

Apprentice Act Amendments – COSIA Success.

It was demanded by COSIA in the year 2010-11 to frame a separate Apprentice Act for the MSMEs and a draft was also submitted to the Govt. of India to that effect. The same subject was also raised in the meetings of National Board for MSMEs. It was accepted by the Govt. that appropriate amendments to suit the prevailing situation are essential so that MSMEs can take the advantage of Apprentice Act. Suggestions were invited on this subject by the Ministry of MSME and Ministry of Labour.

Apart from many other suggestions one important suggestion of COSIA was with regard to the penalty provisions in the Act. For any violation of the provisions of Apprentice Act 1961 imprisonment upto 6 months is being provided. It was strongly objected by COSIA.

I am delighted to inform you that the Apprentice Amendment Bill 2014 which was introduced in Lok Sabha and thereafter passed on 14th August 2014 provides for only fine and not imprisonment. This Bill is now also passed by Rajya Sabha on 26th Nov. 2014.

Friends, this is a first time that we could prevail upon the policy makers and Govt. to delete the provision of imprisonment for the entrepreneurs. It is because of COSIA's constant follow up and efforts and your support to it, we could achieve the desired results.

For details of the Bill passed in Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha visit the website of both these houses.

Thanks & regards,

Dilip Salvekar,

Secretary General

27th Nov. 2014

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To,

All MSME Associations in India,

All Members of COSIA,