiding principles for selection, implementation and monitoring of activities as well as formulation of the annual action plan;
- 3) **"Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)"** means the activities undertaken by a Company in pursuance of its statutory obligation laid down in section 135 of the Act and the Rules made thereunder, but shall not include the following, namely:-
  - (i) contribution of any amount directly or indirectly to any political party;
  - (ii) any activity undertaken by the company outside India;
  - (iii) activities benefitting employees of the company;
  - (iv) activities undertaken in pursuance of normal course of business of the company;
  - (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) **"Net profit"** means the net profit of a company as per its financial statement prepared in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act, but shall not include the following, namely: –
  - (i) any profit arising from any overseas branch or branches of the company, whether operated as a separate company or otherwise; and
  - (ii) any dividend received from other companies in India, which are covered under and

complying with the provisions of section 135 of the Act:

Provided that in case of a foreign company covered under these rules, net profit means the net profit of such company as per profit and loss account prepared in terms of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 381, read with section 198 of the Act;

- 5) **“Ongoing Project”** means 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;

Words and expressions used and not defined in these rules but defined in the Act shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

#### **IV. SCOPE:**

Schedule VII to the Act (as amended from time to time) provides for the areas and activities which a Company may undertake for its CSR purposes.

The Board recommends that the Company's CSR activities be focused on a few specific areas to create maximum impact and greater visibility.

**The Board recommends that the Company may consider initiatives in the following areas:**

- 1) Promotion of healthcare and Hygiene including preventive health care and sanitation by providing- Pure drinking water, Sanitation facilities, Health awareness programs and Medical assistance.
- 2) Promotion of education by facilitating learning and knowledge among the young through- Balwadis/ schools, Remedial education, Special needs education, Vocational training.
- 3) Promotion of Environment protection by plantation of trees, Rain water harvesting, creating awareness of water conservation, and Environment awareness programs/ campaigns.
- 4) Rural development projects and welfare activities.
- 5) Providing assistance during natural calamities.
- 6) Contribution to the fund / scheme setup by the Central Government.

The company shall give preference to the local area and areas around it where it operates, for spending the amount earmarked for Corporate Social Responsibility activities.

**The following parameters should be observed while considering CSR activities of the Company:**

- 1) Social impact
- 2) Environment protection
- 3) Visibility to the Company
- 4) Duration of the project / activity

In the event of the Company not succeeding in identifying and carrying out CSR projects based on activities enumerated above, it will be open for the Company to spend the amount on any of the projects/programs specified under the Act to ensure compliance.

#### **V. CSR COMMITTEE AND ITS COMPOSITION:**

The CSR Committee constituted by the Board of Directors, shall consist minimum of three (3) Directors.

The CSR Committee shall always have at least one (1) Independent Director. An outgoing member of the CSR Committee may be replaced by any other member of the Board.

#### **VI. CSR COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

The CSR Committee shall meet as often as its members deem necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities but not less than once in a year.

#### **VII. FORMULATION OF ANNUAL ACTION PLAN:**

Every financial year, the CSR Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors of the Company for its approval, an Annual Action Plan to, *inter-alia*, include the following:

- 1) list of CSR projects or programmes to be undertaken;
- 2) manner of execution of such projects or programmes;
- 3) direction for utilisation of funds and implementation schedule for the projects or programmes; and
- 4) monitoring and reporting mechanism for the projects or programmes.

The Board of Directors of the Company may alter such plan at any time during any financial year, based on the recommendation of the CSR Committee.

#### **VIII. ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR CSR ACTIVITIES:**

The CSR Committee and the Board of Directors will note and record the amount of expenditure to be incurred by the Company on the CSR activities. The basis for such recommendation will be the profits of the Company and the percentage prescribed under the Act.

If for reasons explained to and noted by the CSR Committee, the funds allocated for spending as per the Annual Action Plan remain unspent, the fact and reasons for the gap in spending will be included in the report of the Board of Directors for the concerned financial year. The Company will also ensure that the applicable provisions of the Act and the Rules are followed in respect of use/transfer to specified account/s of such unspent funds.

#### **IX. CSR IMPLEMENTATION:**

All CSR initiatives under the Ion Exchange umbrella will be implemented by Ion Foundation.

The Board of a company 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.

In case of ongoing project, the Board of a Company 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.

#### **X. CSR EXPENDITURE:**

##### **1) Administrative Overheads:**

The board shall ensure that not more than 5% of the administrative overheads may be booked under the total CSR expenditure of the company for the financial year.

##### **2) Excess CSR Spent:**

In case of excess CSR spend in any year, such excess amount may be set-off against the requirement to spend up to immediate succeeding 3 financial years' subject to:

- (i) The excess amount available for set-off will not include surplus arising from CSR activities;
- (ii) The Board to pass a resolution to that effect.

#### **XI. MONITORING / OVERSEEING CSR ACTIVITIES / CSR PROJECTS:**

The CSR Committee shall meet as and when required to review the progress of various CSR projects.

#### **XII. IMPACT ASSESSMENT, IF REQUIRED:**

If the CSR obligation of the Company is Rs. 10 crore or more as calculated on the basis of an average profits of the 3 immediately preceding financial years, then, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder, the Company shall undertake impact assessment, through an independent agency.

#### **XIII. CSR REPORTING:**

The Board's Report of a company shall include an annual report on CSR activities in the format specified under the Act and the relevant rules thereunder and as amended from time to time.

#### **XIV. DISPLAY OF CSR ACTIVITIES ON COMPANY'S 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 website, for public access.

#### **XV. REVIEW / AMENDMENT IN POLICY:**

Any amendment in this Policy may be carried out with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Company, based on the recommendations of CSR Committee.

In case any amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) and guideline(s) issued by applicable regulatory authority (ies), that is not consistent with the requirements specified under this Policy, then the provisions of such amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) and the guideline(s) shall prevail upon the requirements hereunder and this Policy shall stand amended accordingly effective from the date as laid down under such amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) and guideline(s).



\*\*\*\*\*

*Policy approved by: The Board of Directors of Ion Exchange (India) Limited*

*Original date of approval: March 17, 2015*

*Last Modified on: August 10, 2021*