

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265

ANSWERED ON MONDAY THE 5TH FEBRUARY, 2024/

MAGHA 16, 1945 (SAKA)

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR RURAL INVESTORS

QUESTION

265. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is running any awareness and education programmes for rural investors;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total spendings on such programmes during the last five years including the current year;**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ease the claim procedure for claimants from IEPF accounts; and**
- (d) the details of the shares and dividend transferred to Investor Education and Protection Fund Account during the last four years along with current total number of shares and its market value and total dividend available in the account?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS.

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. As a part of the mandate provided under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) organises Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) across the country including rural areas in collaboration with partner organizations like Common Service Centres e-Gov. Services India Ltd (CSC), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) etc.

These Programmes are conducted by these partner organisations as per their presence in various States/ UTs and in Tier-I, II, III cities/ villages, etc. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also by various means promotes Investor Education and Awareness among general public including rural investors. It conducts investor education and awareness programmes along with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) such as Exchanges and Depositories. Further SEBI along with other financial sector regulators viz RBI, IRDAI and PFRDA are the co-promoters of National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE). NCFE has been set up by all the Financial Sector Regulators as a Section (8) company under Companies Act, 2013 to undertake basic financial education and to develop suitable content for increasing financial literacy among the masses including rural people in the country.

The total spending on awareness activities during last five years including the current year is at Annexure-I

(c): A process re-engineering was carried out in the claim settlement process by amending rules under “The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016”. The salient changes are as enlisted below:

- (i) A new simplified web based e-form IEPF-5 having features of PAN based verification has been implemented.**
- (ii) The processing of e-form IEPF-5 by the companies and submission of verification reports to the Authority has been made online.**
- (iii) Standard document list and Standard Operating Procedure for processing of claims including those involving transmission and loss of share certificates have been prescribed through Schedules.**

In addition, Authority regularly invites suggestions from industry, companies and investors to make the process more investor friendly and relaxations and amendments are made in rules accordingly.

(d) The details of the shares and dividend transferred to Investor Education and Protection Fund Account during the last four years along with current total number of shares and its market value and total dividend available in the account are at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR 05.02.2024

- (i) **Spending on awareness programmes during last 5 years including current year by IEPFA is as follows:**

S. NO.	Financial Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2019-2020	11.08
2	2020-2021	6.36
3	2021-2022	10.47
4	2022-2023	8.45
5	2023-2024*	3.21

***Provisional data up to 31st December, 2023.**

- (ii) **Spending on awareness and education programmes during last 5 years including current year by SEBI is as follows: -**

S. NO.	Financial Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2019-2020	11.84
2	2020-2021	28.84
3	2021-2022	6.81
4	2022-2023	11.93
5	2023-2024*	2.29

***Data up to 31st December, 2023 regarding programmes conducted by SEBI in coordination with MIIS (exchanges and depositories)**

Annexure-II**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR 05.02.2024**

Details of the amount including dividend and shares transferred to Investor Education and Protection Fund Account during the last four years along with current year.

S. No.	Financial Year	Amount including unclaimed dividend transferred to IEPF during Financial Year (Rs. In crores)	Shares transferred to IEPF during the Financial Year (in numbers)
1	2019-2020	1887.17	15,08,83,796
2	2020-2021	505.67	12,97,92,080
3	2021-2022	446.22	14,18,96,190
4	2022-2023	452.26	16,16,64,998
5	2023-2024*	278.11	13,37,54,477

***Provisional data up to 31st December, 2023.**

The transfer of shares and amount to the fund and their refund to the claimants is a continuous process. As on 31st December, 2023, the total number of shares with the fund is 1,44,63,50,921 with a market value of approximately Rs. 65,599.25 Crores. The Market value of shares fluctuates based upon stock indices. The total amount including dividend available with the fund is Rs. 5,866.22 Crores as on 31st December, 2023.