PRESENTATION ON

- THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988
- THE MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2006

THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

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THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988 ACT NO. 49 OF 1988

- An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the prevention of corruption and for matters connected therewith.
- BE it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and extent.—

- (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir and it applies also to all citizens of India outside India.
- **2. Definitions.**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—
- (a) "election" means any election, by whatever means held under any law for the purpose of selecting members of Parliament or of any Legislature, local authority or other public authority;
- (aa) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act and the expression "prescribe" shall be construed accordingly;
- (b) "public duty" means a duty in the discharge of which the State, the public or the community at large has an interest;

Explanation.—In this clause "State" includes a corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or an authority or a body owned or controlled or aided by the Government or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);

- (c) "public servant" means—
- (i) any person in the service or pay of the Government or remunerated by the Government by fees or commission for the performance of any public duty;
- (ii) any person in the service or pay of a local authority;
- (iii) any person in the service or pay of a corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or an authority or a body owned or controlled or aided by the Government or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
- (iv) any Judge, including any person empowered by law to discharge, whether by himself or as a member of any body of persons, any adjudicatory functions;

- (v) any person authorised by a court of justice to perform any duty, in connection with the administration of justice, including a liquidator, receiver or commissioner appointed by such court;
- (vi) any arbitrator or other person to whom any cause or matter has been referred for decision or report by a court of justice or by a competent public authority;
- (vii) any person who holds an office by virtue of which he is empowered to prepare, publish, maintain or revise an electoral roll or to conduct an election or part of an election;
- (viii) any person who holds an office by virtue of which he is authorised or required to perform any public duty;
- (ix) any person who is the president, secretary or other office-bearer of a registered cooperative society engaged in agriculture, industry, trade or banking, receiving or having received any financial aid from the Central Government or a State Government or from any corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or any authority or body owned or controlled or aided by the Government or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);

- (x) any person who is a chairman, member or employee of any Service Commission or Board, by whatever name called, or a member of any selection committee appointed by such Commission or Board for the conduct of any examination or making any selection on behalf of such Commission or Board;
- (xi) any person who is a Vice-Chancellor or member of any governing body, professor, reader, lecturer or any other teacher or employee, by whatever designation called, of any University and any person whose services have been availed of by a University or any other public authority in connection with holding or conducting examinations;
- (xii) any person who is an office-bearer or an employee of an educational, scientific, social, cultural or other institution, in whatever manner established, receiving or having received any financial assistance from the Central Government or any State Government, or local or other public authority.
- (d) "undue advantage" means any gratification whatever, other than legal remuneration. **Explanation.**—For the purposes of this clause,—
- (a) the word "gratification" is not limited to pecuniary gratifications or to gratifications estimable in money;

(b) the expression "legal remuneration" is not restricted to remuneration paid to a public servant, but includes all remuneration which he is permitted by the Government or the organisation, which he serves, to receive.

Explanation 1.—Persons falling under any of the above sub-clauses are public servants, whether appointed by the Government or not.

Explanation 2.—Wherever the words "public servant" occur, they shall be understood of every person who is in actual possession of the situation of a public servant, whatever legal defect there may be in his right to hold that situation.

CHAPTER II APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL JUDGES

- **3. Power to appoint special Judges.**—(1) The Central Government or the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint as many special Judges as may be necessary for such area or areas or for such case or group of cases as may be specified in the notification to try the following offences, namely:—
- (a) any offence punishable under this Act; and
- (b) any conspiracy to commit or any attempt to commit or any abetment of any of the offences specified in clause (a).
- (2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a special Judge under this Act unless he is or has been a Sessions Judge or an Additional Sessions Judge or an Assistant Sessions Judge under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

Provided that where the trial is not concluded within the said period, the special Judge shall record the reasons for not having done so:

Provided further that the said period may be extended by such further period, for reasons to be recorded in writing but not exceeding six months at a time; so, however, that the said period together with such extended period shall not exceed ordinarily four years in aggregate.

- **5. Procedure and powers of special Judge.**—(1) A special Judge may take cognizance of offences without the accused being committed to him for trial and, in trying the accused persons, shall follow the procedure prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), for the trial of warrant cases by Magistrates.
- (2) A special Judge may, with a view to obtaining the evidence of any person supposed to have been directly or indirectly concerned in, or privy to, an offence, tender a pardon to such person on condition of his making a full and true disclosure of the whole circumstances within his knowledge relating to the offence and to every other person concerned, whether as principal or abettor, in the commission thereof and any pardon so tendered shall, for the purposes of sub-sections (1) to (5) of section 308 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), be deemed to have been tendered under section 307 of that Code.

6. Power to try summarily.—(1) Where a special Judge tries any offence specified in subsection (1) of section 3, alleged to have been committed by a public servant in relation to the contravention of any special order referred to in sub-section (1) of section 12A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955) or of an order referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (2) of that section, then, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 5 of this Act or section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), the special Judge shall try the offence in a summary way, and the provisions of sections 262 to 265 (both inclusive) of the said Code shall, as far as may be, apply to such trial:

Provided that, in the case of any conviction in a summary trial under this section, it shall be lawful for the special Judge to pass a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year:

Provided further that when at the commencement of, or in the course of, a summary trial under this section, it appears to the special Judge that the nature of the case is such that a sentence of imprisonment for a term exceeding one year may have to be passed or that it is, for any other reason, undesirable to try the case summarily.

The special Judge shall, after hearing the parties, record an order to that effect and thereafter recall any witnesses who may have been examined and proceed to hear or rehear the case in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the said Code for the trial of warrant cases by Magistrates.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act or in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), there shall be no appeal by a convicted person in any case tried summarily under this section in which the special Judge passes a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding one month, and of fine not exceeding two thousand rupees whether or not any order under section 452 of the said Code is made in addition to such sentence, but an appeal shall lie where any sentence in excess of the aforesaid limits is passed by the special Judge.

CHAPTER III OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- 7. Offence relating to public servant being bribed.—Any public servant who,—
- (a) obtains or accepts or attempts to obtain from any person, an undue advantage, with the intention to perform or cause performance of public duty improperly or dishonestly or to forbear or cause forbearance to perform such duty either by himself or by another public servant; or
- (b) obtains or accepts or attempts to obtain, an undue advantage from any person as a reward for the improper or dishonest performance of a public duty or for forbearing to perform such duty either by himself or another public servant; or
- (c) performs or induces another public servant to perform improperly or dishonestly a public duty or to forbear performance of such duty in anticipation of or in consequence of accepting an undue advantage from any person, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation 1.—For the purpose of this section, the obtaining, accepting, or the attempting to obtain an undue advantage shall itself constitute an offence even if the performance of a public duty by public servant, is not or has not been improper.

Illustration.—A public servant, 'S' asks a person, 'P' to give him an amount of five thousand rupees to process his routine ration card application on time. 'S' is guilty of an offence under this section.

Explanation 2.—For the purpose of this section,—

- (i) the expressions "obtains" or "accepts" or "attempts to obtain" shall cover cases where a person being a public servant, obtains or "accepts" or attempts to obtain, any undue advantage for himself or for another person, by abusing his position as a public servant or by using his personal influence over another public servant; or by any other corrupt or illegal means;
- (ii) it shall be immaterial whether such person being a public servant obtains or accepts, or attempts to obtain the undue advantage directly or through a third party.

- **7A.** Taking undue advantage to influence public servant by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of personal influence.—Whoever accepts or obtains or attempts to obtain from another person for himself or for any other person any undue advantage as a motive or reward to induce a public servant, by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of his personal influence to perform or to cause performance of a public duty improperly or dishonestly or to forbear or to cause to forbear such public duty by such public servant or by another public servant, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.
- **8. Offence relating to bribing of a public servant.**—(1) Any person who gives or promises to give an undue advantage to another person or persons, with intention—
- (i) to induce a public servant to perform improperly a public duty; or
- (ii) to reward such public servant for the improper performance of public duty, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years or with fine or with both:

9. Offence relating to bribing a public servant by a commercial organisation.—(1)

Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a commercial organisation, such organisation shall be punishable with fine, if any person associated with such commercial organisation gives or promises to give any undue advantage to a public servant intending—

- (a) to obtain or retain business for such commercial organisation; or
- (b) to obtain or retain an advantage in the conduct of business for such commercial organisation:

Provided that it shall be a defence for the commercial organisation to prove that it had in place adequate procedures in compliance of such guidelines as may be prescribed to prevent persons associated with it from undertaking such conduct.

- (2) For the purposes of this section, a person is said to give or promise to give any undue advantage to a public servant, if he is alleged to have committed the offence under section 8, whether or not such person has been prosecuted for such offence.
- (3) For the purposes of section 8 and this section,—
- (a) "commercial organisation" means—

- (i) a body which is incorporated in India and which carries on a business, whether in India or outside India;
- (ii) any other body which is incorporated outside India and which carries on a business, or part of a business, in any part of India;
- (iii) a partnership firm or any association of persons formed in India and which carries on a business whether in India or outside India; or
- (iv) any other partnership or association of persons which is formed outside India and which carries on a business, or part of a business, in any part of India;
- (b) "business" includes a trade or profession or providing service;
- (c) a person is said to be associated with the commercial organisation, if such person performs services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation irrespective of any promise to give or giving of any undue advantage which constitutes an offence under sub-section (1).

Explanation 1.—The capacity in which the person performs services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation shall not matter irrespective of whether such person is employee or agent or subsidiary of such commercial organisation.

Explanation 2.—Whether or not the person is a person who performs services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation is to be determined by reference to all the relevant circumstances and not merely by reference to the nature of the relationship between such person and the commercial organisation.

Explanation 3.—If the person is an employee of the commercial organisation, it shall be presumed unless the contrary is proved that such person is a person who has performed services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation.

- (4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), the offence under sections 7A, 8 and this section shall be cognizable.
- (5) The Central Government shall, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders including departments and with a view to preventing persons associated with commercial organisations from bribing any person, being a public servant, prescribe such guidelines as may be considered necessary which can be put in place for compliance by such organisations.

10. Person in charge of commercial organisation to be guilty of offence.—Where an offence under section 9 is committed by a commercial organisation, and such offence is proved in the court to have been committed with the consent or connivance of any director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be of the commercial organisation, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "director", in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm.]

11. Public servant obtaining [undue advantage], without consideration from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant.—Whoever, being a public servant, accepts or obtains 2 *** or attempts to obtain for himself, or for any other person, any 1 [undue advantage] without consideration, or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate, from any person whom he knows to have been, or to be, or to be likely to be concerned in any proceeding or business transacted or about to be transacted by such public servant, or having any connection with the 3 [official functions or public duty] of himself or of any public servant to whom he is subordinate, or from any person whom he knows to be interested in or related to the person so concerned

Shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than six months but which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine.

- 12. Punishment for abetment of offences.—Whoever abets any offence punishable under this Act, whether or not that offence is committed in consequence of that abetment, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years, but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.
- **13. Criminal misconduct by a public servant.** (1) A public servant is said to commit the offence of criminal misconduct,—
- (a) if he dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates or otherwise converts for his own use any property entrusted to him or any property under his control as a public servant or allows any other person so to do; or
- (b) if he intentionally enriches himself illicitly during the period of his office.

Explanation 1.—A person shall be presumed to have intentionally enriched himself illicitly if he or any person on his behalf, is in possession of or has, at any time during the period of his office, been in possession of pecuniary resources or property disproportionate to his known sources of income which the public servant cannot satisfactorily account for.

CHAPTER IV INVESTIGATION INTO CASES UNDER THE ACT

- **17. Persons authorised to investigate.**—Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), no police officer below the rank,—
- (a) in the case of the Delhi Special Police Establishment, of an Inspector of Police;
- (b) in the metropolitan areas of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Ahmedabad and in any other metropolitan area notified as such under sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), of an Assistant Commissioner of Police;
- (c) elsewhere, of a Deputy Superintendent of Police or a police officer of equivalent rank, shall investigate any offence punishable under this Act without the order of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class, as the case may be, or make any arrest therefor without a warrant:

- (b) in the case of a person who is or was employed, at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed, in connection with the affairs of a State, of that Government;
- (c) in the case of any other person, of the authority competent to remove him from his office, at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed:

Provided that no such approval shall be necessary for cases involving arrest of a person on the spot on the charge of accepting or attempting to accept any undue advantage for himself or for any other person:

Provided further that the concerned authority shall convey its decision under this section within a period of three months, which may, for reasons to be recorded in writing by such authority, be extended by a further period of one month.

18. Power to inspect bankers' books.—If from information received or otherwise, a police officer has reason to suspect the commission of an offence which he is empowered to investigate under section 17 and considers that for the purpose of investigation or inquiry into such offence, it is necessary to inspect any bankers' books, then, notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, he may inspect any bankers' books in so far as they relate to the accounts of the persons suspected to have committed that offence or of any other person suspected to be holding money on behalf of such person, and take or cause to be taken certified copies of the relevant entries therefrom, and the bank concerned shall be bound to assist the police officer in the exercise of his powers under this section:

Provided that no power under this section in relation to the accounts of any person shall be exercised by a police officer below the rank of a Superintendent of Police, unless he is specially authorised in this behalf by a police officer of or above the rank of a Superintendent of Police.

Explanation.—In this section, the expressions "bank" and "bankers' books" shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 (18 of 1891).

CHAPTER IVA ATTACHMENT AND FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY

- **18A.** Provisions of Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 to apply to attachment under this Act.—(1) Save as otherwise provided under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (15 of 2003), the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 (Ord. 38 of 1944) shall, as far as may be, apply to the attachment, administration of attached property and execution of order of attachment or confiscation of money or property procured by means of an offence under this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 (Ord. 38 of 1944) shall have effect, subject to the modification that the references to "District Judge" shall be construed as references to "Special Judge".]

CHAPTER V SANCTION FOR PROSECUTION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- **19. Previous sanction necessary for prosecution.**—(1) No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under [sections 7, 11, 13 and 15] alleged to have been committed by a public servant, except with the previous sanction [save as otherwise provided in the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (1 of 2014)]—
- (a) in the case of a person [who is employed, or as the case may be, was at the time of commission of the alleged offence employed] in connection with the affairs of the Union and is not removable from his office save by or with the sanction of the Central Government, of that Government;
- (b) in the case of a person [who is employed, or as the case may be, was at the time of commission of the alleged offence employed] in connection with the affairs of a State and is not removable from his office save by or with the sanction of the State Government, of that Government;

Provided also that the appropriate Government or any competent authority shall, after the receipt of the proposal requiring sanction for prosecution of a public servant under this sub-section, endeavour to convey the decision on such proposal within a period of three months from the date of its receipt:

Provided also that in case where, for the purpose of grant of sanction for prosecution, legal consultation is required, such period may, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended by a further period of one month:

Provided also that the Central Government may, for the purpose of sanction for prosecution of a public servant, prescribe such guidelines as it considers necessary.

Explanation.—For the purposes of sub-section (1), the expression "public servant" includes such person—

- (a) who has ceased to hold the office during which the offence is alleged to have been committed; or
- (b) who has ceased to hold the office during which the offence is alleged to have been committed and is holding an office other than the office during which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

- (2) Where for any reason whatsoever any doubt arises as to whether the previous sanction as required under sub-section (1) should be given by the Central Government or the State Government or any other authority, such sanction shall be given by that Government or authority which would have been competent to remove the public servant from his office at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974),—
- (a) no finding, sentence or order passed by a special Judge shall be reversed or altered by a Court in appeal, confirmation or revision on the ground of the absence of, or any error, omission or irregularity in, the sanction required under sub-section (1), unless in the opinion of that court, a failure of justice has in fact been occasioned thereby;
- (b) no court shall stay the proceedings under this Act on the ground of any error, omission or irregularity in the sanction granted by the authority, unless it is satisfied that such error, omission or irregularity has resulted in a failure of justice;

- (c) no court shall stay the proceedings under this Act on any other ground and no court shall exercise the powers of revision in relation to any interlocutory order passed in any inquiry, trial, appeal or other proceedings.
- (4) In determining under sub-section (3) whether the absence of, or any error, omission or irregularity in, such sanction has occasioned or resulted in a failure of justice the court shall have regard to the fact whether the objection could and should have been raised at any earlier stage in the proceedings.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) error includes competency of the authority to grant sanction;
- (b) a sanction required for prosecution includes reference to any requirement that the prosecution shall be at the instance of a specified authority or with the sanction of a specified person or any requirement of a similar nature.

- 20. Presumption where public servant accepts any undue advantage.—Where, in any trial of an offence punishable under section 7 or under section 11, it is proved that a public servant accused of an offence has accepted or obtained or attempted to obtain for himself, or for any other person, any undue advantage from any person, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that he accepted or obtained or attempted to obtain that undue advantage, as a motive or reward under section 7 for performing or to cause performance of a public duty improperly or dishonestly either by himself or by another public servant or, as the case may be, any undue advantage without consideration or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate under section 11.]
- **21.** Accused person to be a competent witness.—Any person charged with an offence punishable under this Act, shall be a competent witness for the defence and may give evidence on oath in disproof of the charges made against him or any person charged together with him at the same trial:

Provided that—

(a) he shall not be called as a witness except at his own request;

- (b) his failure to give evidence shall not be made the subject of any comment by the prosecution or give rise to any presumption against himself or any person charged together with him at the same trial;
- (c) he shall not be asked, and if asked shall not be required to answer, any question tending to show that he has committed or been convicted of any offence other than the offence with which he is charged, or is of bad character, unless—
- (i) the proof that he has committed or been convicted of such offence is admissible evidence to show that he is guilty of the offence with which he is charged, or
- (ii) he has personally or by his pleader asked any question of any witness for the prosecution with a view to establish his own good character, or has given evidence of his good character, or the nature or conduct of the defence is such as to involve imputations on the character of the prosecutor or of any witness for the prosecution, or
- (iii) he has given evidence against any other person charged with the same offence.

- **22.** The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to apply subject to certain modifications.— The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), shall in their application to any proceeding in relation to an offence punishable under this Act have effect as if,—
- (a) in sub-section (1) of section 243, for the words "The accused shall then be called upon", the words "The accused shall then be required to give in writing at once or within such time as the Court may allow, a list of the persons (if any) whom he proposes to examine as his witnesses and of the documents (if any) on which he proposes to rely and he shall then be called upon" had been substituted;
- (b) in sub-section (2) of section 309, after the third proviso, the following proviso had been inserted, namely:—
- (c) "Provided also that the proceeding shall not be adjourned or postponed merely on the ground that an application under section 397 has been made by a party to the proceeding.";
- (c) after sub-section (2) of section 317, the following sub-section had been inserted, namely:—

- "(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the Judge may, if he thinks fit and for reasons to be recorded by him, proceed with inquiry or trial in the absence of the accused or his pleader and record the evidence of any witness subject to the right of the accused to recall the witness for cross-examination.";
- (d) in sub-section (1) of section 397, before the Explanation, the following proviso had been inserted, namely:—
- "Provided that where the powers under this section are exercised by a Court on an application made by a party to such proceedings, the Court shall not ordinarily call for the record of the proceedings:—
- (a) without giving the other party an opportunity of showing cause why the record should not be called for; or
- (b) if it is satisfied that an examination of the record of the proceedings may be made from the certified copies.".

23. Particulars in a charge in relation to an offence under [section 13(1)(a)].—
Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), when an accused is charged with an offence under [clause (a)] of sub-section (1) of section 13, it shall be sufficient to describe in the charge the property in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed and the dates between which the offence is alleged to have been committed, without specifying particular items or exact dates, and the charge so framed shall be deemed to be a charge of one offence within the meaning of section 219 of the said Code:

Provided that the time included between the first and last of such dates shall not exceed one year.

- **24. Statement by bribe giver not to subject him to prosecution.]** Omitted by the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 (16 of 2018), s. 17 (w.e.f. 26-7-2018).
- 25. Military, Naval and Air Force or other law not to be affected.—(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the jurisdiction exercisable by, or the procedure applicable to, any court or other authority under the Army Act, 1950 (45 of 1950), the Air Force Act, 1950 (46 of 1950), the Navy Act, 1957 (62 of 1957), the Border Security Force Act, 1968 (47 of 1968), the Coast Guard Act, 1978 (30 of 1978) and the National Security Guard Act, 1986 (47 of 1986).

- (2) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that for the purposes of any such law as is referred to in sub-section (1), the court of a special Judge shall be deemed to be a court of ordinary criminal justice.
- 26. Special Judges appointed under Act 46 of 1952 to be special Judges appointed under this Act.—Every special Judge appointed under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1952, for any area or areas and is holding office on the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be a special Judge appointed under section 3 of this Act for that area or areas and, accordingly, on and from such commencement, every such Judge shall continue to deal with all the proceedings pending before him on such commencement in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- **27. Appeal and revision.**—Subject to the provisions of this Act, the High Court may exercise, so far as they may be applicable, all the powers of appeal and revision conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) on a High Court as if the court of the special Judge were a court of Session trying cases within the local limits of the High Court.

- 28. Act to be in addition to any other law.—The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force, and nothing contained herein shall exempt any public servant from any proceeding which might, apart from this Act, be instituted against him.
- **29. Amendment of the Ordinance 38 of 1944.**—In the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944,—
- (a) in sub-section (1) of section 3, sub-section (1) of section 9, clause (a) of section 10, subsection (1) of section 11 and sub-section (1) of section 13, for the words "State Government", wherever they occur, the words "State Government or, as the case may be, the Central Government" shall be substituted;
- (b) in section 10, in clause (a), for the words "three months", the words "one year" shall be substituted;
- (c) in the Schedule,—
- (i) paragraph 1 shall be omitted;
- (ii) in paragraphs 2 and 4,—

- (a) after the words "a local authority", the words and figures "or a corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or an authority or a body owned or controlled or aided by Government or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) or a society aided by such corporation, authority, body or Government company" shall be inserted;
- (b) after the words "or authority", the words "or corporation or body or Government company or society" shall be inserted;
- (iii) for paragraph 4A, the following paragraph shall be substituted, namely:—
- "4A.An offence punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.";
- (iv) in paragraph 5, for the words and figures "items 2, 3 and 4", the words, figures and letter "items 2, 3, 4 and 4A" shall be substituted.
- **29A.** Power to make rules.—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) guidelines which can be put in place by commercial organisation under section 9;
- (b) guidelines for sanction of prosecution under sub-section (1) of section 19;
- (c) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.
- (3) Every rule made under this Act, shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule, or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.
- **30.** Repeal and saving.—(1) The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 (2 of 1947) and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1952 (46 of 1952) are hereby repealed.

- (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, but without prejudice to the application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (10 of 1897), anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken under or in pursuance of the Acts so repealed shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken under or in pursuance of the corresponding provision of this Act.
- **31.** [Omission of certain sections of Act 45 of 1860.]—Rep. by the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001(30 of 2001), s.2 and the First Schedule (w.e.f. 3-9-2001).

THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

"public servant" means:

- (i) any person in the service or pay of the Government or remunerated by the Government by fees or commission for the performance of any public duty;
- (ii) any person in the service or pay of a local authority;
- (iii) any person in the service or pay of a corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or an authority or a body owned or controlled or aided by the Government or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
- (iv) any Judge, including any person empowered by law to discharge, whether by himself or as a member of any body of persons, any adjudicatory functions;
- (v) any person authorised by a court of justice to perform any duty, in connection with the administration of justice, including a liquidator, receiver or commissioner appointed by such court;
- (vi) any arbitrator or other person to whom any cause or matter has been referred for decision or report by court of justice or by a competent public authority;

- (vii) any person who holds an office by virtue of which he is empowered to prepare, publish, maintain or revise an electoral roll or to conduct an election or part of an election;
- (viii) any person who holds an office by virtue of which he is authorised or required to perform any public duty;
- (ix) any person who is the president, secretary or other office-bearer of a registered co-operative society engaged in agriculture, industry, trade or banking, receiving or having received any financial aid from the Central Government or a State Government or from any corporation established by or under a Central, Provincial or State Act, or any authority or body owned or controlled or aided by the Government or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
- (x) any person who is a chairman, member or employee of any Service Commission or Board, by whatever name called, or a member of any selection committee appointed by such Commission or Board for the conduct of any examination or making any selection on behalf of such Commission or Board;

(xi) any person who is a Vice-Chancellor or member of any governing body, professor, reader, lecturer or any other teacher or employee, by whatever designation called, of any University and any person whose services have been availed of by a University or any other public authority in connection with holding or conducting examinations;

(xii) any person who is an office-bearer or an employee of an educational, scientific, social, cultural or other institution, in whatever manner established, receiving or having received any financial assistance from the Central Government or any State Government, or local or other public authority.

Explanation 1.—Persons falling under any of the above sub-clauses are public servants, whether appointed by the Government or not.

Explanation 2.—Wherever the words "public servant" occur, they shall be understood of every person who is in actual possession of the situation of a public servant, whatever legal defect there may be in his right to hold that situation.

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act. (SECTION 7):

Whoever, being, or expecting to be a public servant, accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person, for himself or for any other person, any gratification whatever, other than legal remuneration, as a motive or reward for doing or forbearing to do any official act or for showing or forbearing to show, in the exercise of his official functions, favour or disfavour to any person or for rendering or attempting to render any service or disservice to any person, with the Central Government or any State Government or Parliament or the Legislature of any State or with any local authority, corporation or Government company referred to in clause (c) of section 2, or with any public servant, whether named or otherwise, shall be punishable with imprisonment which shall be not less than three years but which may extend to 2 seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanations.—

- (a) "Expecting to be a public servant." If a person not expecting to be in office obtains a gratification by deceiving others into a belief that he is about to be in office, and that he will then serve them, be may be guilty of cheating, but he is not guilty of the offence defined in this section.
- (b) "Gratification." The word "gratification" is not restricted to pecuniary gratifications or to gratifications estimable in money.
- (c) "Legal remuneration." The words "legal remuneration" are not restricted to remuneration which a public servant can lawfully demand, but include all remuneration which he is permitted by the Government or the organisation, which he serves, to accept.
- (d) "A motive or reward for doing." A person who receives a gratification as a motive or reward for doing what he does not intend or is not in a position to do, or has not done, comes within this expression.
- (e) Where a public servant induces a person erroneously to believe that his influence with the Government has obtained a title for that person and thus induces that person to give the public servant, money or any other gratification as a reward for this service, the public servant has committed an offence under this section.

Taking gratification, in order, by corrupt or illegal means, to influence public servant (SECTION 8):

Whoever accepts or obtains, or agrees to accept, or attempts to obtain, from any person, for himself or for any other person, any gratification whatever as a motive or reward for inducing, by corrupt or illegal means, any public servant, whether named or otherwise, to do or to forbear to do any official act, or in the exercise of the official functions of such public servant to show favour or disfavour to any person, or to render or attempt to render any service or disservice to any person with the Central Government or any State Government or Parliament or the Legislature of any State or with any local authority, corporation or Government company referred to in clause (c) of section 2, or with any public servant, whether named or otherwise, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than 1 [three years] but which may extend to 2 [seven years] and shall also be liable to fine.

Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant (SECTION 9):

Whoever accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain, from any person, for himself or for any other person, any gratification whatever, as a motive or reward for inducing, by the exercise of personal influence, any public servant whether named or otherwise to do or to forbear to do any official act, or in the exercise of the official functions of such public servant to show favour or disfavour to any person, or to render or attempt to render any service or disservice to any person with the Central Government or any State Government or Parliament or the Legislature of any State or with any local authority, corporation or Government company referred to in clause (c) of section 2, or with any public servant, whether named or otherwise, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than 1 [three years] but which may extend to 2 [seven years] and shall also be liable to fine.

Punishment for abetment by public servant of offences defined in section 8 or 9 (SECTION 10):

Whoever, being a public servant, in respect of whom either of the offences defined in section 8 or section 9 is committed, abets the offence, whether or not that offence is committed in consequence of that abetment, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than six months but which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine.

Public servant obtaining valuable thing, without consideration from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant (SECTION 11):

Whoever, being a public servant, accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain for himself, or for any other person, any valuable thing without consideration, or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate, from any person whom he knows to have been, or to be, or to be likely to be concerned in any proceeding or business transacted or about to be transacted by such public servant, or having any connection with the official functions of himself or of any public servant to whom he is subordinate, or from any person whom he knows to be interested in or related to the person so concerned, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than six months but which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine.

Punishment for abetment of offences defined in section 7 or 11 (SECTION 12):

Whoever abets any offence punishable under section 7 or section 11 whether or not that offence is committed in consequence of that abetment, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to five.

Criminal misconduct by a public servant (SECTION 13):

- (1) A public servant is said to commit the offence of criminal misconduct,-
 - (a) if he habitually accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from any person for himself or for any other person any gratification other than legal remuneration as a motive or reward such as is mentioned in section 7; or
 - (b) if he habitually accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain for himself or for any other person, any valuable thing without consideration or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate from any person whom he knows to have been, or to be, or to be likely to be concerned in any proceeding or business transacted or about to be transacted by him, or having any connection with the official functions of himself or of any public servant to whom he is subordinate, or from any person whom he knows to be interested in or related to the person so concerned; or

(c) if he dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates or otherwise converts for his own use any property entrusted to him or under his control as a public servant or allows any other person so to do; or

(d) if he,—

- (i) by corrupt or illegal means, obtains for himself or for any other person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage; or
- (ii) by abusing his position as a public servant, obtains for himself or for any other person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage; or
- (iii) while holding office as a public servant, obtains for any person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage without any public interest; or
- (e) if he or any person on his behalf, is in possession or has, at any time during the period of his office, been in possession for which the public servant cannot satisfactorily account, of pecuniary resources or property disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "known sources of income" means income received from any lawful source and such receipt has been intimated in accordance with the provisions of any law, rules or orders for the time being applicable to a public servant.

(2) Any public servant who commits criminal misconduct shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than four years but which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.

Habitual committing of offence under sections 8, 9 and 12 (SECTION 14): Whoever habitually commits—

- (a) an offence punishable under section 8 or section 9; or
- (b) an offence punishable under section 12,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than [five years] but which may extend to [ten years] and shall also be liable to fine.

Punishment for attempt (SECTION 15): —Whoever attempts to commit an offence referred to in clause (c) or clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 13 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two years but which may extend to five years and with fine.

Matters to be taken into consideration for fixing fine (SECTION 16): Where a sentence of fine is imposed under sub-section (2) of section 13 or section 14, the court in fixing the amount of the fine shall take into consideration the amount or the value of the property, if any, which the accused person has obtained by committing the offence or where the conviction is for an offence referred to in clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 13, the pecuniary resources or property referred to in that clause for which the accused person is unable to account satisfactorily.

Insertion of new section 29A:

- (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
 - (a) guidelines which can be put in place by commercial organisation under section 9;.
 - (b) guidelines for sanction of prosecution under sub-section (1) of section 19;
 - (c) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act, shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule, or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

THE MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2006

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THE MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2006 ACT NO. 27 OF 2006

An Act to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS a declaration as to expediency of control of certain industries by the Union was made under section 2 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement.—

- (1) This Act may be called the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date1 as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.
- 2. Definitions.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—
- (a) "Advisory Committee" means the committee constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (2) of section 7;

Regarding Advisory Committee

The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute an Advisory Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

- (a) the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the small and medium enterprises who shall be the Chairperson, ex officio;
- (b) not more than five officers of the Central Government possessing necessary expertise in matters relating to micro, small and medium enterprises, members, ex officio;
- (c) not more than three representatives of the State Governments, members, ex officio; and
- (d) one representative each of the associations of micro, small and medium enterprises, members, ex officio.

The Member-Secretary of the Board shall also be the ex officio Member-Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

The Central Government shall, prior to classifying any class or classes of enterprises under sub-section (1), obtain the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee shall examine the matters referred to it by the Board in connection with any subject referred to in section 5 and furnish its recommendations to the Board.

The Central Government may seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on any of the matters specified in section 9, 10, 11, 12 or 14 of Chapter IV.

The State Government may seek advice of the Advisory Committee on any of the matters specified in the rules made under section 30.

The Advisory Committee shall, after considering the following matters, communicate its recommendations or advice to the Central Government or, as the case may be, State Government or the Board, namely:—

- (a) the level of employment in a class or classes of enterprises;
- (b) the level of investments in plant and machinery or equipment in a class or classes of enterprises;
- (c) the need of higher investment in plant and machinery or equipment for technological upgradation, employment generation and enhanced competitiveness of the class or classes of enterprises;
- (d) the possibility of promoting and diffusing entrepreneurship in micro, small or medium enterprises; and
- (a) the international standards for classification of small and medium enterprises

(b) "appointed day" means the day following immediately after the expiry of the period of fifteen days from the day of acceptance or the day of deemed acceptance of any goods or any services by a buyer from a supplier.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause,—

- (i) "the day of acceptance" means,—
- (a) the day of the actual delivery of goods or the rendering of services; or
- (b) where any objection is made in writing by the buyer regarding acceptance of goods or services within fifteen days from the day of the delivery of goods or the rendering of services, the day on which such objection is removed by the supplier;
- (ii) "the day of deemed acceptance" means, where no objection is made in writing by the buyer regarding acceptance of goods or services within fifteen days from the day of the delivery of goods or the rendering of services, the day of the actual delivery of goods or the rendering of services;
- (c) "Board" means the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises established under section 3;
- (d) "buyer" means whoever buys any goods or receives any services from a supplier for consideration;

WHAT IS "ENTERPRISE"

Sec 2(e) of MSMED, Act 2006

"Enterprise" means an industrial undertaking or a business concern or any other establishment, by whatever name called,

➤ Engaged in the manufacture or production of goods, in any manner, pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (55 of 1951)

or

Engaged in providing or rendering of any service or services

- (e) "enterprise" means an industrial undertaking or a business concern or any other establishment, by whatever name called, engaged in the manufacture or production of goods, in any manner, pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (55 of 1951) or engaged in providing or rendering of any service or services;
- (f) "goods" means every kind of movable property other than actionable claims and money;
- (g) "medium enterprise" means an enterprise classified as such under sub-clause (iii) of clause (a) or sub-clause (iii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 7;
- (h) "micro enterprise" means an enterprise classified as such under sub-clause (i) of clause (a) or sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 7;
- (i) "National Bank" means the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development established under section 3 of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981 (51 of 1981);
- (j) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
- (k) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (I) "Reserve Bank" means the Reserve Bank of India constituted under section 3 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (2 of 1934);

- (m) "small enterprise" means an enterprise classified as such under sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) or sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 7;
- (n) "supplier" means a micro or small enterprise, which has filed a memorandum with the authority referred to in sub-section (1) of section 8, and includes,—
- (i) the National Small Industries Corporation, being a company, registered under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
- (ii) the Small Industries Development Corporation of a State or a Union territory, by whatever name called, being a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
- (iii) any company, co-operative society, trust or a body, by whatever name called, registered or constituted under any law for the time being in force and engaged in selling goods produced by micro or small enterprises and rendering services which are provided by such enterprises;
- (o) "Small Industries Bank" means the Small Industries Development Bank of India established under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 (39 of 1989);
- (p) "State Government", in relation to a Union territory, means the Administrator thereof appointed under article 239 of the Constitution.

CHAPTER II NATIONAL BOARD FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

- **3. Establishment of Board.**—(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint, there shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, a Board to be known as the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- (2) The head office of the Board shall be at Delhi.
- (3) The Board shall consist of the following members, namely:—
- (a) the Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the micro, small and medium enterprises who shall be the ex officio Chairperson of the Board;
- (b) the Minister of State or a Deputy Minister, if any, in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the micro, small and medium enterprises who shall be ex officio Vice-Chairperson of the Board, and where there is no such Minister of State or Deputy

Minister, such person as may be appointed by the Central Government to be the Vice-Chairperson of the Board;

- (c) six Ministers of the State Governments having administrative control of the departments of small scale industries or, as the case may be, micro, small and medium enterprises, to be appointed by the Central Government to represent such regions of the country as may be notified by the Central Government in this behalf, ex officio;
- (d) three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States;
- (e) the Administrator of a Union territory to be appointed by the Central Government, ex officio;
- (f) the Secretary to the Government of India in charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the micro, small and medium enterprises, ex officio;
- (g) four Secretaries to the Government of India, to represent the Ministries of the Central Government dealing with commerce and industry, finance, food processing industries, labour and planning to be appointed by the Central Government, ex officio;

- (h) the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank, ex officio;
- (i) the chairman and managing director of the Board of Directors of the Small Industries Bank, ex officio;
- (j) the chairman, Indian Banks Association, ex officio;
- (k) one officer of the Reserve Bank, not below the rank of an Executive Director, to be appointed by the Central Government to represent the Reserve Bank;
- (I) twenty persons to represent the associations of micro, small and medium enterprises, including not less than three persons representing associations of women's enterprises and not less than three persons representing associations of micro enterprises, to be appointed by the Central Government;
- (m) three persons of eminence, one each from the fields of economics, industry and science and technology, not less than one of whom shall be a woman, to be appointed by the Central Government;
- (n) two representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, to be appointed by the Central Government; and

- (o) one officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the micro, small and medium enterprises to be appointed by the Central Government, who shall be the Member-Secretary of the Board, ex officio.
- (4) The term of office of the members of the Board, other than ex officio members of the Board, the manner of filling vacancies, and the procedure to be followed in the discharge of their functions by the members of the Board, shall be such as may be prescribed:

Provided that the term of office of an ex officio member of the Board shall continue so long as he holds the office by virtue of which he is such a member.

- (5) No act or proceedings of the Board shall be invalid merely by reason of—
- (a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Board; or
- (b) any defect in the appointment of a person acting as a member of the Board; or
- (c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Board not affecting the merits of the case.
- (6) The Board shall meet at least once in every three months in a year.

- (7) The Board may associate with itself, in such manner and for such purposes as it may deem necessary, any person or persons whose assistance or advice it may desire in complying with any of the provisions of this Act and a person so associated shall have the right to take part in the discussions of the Board relevant to the purposes for which he has been associated but shall not have the right to vote.
- (8) Without prejudice to sub-section (7)the Chairperson of the Board shall, for not less than two of the meetings of the Board in a year, invite such Ministers of the State Governments having administrative control of the departments of small scale industries or, as the case may be, the micro, small and medium enterprises, or the Administrators of Union territories and representatives of such other associations of micro, small and medium enterprises, as he may deem necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (9) It is hereby declared that the office of member of the Board shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as, or for being, a member of either House of Parliament.

4. Removal of member from Board.—

- (1) The Central Government may remove a member of the Board from it, if he—
- (a) is, or at any time has been, adjudged as insolvent; or
- (b) is, or becomes, of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or
- (c) refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting as a member of the Board; or
- (d) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or
- (e) has so abused, in the opinion of the Central Government, his position as a member of the Board as to render his continuance in the Board detrimental to the interests of the general public.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no member shall be removed from his office on the grounds specified in clauses (c) to (e) of that sub-section unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

- **5. Functions of Board.**—The Board shall, subject to the general directions of the Central Government, perform all or any of the following functions, namely:—
- (a) examine the factors affecting the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and review the policies and programmes of the Central Government in regard to facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of such enterprises and the impact thereof on such enterprises;
- (b) make recommendations on matters referred to in clause (a) or on any other matter referred to it by the Central Government which, in the opinion of that Government, is necessary or expedient for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of the micro, small and medium enterprises; and
- (c) advise the Central Government on the use of the Fund or Funds constituted under section 12.
- **6. Powers and functions of Member-Secretary of Board.**—Subject to other provisions of this Act, the Member-Secretary of the Board shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III CLASSIFICATION OF ENTERPRISES, ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND MEMORANDUM OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

7. Classification of enterprises.—

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 11B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951), the Central Government may, for the purposes of this Act, by notification and having regard to the provisions of sub-sections (4) and (5), classify any class or classes of enterprises, whether proprietorship, Hindu undivided family, association of persons, co-operative society, partnership firm, company or undertaking, by whatever name called,—
- (a) in the case of the enterprises engaged in the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951),as—

- (i) a micro enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery does not exceed twenty five lakh rupees;
- (ii) a small enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery is more than twenty-five lakh rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees; or
- (iii) a medium enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery is more than five crore rupees but does not exceed ten crore rupees;
- (b) in the case of the enterprises engaged in providing or rendering of services, as—
- (i) a micro enterprise, where the investment in equipment does not exceed ten lakh rupees;
- (ii) a small enterprise, where the investment in equipment is more than ten lakh rupees but does not exceed two crore rupees; or
- (iii) a medium enterprise, where the investment in equipment is more than two crore rupees but does not exceed five crore rupees.

Explanation 1.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that in calculating the investment in plant and machinery, the cost of pollution control, research and development, industrial safety devices and such other items as may be specified, by notification, shall be excluded.

CLASSIFICATION OF AN ENTERPRISE

An Enterprise has been classified in to the 3 categories (Sec 7):

- > Micro
- > Small
- > Medium

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, In accordance with the provision of (MSMED) Act, 2006 were classified in two Classes based on the investment:

Manufacturing Enterprises:-

Service Enterprises:-

Existing MSME Classification						
Criteria: Investment in Plant Machinery or Equipment						
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium			
Mfg. Enterprises	Investment< Rs. 25 Lacs	Investment< Rs. 5 Cr.	Investment< Rs. 10 Cr.			
Services Enterprises	Investment< Rs. 10 Lacs	Investment< Rs. 2 Cr.	Investment< Rs. 5 Cr.			

Ministry of MSMEs has amended the classification criteria and threshold limit.

Revised definition provides twin criteria and no such distinction between manufacturing and service enterprises (13th May 2020):

Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment

Turnover

Existing MSME Classification						
Criteria: Investment in Plant Machinery or Equipment						
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium			
Mfg. Enterprises	Investment< Rs. 25 Lacs	Investment< Rs. 5 Cr.	Investment< Rs. 10 Cr.			
Services Enterprises	Investment< Rs. 10 Lacs	Investment< Rs. 2 Cr.	Investment< Rs. 5 Cr.			

Further the limit of investment and turnover for Medium category has been enhanced vide notification date 26th Jun 2020.

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment< Rs. 1 Cr. And	Investment< Rs. 10 Cr. And	Investment< Rs. 50 Cr. And
	Turnover < 5 Cr.	Turnover < 50 Cr.	Turnover < 250 Cr.

- In case of Upward change, enterprise will maintain its prevailing status till expiry of one year from the close of the Financial year of registration.
- In case of Reverse-Graduation, Enterprise will continue in its present category till the closure of the financial year.
- ➤ Benefit of the changed status only w.e.f 1st April of the F.Y. following the year in which such change took place.

COMPOSITE CRITERIA OF INVESTMENT & TURNOVER FOR CLASSIFICATION

- A composite criterion of investment and turnover shall apply for classification of an enterprise as micro, small or medium.
- 2) If an enterprise crosses the ceiling limits specified for its present category in either of the two criteria of investment or turnover, it will cease to exist in that category and be placed in the next higher category but no enterprise shall be placed in the lower category unless it goes below the ceiling limits specified for its present category in both the criteria of investment as well as turnover.
- 3) All units with Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN) listed against the same Permanent Account Number (PAN) shall be collectively treated as one enterprise and the turnover and investment figures for all of such entities shall be seen together and only the aggregate values will be considered for deciding the category as micro, small or medium enterprise.

CALCULATION OF INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT

- 1) The calculation of investment in plant and machinery or equipment will be linked to the Income Tax Return (ITR) of the previous years filed under the Income Tax Act.
- 2) In case of a new enterprise, where no prior ITR is available, the investment will be based on self-declaration of the promoter of the enterprise and such relaxation shall end after the 31st March of the financial year in which it files its first ITR. The expression "plant and machinery or equipment" of the enterprise, shall have the same meaning as assigned to the plant and machinery in the Income Tax Rules, 1962 and shall include all tangible assets (other than land and building, furniture and fittings).
- 3) The purchase (invoice) value of a plant and machinery or equipment, whether purchased first hand or second hand, shall be taken into account excluding Goods and Services Tax (GST), on self-disclosure basis, if the enterprise is a new one without any ITR.

CALCULATION OF INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT

- 5) The Depreciated value (WDV) of a plant and machinery or equipment, Will be considered for the existing /Running units having ITR and Balance sheet.
- 6) The cost of certain items specified in the Explanation I to sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Act shall be excluded from the calculation of the amount of investment in plant and machinery

Explanation I to sub-section (1) of section 7:

Explanation 1.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that in calculating the investment in plant and machinery,

- Cost of pollution control,
- Research and development,
- Industrial safety devices and
- Such other items as may be specified, by notification, shall be excluded.

CALCULATION OF TURNOVER

- 1) Exports of goods or services or both, shall be excluded while calculating the turnover of any enterprise whether micro, small or medium, for the purposes of classification.
- 2) Information as regards turnover and exports turnover for an enterprise shall be linked to the Income Tax Act or the Central Goods and Services Act (CGST Act) and the GSTIN. The turnover related figures of such enterprise which do not have PAN will be considered on self-declaration basis for a period up to 31st March, 2021 and thereafter, PAN and GSTIN shall be mandatory.

- (2) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute an Advisory Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—
- (a) the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the small and medium enterprises who shall be the Chairperson, ex officio;
- (b) not more than five officers of the Central Government possessing necessary expertise in matters relating to micro, small and medium enterprises, members, ex officio;
- (c) not more than three representatives of the State Governments, members, ex officio; and
- (d) one representative each of the associations of micro, small and medium enterprises, members, ex officio.
- (3) The Member-Secretary of the Board shall also be the ex officio Member-Secretary of the Advisory Committee.
- (4) The Central Government shall, prior to classifying any class or classes of enterprises under sub-section (1), obtain the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. .

- (5) The Advisory Committee shall examine the matters referred to it by the Board in connection with any subject referred to in section 5 and furnish its recommendations to the Board.
- (6) The Central Government may seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on any of the matters specified in section 9, 10, 11, 12 or 14 of Chapter IV.
- (7) The State Government may seek advice of the Advisory Committee on any of the matters specified in the rules made under section 30.
- (8) The Advisory Committee shall, after considering the following matters, communicate its recommendations or advice to the Central Government or, as the case may be, State Government or the Board, namely:—
- (a) the level of employment in a class or classes of enterprises;
- (b) the level of investments in plant and machinery or equipment in a class or classes of enterprises;
- (c) the need of higher investment in plant and machinery or equipment for technological upgradation, employment generation and enhanced competitiveness of the class or classes of enterprises;

- (d) the possibility of promoting and diffusing entrepreneurship in micro, small or medium enterprises; and
- (e) the international standards for classification of small and medium enterprises.
- (9) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 11B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951) and clause (h) of section 2 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 (61 of 1956), the Central Government may, while classifying any class or classes of enterprises under sub-section (1), vary, from time to time, the criterion of investment and also consider criteria or standards in respect of employment or turnover of the enterprises and include in such classification the micro or tiny enterprises or the village enterprises, as part of small enterprises.

8. Memorandum of micro, small and medium enterprises.—(1) Any person who intends to establish,—

- (a) a micro or small enterprise, may, at his discretion; or
- (b) a medium enterprise engaged in providing or rendering of services may, at his discretion; or

(c) a medium enterprise engaged in the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951), shall file the memorandum of micro, small or, as the case may be, of medium enterprise with such authority as may be specified by the State Government under sub-section (4) or the Central Government under sub-section (3):

Provided that any person who, before the commencement of this Act, established—

- (a) a small scale industry and obtained a registration certificate, may, at his discretion; and
- (b) an industry engaged in the manufacture or production of goods pertaining to any industry specified in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of 1951), having investment in plant and machinery of more than one crore rupees but not exceeding ten crore rupees and, in pursuance of the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development) number S.O. 477(E), dated the 25th July, 1991 filed an Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum, shall within one hundred and eighty days from the commencement of this Act, file the memorandum, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

- (2) The form of the memorandum, the procedure of its filing and other matters incidental thereto shall be such as may be notified by the Central Government after obtaining the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in this behalf.
- (3) The authority with which the memorandum shall be filed by a medium enterprise shall be such as may be specified, by notification, by the Central Government.
- (4) The State Government shall, by notification, specify the authority with which a micro or small enterprise may file the memorandum.
- (5) The authorities specified under sub-sections (3) and (4) shall follow, for the purposes of this section, the procedure notified by the Central Government under sub-section (2).

CHAPTER IV MEASURES FOR PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

9.Measures for promotion and development.—The Central Government may, from time to time, for the purposes of facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises, particularly of the micro and small enterprises, by way of development of skill in the employees, management and entrepreneurs, provisioning for technological upgradation, marketing assistance or infrastructure facilities and cluster development of such enterprises with a view to strengthening backward and forward linkages, specify, by notification, such programmes, guidelines or instructions, as it may deem fit.

- 10. Credit facilities.—The policies and practices in respect of credit to the micro, small and medium enterprises shall be progressive and such as may be specified in the guidelines or instructions issued by the Reserve Bank, from time to time, to ensure timely and smooth flow of credit to such enterprises, minimise the incidence of sickness among and enhance the competitiveness of such enterprises.
- 11. Procurement preference policy.—For facilitating promotion and development of micro and small enterprises, the Central Government or the State Government may, by order notify from time to time, preference policies in respect of procurement of goods and services, produced and provided by micro and small enterprises, by its Ministries or departments, as the case may be, or its aided institutions and public sector enterprises.
- **12. Funds.**—There shall be constituted, by notification, one or more Funds to be called by such name as may be specified in the notification and there shall be credited thereto any grants made by the Central Government under section 13.
- **13. Grants by Central Government.**—The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, credit to the Fund or Funds by way of grants for the purposes of this Act, such sums of money as that Government may consider necessary to provide.

14. Administration and utilisation of Fund or Funds. —

- (1) The Central Government shall have the power to administer the Fund or Funds in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (2) The Fund or Funds shall be utilised exclusively for the measures specified in subsection (1) of section 9.
- (3) The Central Government shall be responsible for the coordination and ensuring timely utilisation and release of sums in accordance with such criteria as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER V DELAYED PAYMENTS TO MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES

15.Liability of buyer to make payment.—Where any supplier supplies any goods or renders any services to any buyer, the buyer shall make payment therefor on or before the date agreed upon between him and the supplier in writing or, where there is no agreement in this behalf, before the appointed day: Provided that in no case the period agreed upon between the supplier and the buyer in writing shall exceed forty-five days from the day of acceptance or the day of deemed acceptance.

16.Date from which and rate at which interest is payable.—Where any buyer fails to make payment of the amount to the supplier, as required under section 15, the buyer shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any agreement between the buyer and the supplier or in any law for the time being in force, be liable to pay compound interest with monthly rests to the supplier on that amount from the appointed day or, as the case may be, from the date immediately following the date agreed upon, at three times of the bank rate notified by the Reserve Bank.

Delayed payments to micro and small enterprises

Liability of buyer to make payment (SECTION 15): Where any supplier supplies any goods or renders any services to any buyer, the buyer shall make payment therefor on or before the date agreed upon between him and the supplier in writing or, where there is no agreement in this behalf, before the appointed day:

Provided that in no case the period agreed upon between the supplier and the buyer in writing shall exceed forty-five days from the day of acceptance or the day of deemed acceptance.

Date from which and rate at which interest is payable (SECTION 16): Where any buyer fails to make payment of the amount to the supplier, as required under section 15, the buyer shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any agreement between the buyer and the supplier or in any law for the time being in force, be liable to pay compound interest with monthly rests to the supplier on that amount from the appointed day or, as the case may be, from the date immediately following the date agreed upon, at three times of the bank rate notified by the Reserve Bank.

- **17. Recovery of amount due.**—For any goods supplied or services rendered by the supplier, the buyer shall be liable to pay the amount with interest thereon as provided under section 16.
- **18.Reference to Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, any party to a dispute may, with regard to any amount due under section 17, make a reference to the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.
- (2) On receipt of a reference under sub-section (1), the Council shall either itself conduct conciliation in the matter or seek the assistance of any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services by making a reference to such an institution or centre, for conducting conciliation and the provisions of sections 65 to 81 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (26 of 1996) shall apply to such a dispute as if the conciliation was initiated under Part III of that Act.

Recovery of amount due (SECTION 17): For any goods supplied or services rendered by the supplier, the buyer shall be liable to pay the amount with interest thereon as provided under section 16.

Reference to Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (SECTION 18):

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, any party to a dispute may, with regard to any amount due under section 17, make a reference to the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.
- (2) On receipt of a reference under sub-section (1), the Council shall either itself conduct conciliation in the matter or seek the assistance of any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services by making a reference to such an institution or centre, for conducting conciliation and the provisions of sections 65 to 81 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (26 of 1996) shall apply to such a dispute as if the conciliation was initiated under Part III of that Act.

- (3) Where the conciliation initiated under sub-section (2) is not successful and stands terminated without any settlement between the parties, the Council shall either itself take up the dispute for arbitration or refer it to any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services for such arbitration and the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (26 of 1996) shall then apply to the dispute as if the arbitration was in pursuance of an arbitration agreement referred to in sub-section(1) of section 7 of that Act.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council or the centre providing alternate dispute resolution services shall have jurisdiction to act as an Arbitrator or Conciliator under this section in a dispute between the supplier located within its jurisdiction and a buyer located anywhere in India.
- (5) Every reference made under this section shall be decided within a period of ninety days from the date of making such a reference.

19.Application for setting aside decree, award or order.—No application for setting aside any decree, award or other order made either by the Council itself or by any institution or centre providing alternate dispute resolution services to which a reference is made by the Council, shall be entertained by any court unless the appellant (not being a supplier) has deposited with it seventy-five per cent. of the amount in terms of the decree, award or, as the case may be, the other order in the manner directed by such court:

Provided that pending disposal of the application to set aside the decree, award or order, the court shall order that such percentage of the amount deposited shall be paid to the supplier, as it considers reasonable under the circumstances of the case, subject to such conditions as it deems necessary to impose.

20.Establishment of Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.—The State Government shall, by notification, establish one or more Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils, at such places, exercising such jurisdiction and for such areas, as may be specified in the notification.

- **21. Composition of Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.**—(1) The Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council shall consist of not less than three but not more than five members to be appointed from amongst the following categories, namely:—
- (i) Director of Industries, by whatever name called, or any other officer not below the rank of such Director, in the Department of the State Government having administrative control of the small scale industries or, as the case may be, micro, small and medium enterprises; and
- (ii) one or more office-bearers or representatives of associations of micro or small industry or enterprises in the State; and
- (iii) one or more representatives of banks and financial institutions lending to micro or small enterprises; or
- (iv) one or more persons having special knowledge in the field of industry, finance, law, trade or commerce.
- (2) The person appointed under clause (i) of sub-section (1) shall be the Chairperson of the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.

- (3) The composition of the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, the manner of filling vacancies of its members and the procedure to be followed in the discharge of their functions by the members shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government.
- **22.Requirement to specify unpaid amount with interest in the annual statement of accounts.** Where any buyer is required to get his annual accounts audited under any law for the time being in force, such buyer shall furnish the following additional information in his annual statement of accounts, namely:—
- (i) the principal amount and the interest due thereon (to be shown separately) remaining unpaid to any supplier as at the end of each accounting year;
- (ii) the amount of interest paid by the buyer in terms of section 16, along with the amount of the payment made to the supplier beyond the appointed day during each accounting year;
- (iii) the amount of interest due and payable for the period of delay in making payment (which have been paid but beyond the appointed day during the year) but without adding the interest specified under this Act;
- (iv) the amount of interest accrued and remaining unpaid at the end of each accounting year; and

- (v) the amount of further interest remaining due and payable even in the succeeding years, until such date when the interest dues as above are actually paid to the small enterprise, for the purpose of disallowance as a deductible expenditure under section 23.
- **23.Interest not to be allowed as deduction from income.**—Notwithstanding anything contained in the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), the amount of interest payable or paid by any buyer, under or in accordance with the provisions of this Act, shall not, for the purposes of computation of income under the Income-tax Act, 1961, be allowed as deduction.
- **24.Overriding effect.**—The provisions of sections 15 to 23 shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.
- 25.Scheme for closure of business of micro, small and medium enterprises.—
 Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, the Central Government may, with a view to facilitating closure of business by a micro, small or medium enterprise, not being a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), notify a Scheme within one year from the date of commencement of this Act.

CHAPTER VI MISCELLANEOUS

26. Appointment of officers and other employees. —

- (1) The Central Government or the State Government may appoint such officers with such designations and such other employees as it thinks fit for the purposes of this Act and may entrust to them such of the powers and functions under this Act as it may deem fit.
- (2) The Officers appointed under sub-section (1) may, for the purposes of this Act, by order require any person to furnish such information, in such form, as may be prescribed.
- **27.Penalty for contravention of section 8 or section 22 or section 26.**—(1) Whoever intentionally contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of any of the provisions contained in sub-section (1) of section 8 or sub-section (2) of section 26 shall be punishable—

- (a) in the case of the first conviction, with fine which may extend to rupees one thousand; and
- (b) in the case of second or subsequent conviction, with fine which shall not be less than rupees one thousand but may extend to rupees ten thousand.
- (2) Where a buyer contravenes the provisions of section 22, he shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than rupees ten thousand.
- **28.Jurisdiction of courts.**—No court inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

29. Power to make rules.—

- (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the term of office of the members of the Board, the manner of filling vacancies, and the procedure to be followed in the discharge of functions by the members of the Board under sub-section (4) of section 3;
- (b) the powers and functions of the Member-Secretary under section 6;
- (c) the manner in which the Fund may be administered under sub-section (1) of section 14;
- (d) the criteria based on which sums may be released under sub-section (3) of section 14;
- (e) the information to be furnished and the form in which it is to be furnished under subsection (2) of section 26; and
- (f) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed under this Act.
- (3) Every notification issued under section 9 and every rule made by the Central Government under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session

or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the notification or rule or both Houses agree that the notification or rule should not be made, the notification or rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that notification or rule.

30. Power to make rules by State Government. —

- (1) The State Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
- (a) the composition of the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, the manner of filling vacancies of the members and the procedure to be followed in the discharge of their functions by the members of the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council under sub-section (3) of section 21;
- (b) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed under this Act.

- (3) The rule made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of the State Legislature where there are two Houses, and where there is one House of the State Legislature, before that House.
- **31. Power to remove difficulties.**—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act.

- (2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.
- **32.Repeal of Act 32 of 1993.**—(1) The Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993is hereby repealed.
- (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Act so repealed under sub-section (1), shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.



Thank You

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