

# Expanding working capital loans across the board will help companies address challenges

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labour intensive sectors such as manufacturing and construction be given priority if they fall within the government's identified green zones to enable the workforce to get back to. It is critical that wherever enterprises open, they follow the correct guidelines for sanitation and hygiene, social distancing and other safety precautions with strong penalties in case of lapse.

## What are the supply-chain constraints the manufacturing industry will face after the lockdown?

The manufacturing industry restart will depend critically on two things. The first is

the return of workers to the workplace. We need to reassure workers that their safety and health will be of paramount concern through a strong messaging exercise. Next, we must ensure safe travel means. We have suggested that a QR code can be used by local authorities to permit workers to travel to their workplaces

according to industry requirements. With adequate sanitation, thermal checking, social distancing, and hygiene norms being followed, special buses and trains could be arranged

connecting worker hubs with manufacturing hubs.

The second is the smooth movement of goods across the supply chain. When we decide

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on which sectors to open up, we need to look at their inputs and raw materials to reach the concerned facilities according to normal procedures. At present, the number of truck

drivers has reduced drastically and trucks are facing hurdles in crossing state and district borders. Seamless movement should be permitted and all facilities along highways and

major roads, including repair shops and dhabas, must also open alongside.

## What is the industry's ask from the government in terms of easing the pain?

The government has proactively been consulting with the industry on a continuous basis on the modalities of exit, and this process will lead to an orderly exit. However, we are in a situation where we can expect a protracted recovery period. The government should consider conserving its firepower to last it over a length of time, even while providing succour to the most needy sections of society, including MSMEs, the self-employed and those at the bottom of the income strata.