

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1840  
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025/ 14 SRAVANA , 1947 (SAKA)**

**RISE IN INVESTMENT-RELATED FRAUDS**

**1840: DR. V. SIVADASAN:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of investment-related fraud cases reported in the country in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the estimated amount of money lost by investors in such scams during the period;
- (c) whether Government has identified any patterns or platforms being commonly misused (such as online apps, MLMs, or crypto scams) ; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government and regulatory agencies to prevent, detect, and act against such frauds, including awareness campaigns?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)**

Ans (a) and (b): Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken up 76 cases during the period from April 2020 to March 2025. The year-wise disgorgement amounts relating to these cases are as below:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount of Disgorgement levied (INR Crores)</b>
1.	FY 2020-2021	108.99
2.	FY 2021-2022	359.96
3.	FY 2022-2023	184.78
4.	FY 2023- 2024	115.22
5.	FY 2024- 2025	180. 48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>949.43</b>

Ans ( c ) and (d): Fraud and cheating are punishable offences as per Indian laws. Several Central Government, enforcement, and regulatory agencies have been taking action to prevent, detect, and act against investment related frauds. In the last 5 years, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has identified 9 cases, primarily relating to multi-level marketing (MLM) scams. During the period from 01.01.2020 to 30.07.2025, the Directorate of Enforcement has taken up around 220 cases for investigation of the offence of money-laundering under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), related to investment related frauds.

Crypto assets are currently not regulated in India. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-SACHET portal receives complaints pertaining to unauthorized deposit taking activities from

unregistered/unincorporated entities. Between April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2025, approximately 3,454 complaints have been received on the SACHET Portal pertaining to ‘non-repayment of money collected from various kinds of investment schemes’, and 1,531 complaints have been received pertaining to ‘collection of money through MLM, direct selling, and ponzi schemes, based on complaint categories selected by complainants.

Multiple initiatives and investor awareness campaigns are being undertaken to prevent, detect, and act against such frauds, as follows:

- (i) Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC) and ‘Suspect Registry’ at Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) with representatives from major financial institutions, telecom service providers, IT intermediaries, and states/union territories law enforcement agencies, along with a Senior Level Coordination Group (SLCG) formed by MHA, addresses cyber-fraud related issues.
- (ii) RBI has issued Reserve Bank of India (Digital Lending) Directions, 2025, to address concerns related to unethical practices by digital lending applications and confidential advisories to banks for robust systems to detect cyber frauds and money mule activity.
- (iii) RBI generates public awareness about safe digital practices through campaigns across TV, print, SMS, and digital platforms such as RBI Kehta Hai campaign and BE(A)WARE’ booklet, to educate consumers on fraud types and redressal mechanisms.
- (iv) In Financial Year 2024-25, SEBI, along with Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and Asset Management Companies (AMC), conducted investor awareness programs in 724 districts across 36 States and Union Territories, covering nearly 32 lakh investors. SEBI has also launched the Saaṛthi Mobile App, offering educational resources and investment information to protect investors.
- (v) SEBI runs the “SEBI vs SCAM” Campaign, which generates an ongoing fraud awareness campaign via TV, print, radio, and social media in partnership with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

\*\*\*