

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2451
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

Under utilisation of Environment Relief Fund

2451. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) amount of money ordered to be collected by the National Green Tribunal till date;
- (b) amount of money collected by CPCB through penalties;
- (c) amount of money which is part of the Environment Relief Fund, year-wise since 2019;
- (d) amount of money unspent in the Environment Relief Fund, year-wise since 2019; and
- (e) amount of money dispersed as compensation to victims of environmental disasters since 2019, year-wise and State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (e) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 (A) of the Public Liability Insurance (PLI) Act, 1991, the Central Government has established the Environmental Relief Fund (ERF), 2008. The United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL) is the Fund Manager of the ERF Scheme. As per the information provided by the fund manager, total amount of funds in ERF as of 31.03.2023 is Rs. 1062 crores (rounded off). The ERF was established to provide immediate relief to the persons affected by accidents occurring while handling any hazardous substance and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The amount of compensation to be awarded has also been notified as part of the schedule to the PLI Act. Application for such claims are presented before the respective Collector. The Collector thereafter by an order directs the Fund Manager to deposit an amount from the said Fund to the account of the Collector, who in turn, disburse the same to the Claimant. Further, the Hon'ble NGT has not issued any specific directions for awarding compensation out of ERF. No amount has been disbursed as compensation from Environmental Relief Fund (ERF) since, 2019.
