

DATE: 17 JULY 2021

EXPERTS DISCUSS BENEFITS FOR TRADERS UNDER REVISED MSME DEFINITION

On 2nd July, 2021, the Ministry of MSME, Government of India issued a circular accepting the long-standing demand of including retail and wholesale traders under the MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) classification. This policy move makes retail and wholesale traders eligible for benefits as conferred under the priority sector lending by banks and financial institutions as per the guidelines set out by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). With the objective of feeling the pulse of the Retail and Trading community on this momentous change, World Trade Center Goa organized a virtual panel session titled 'TRADEwins' which was moderated by Mr. Vikant Sahay, Senior Journalist based in Goa. The panel consisted of eminent personalities drawn from banking & finance, retail and automobile sectors. Mr. Bhuvanish Sheth, Director, Mall De Goa, expressed that the Ministry of MSME, Government of India has taken an appropriate step by once again bringing sectors such as retail, trading etc. under the ambit of the MSME classification. He revealed that small retailers and traders will now be eligible for more benefits, especially under the Priority Sector Lending norms of the RBI and they will now be able to expand their business, create more jobs, make more products available for consumption and thus make a positive impact on the economic development of the country. Mr. Evencio Quadros, CEO & Promoter, Quadros Autotech Ltd. supported this move of the government. He expressed that this move would give a major boost to the automobile sector since it was looking forward to such kind of reclassification for a long time. Mr. Quadros further opined that the auto sector was one of the barometers through which the robustness of the economy could be measured and this step would surely help both, the automobile service sector as well as the Indian economy. Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Chief Manager, State Bank of India, Commercial Branch, Panaji pointed out that now banks can offer priority sector lending to more MSMEs who will stand to gain tremendously from this move. He was also of the view that if required and authorised by the Government of India, a help desk for the new entrants into the MSME fold could be set up. The lower rate of interest and faster processing of loans were some of the benefits that the trader and retail sector could benefit from under the priority sector lending norm of RBI. Earlier in his introductory remarks, Mr Cyril Desouza, World Trade ON TRADE Center Goa expressed hoped to see more benefits being given to the wholesale and retail sector on their re-entry into the classification as MSMEs. Mr. Desouza also apprised the participants of the forthcoming programmes of WTC Goa scheduled for the Month of August 2021. The panel discussion ended with a lively question and answer session between the speakers and the participants.

The virtual panel discussion was held on July 17, 2021