



# Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Dipti Sarawagi**  
National President, Corporate Social Responsibility  
(CSR) Council

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**18 January 2021**

**Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman**  
**Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs**  
**Ministry of Finance**  
**Room No. 134, North Block**  
**New Delhi- 110001**

Dear Madam,

At the outset we want to compliment you for soliciting opinions from the Industry. You are truly democratic in your approach.

We have been encouraged by your invitation and as the President of the WICCI - Corporate Social Responsibility Council; we would like to put forward a few suggestions that would contribute towards the all-round transformation of CSR for the betterment of our society.

Please find below some of the recommendations from the WICCI CSR Council, for your kind attention to be incorporated in the upcoming budget.

1. **End-To-End process enablement for CSR chapter** – As it is said 'Business of any Business is to do Business', so CSR activities take a back seat. Even if the organization intends to do CSR activities, they do not have experience or knowledge on doing the same. So, if there are authorized organizations listed by government, it would help corporates to contribute in CSR
2. **Strict CSR laws for every industry** – Environmental hazards owing to pollutant released in water or/and air, excessive radiations, plastic waste, chemicals released in water bodies and many other malpractices are done in the name of industrialization in India. CSR councils should be mandatory to review and approve such projects before they are established. Complete report on the process and product along with its waste and biproducts should be produced by CSR councils before approving the projects.
3. **Governance and enforcement of CSR for all organization** – The section 135 suggests CSR to be done by profit making organizations. But irrespective of the profit/loss, CSRs should be mandated to ensure we have a larger percentage of corporates giving back to the society.
4. **Public Reward and Recognition for over achievers** – CSR can be a very good brand building initiative for corporates. They understand the power of a good brand. Recognition at national level will be an added incentive for corporates to do CSR activities more diligently and not just as a mandate from the government.

5. **GST and other tax benefits for CSR investments** – Any investment short term/long term done as part of CSR should be exempted from tax. These investments can be done through only government authorized NGOs.
6. **Encourage NGOs supporting women causes** - Increase in CSR entrepreneurial is the need of the hour, as most of the organizations rely on NGOs to expend their funds. Providing additional support for NGOs supporting woman causes like entrepreneurship, health and hygiene, skill development, legal support etc.
7. **External audits** - The external audit from a knowledgeable committee of the CSR activities of the organization to be complied by to ensure things are done fairly.

We are hopeful that you will make note of our recommendations and demonstrate your commitment towards the Corporate Social responsibilities of India by putting in place the financial resources & policy framework to match your commitment.

**Yours sincerely,**  
**Dipti Sarawagi**

#### **About the WICCI Corporate Social Responsibility Council:**

The Corporate Social Responsibility Council endeavors to promote responsible and sustainable corporate activities which leads to long term benefits for the society, environment and industries. We want to develop the culture of responsible business in the country to support government and corporate both in their progress.

#### **WICCI Corporate Social Responsibility Office bearers:**

**Dipti Sarawagi** – Head of Cloud Unit- Ericsson and National President - WICCI-CSR

**Nidhi Kohli** – Director at EDUHubSpot; Vice President – WICCI- CSR

**Gayatri Subramaniam** -State President, Delhi Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Council

**Caroline Audoir de Valter** - State President, Maharashtra Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Council

**Namrata Dhasmana** - State President, Telangana Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Council

#### **List of our valuable WICCI Corporate Social Responsibility National Council Members:**

**Nikitha R | Pratibha Arya | Pragya Agrawal | Anjuri Malhotra | Shubra Maini | Linki Misra | Neha Sood | Lakshmi Karle | Poonam Chugani | Srota Dey | Priya Rajan | Sabitha Mathew**