

Survey of CEOs: 'Curbs better than lockdown'

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NEW DELHI: Three-fourth of 710 chief executive officers (CEOs) expressed that partial lockdown measures would adversely impact the movement of goods and labourers, which would significantly affect industrial output, a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) CEOs poll said on Sunday.

Stringent implementation of health and safety norms is better than partial lockdowns on any industrial operations, CII said, quoting the survey. The poll covered CEOs from both manufacturing and services sectors. About 68% of the respondents belonged to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

While 96% of the CEOs said the industry is well-prepared for the implementation of stricter health and safety protocols, 93% of them preferred "stringent implementation of safety norms" over partial lockdowns.

About 60% of the CEOs polled said their production could be affected if there are restrictions on movement of labourers dur-

ing partial lockdowns and majority of them feared up to 50% production loss if restrictions are imposed on the ecosystem that supports movement of goods, CII said.

More than 60% of the CEOs suggested that the government should allow the movement of workers in all shifts during night curfews and also free movement of goods along with the required personnel to facilitate the movement of goods. "This should be allowed with all workers and industry staff strictly following all health and safety protocols," the CII statement said, quoting the survey.

Looking at ways to mitigate the impact of the restrictions, 67% of CEOs expressed their desire to work with the government for mass vaccination of eligible workforce who are 45 years and above. "Protecting livelihoods along with lives is essential and industry is keen to work with government on universal coverage (18 years and above) of vaccination programme and in implementing strict health and safety protocols," said CII president-designate TV Narendran.