



## LOTUS CHOCOLATE COMPANY LIMITED

CIN:L15200TG1988PLC009111

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### **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY (CSR POLICY)**

#### **1. Title and applicability**

- The document describes the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy ("CSR policy") of Lotus Chocolate Company Limited, ("LCCL" or "the company"). It includes LCCL's vision, mission and other relevant attributes of Corporate Social Responsibility.
- The CSR policy shall be guided by LCCL's corporate philosophy of respect for the individual and the society at large.
- The CSR policy has been formulated in accordance with Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 and the CSR Rules 2014 and the relevant amendments / notifications / circulars.
- The CSR policy shall apply to all CSR programs of LCCL.

#### **Background**

It is recognized that integrating social, environmental and ethical responsibilities into the governance of businesses ensures the long term success, competitiveness and sustainability.

Further, CSR makes a business sense as companies with effective CSR, have image of socially responsible companies, achieve sustainable growth in their operations in the long run and their products and services are preferred by the customers.

#### **Objective**

The main objective of CSR policy is to make CSR a key business process for sustainable development of the society. Lotus Chocolate Company Limited *will act as a good corporate citizen* and aims at supplementing the role of Government in enhancing the welfare measures of the society within the framework of its policy.

#### **Measures**

In the aforesaid backdrop, policy on CSR of Lotus Chocolate Company Limited is broadly framed taking into account the following measures:

The CSR activities shall be undertaken by Lotus Chocolate Company Limited, as stated in this Policy, as projects or programs or activities (either new or ongoing), excluding activities undertaken in pursuance of its normal course of business.

The CSR activities which are exclusively for the benefit of Lotus Chocolate Company Limited employees or their family members shall not be considered as CSR activity.

Lotus Chocolate Company Limited shall give preference to the local area or areas around it where it operates, for spending the amount earmarked for CSR activities.

The Board of Lotus Chocolate Company Limited may decide to undertake its CSR activities pursuant to Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made there-under.

The following is the list of CSR projects or programs which Lotus Chocolate Company Limited plans to undertake pursuant to Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013:

1. eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting preventive health care and sanitation and making available safe drinking water;
2. promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly, and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects;
3. promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans; setting up old age homes, day care centres and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups;
4. ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water;
5. protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts;
6. measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents;
7. training to promote rural sports, nationally recognised sports, paralympic sports and Olympic sports;
8. Contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development and relief and welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women;
9. Contributions or funds provided to technology incubators located within academic institutions which are approved by the Central Government.
10. rural development projects;
11. Slum area development.
12. Any other measures with the approval of Board of Directors on the recommendation of CSR Committee subject to the provisions of Section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 and rules made there- under.

#### **Organizational mechanism and responsibilities**

##### **Constitution of Corporate Social Responsibility Committee**

The Board of Directors of the Company shall constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board ("CSR Committee") consisting of three or more directors out of which at least one director shall be an independent director.

The CSR Committee shall –

1. Formulate and recommend to the Board, a CSR policy and activities to be undertaken by the company as per Schedule VII;
2. Recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the activities; and
3. Monitor the Policy of the company from time to time.

The Board of the company shall after taking into account the recommendations made by the CSR Committee, approve the policy for the company and disclose contents of such Policy in its report and also place it on the company's website and ensure that the activities as are included in the CSR Policy of the company are undertaken by the company.

**Activities, setting measurable targets with timeframes and performance management:**

Prior to the commencement of CSR activities/projects, we carry out a baseline study of the nearby area/villages of the Company's factory location (i.e. Doultabad, Nastipur Village, Hathnoora Mandal, Sangareddy District, Telangana- 502296).

The study encompasses various parameters such as – health indicators, literacy levels, sustainable livelihood processes, and population data – below the poverty line and above the poverty line, state of infrastructure, among others.

From the data generated, a 1-year plan and a 5-year rolling plan are developed for the holistic and integrated development of the affected people.

All activities/projects of CSR are assessed under the agreed strategy, and are monitored every quarter/year, measured against targets and budgets. Wherever necessary, midcourse corrections are made.

**Partnerships**

Collaborative partnerships are formed with the Government, the District Authorities, the village panchayats, NGOs and other like-minded stakeholders. This helps widen the Company's reach and leverage upon the collective expertise, wisdom and experience that these partnerships bring to the table.

**Budgets**

A specific budget is allocated for CSR activities and spending on CSR activities shall not be less than 2% of the average net profits of the Company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of this policy.

In case Company fails to spend such amount, the Board shall specify the reasons for not spending the amount.

Approving authority for the CSR amount to be spent would be any one Director after due recommendation of CSR Committee and approval of the Board of Directors of the Company.

The CSR Policy mandates that the surplus arising out of the CSR projects or programs or activities shall not form part of the business profit of a company.

The CSR projects or programs or activities undertaken in India only shall amount to CSR expenditure.

CSR expenditure shall include all expenditure including contribution to corpus, for projects or programs relating to CSR activities approved by the Board on the recommendation of the CSR Committee, but does not include any expenditure on any item not in conformity or not in line with activities which fall within the purview of Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013.

Tax treatment of CSR spent will be in accordance with the Income Tax Act as may be notified by CBDT.

**Information dissemination**

The Company's engagement in this domain is disseminated on its website, annual reports and its house journals as and when deem fit.

**Management Commitment**

Our Board of Directors, our Management and all of our employees subscribe to the philosophy of compassionate care. We believe and act on an ethos of generosity and compassion, characterised by a willingness to build a society that works for everyone. This is the cornerstone of our CSR policy.

**Update**

CSR Committee of Board of Lotus Chocolate Company Limited will review the policy from time to time based on the changing needs and aspirations of the target beneficiaries and make suitable modifications as may be necessary.

**Compliance with Companies Act, 2013**

Our Corporate Social Responsibility policy conforms to the Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 on Corporate Social Responsibility as spelt out by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

**Effective Date**

The CSR Policy shall be effective from the date of its approval by the Board of Directors.

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This CSR policy was approved by the board of directors, on this 31st day of January 2023 at the Registered Office of the company.

