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10th March, 2021

Subject: Regarding MoU between QCI and NCPCR on conducting fact-finding cum audit exercises for protection of child rights and Ease of Doing Business.

Dear Sir,

Quality Council of India (QCI) is an autonomous non-profit society established under the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, determined towards upholding standards of quality in all spheres of activities.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body of Government of India established in 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 with the mandate to protect and ensure the rights of children in the country.

QCI and NCPCR have inked an MoU on 28th January, 2021 that seeks to provide for an audit system that would not only ensure the rights of the child but also help Indian industry meets the global compliance standards for sustainable growth of businesses.

This communication is intended to inform your office to kindly let us know of any requirements related to Child Rights under your jurisdiction and/or any projects funded by your office to my colleague Ms. Reeti Mahobe at social_compliance@qcin.org.

A brief gist of the MoU is attached for your kind information.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Manish Pande)
Director & Head, PAD Division

Enclosed: a/a

Brief Summary of MoU between QCI and NCPCR



MoU between Quality Council of India and NCPCR on “Conducting child labour audits/fact findings in different sectors and industries as per International Standards and Audit System” - An Introduction

Quality Council of India (QCI),-an accreditation body of India which was established under the decision of Cabinet Committee as a non-profit autonomous society registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 to establish an accreditation structure in the country and to spread quality movement in India and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)-a statutory autonomous body constituted under the provisions of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 for the protection of child rights and other related matters have agreed to work with the aim of “**Conducting child labour audits/fact findings in different sectors and industries**”

While global supply chains have the potential to generate growth, employment, skill development and technological transfer, they have also been linked to human rights violations including child labour. It is an established fact that involvement of children in the supply chains, marketing chains, disposal chains, and servicing processes caused their exploitation. In this era of globalization, wherein, Indian market is also integrated with global market there was a need of an international standard audit system in the areas of supply chain, disposal chain, marketing chain, service chain for the reason that if all the processes are audited, children are safe and their rights are ensured.

There are various authorities in international sphere as well as individual countries having their own mechanism and system of auditing including third party auditing for various compliances including labour laws and child labour. In this background, especially in the era of globalisation, wherein, Indian market is also integrated with global market there is a need of an international standard audit system for the reason that if the processes are audited, children are safe and their rights are ensured. Accordingly, it is envisaged to establish a mechanism which should be well structured and sustainable as well as to meet the international standards. This is also an initiative towards achieving the Target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which calls on governments around the world to end child labour by 2025.

The areas of co-operation:

- ❖ NCPCR being the Statutory Body in ensuring the rights of the child, whenever receives any complaint pertaining to a particular industry/ies or sector/s having child labour and/or receive any complaint from an industry body/sector regarding any report pointing out that the industry or sector is having the issue of child labour; in that case NCPCR would seek help of the QCI.
- ❖ In case of an industry suo-motu wants to get the audit done, or Government of India or any foreign body wants to get an audit done; NCPCR would extend its support for the audit by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ❖ In any case the NCPCR would if necessary extend its support in preparing tools as per required international standards, administer the audit, monitor the processes of audit or any other matter as desired by the QCI.

This joint initiative of NCPCR with QCI is an initiative with the objective towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat. This is for the first time to develop an international standard audit system in the areas of supply chain, disposal chain, marketing chain, service chain for the reason that if all the processes are audited, children are safe and their rights are ensured. This would also be an opportunity in designing an internationally accepted evaluation framework keeping in view both the technical and social aspects from a child right's perspective.

This joint initiative is another milestone in the direction of ease of doing business as well as Indian industry meets the global compliance standards for being competitive in global markets. Thus, the MoU marks the beginning of firm commitment in protection of child rights in industry sector and consolidation of Indian industry in the global trade through a third party assessment system implemented by QCI.