

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1994

TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, 14th MARCH, 2022/ PHALGUNA 23, 1943 (SAKA)

SAHARA INDIA BANK

1994. SHRI GANESH SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that the amount deposited in the Sahara India Bank by the account holders is not being returned; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government to return the amount to account holders and the time by which their amount would be returned?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(DR. BHAGWAT KARAD)

(a) and (b): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued orders relating to two particular Sahara companies namely Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited (SIRECL) and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Limited (SHICL). In this context:

- i. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 31.08.2012 had, *inter-alia*, directed SEBI to refund to subscribers the money invested in the Optionally Fully Convertible Debentures (OFCDs) issued by the two companies SIRECL and /or SHICL after verifying their genuineness.
- ii. Pursuant to the order of the Supreme Court dated 31.08.2012 and the subsequent orders, SIRECL and SHICL deposited an aggregate amount of Rs.15,503.69 crores into a designated 'SEBI-Sahara Refund' Account (as on 31.12.2021).
- iii. In terms of the directions issued from time to time by the Supreme Court and the advice rendered by Justice (Retd.) B N Agarwal appointed by the Supreme Court, SEBI issued a Press Release on 28.05.2013 and advertisements in newspapers during August - September 2014 and December 2014. SEBI also issued advertisements in newspapers on 26.03.2018 and 19.06.2018.
- iv. SEBI received 19,644 Applications in total involving 53,642 Original Bond Certificates / Pass Books for an aggregate Principal Amount of Rs. 81.70 crore. On the basis of verifiable documents and considering the cut-off date, SEBI made refunds with respect to 17,526 eligible bondholders involving 48,326 Original Bond Certificates / Pass Books for an aggregate amount of Rs.138.07 crores (i.e. Rs. 70.09 crores as Principal and Rs. 67.98 crores as interest) by way of transfer through NEFT/RTGS (to their respective account numbers and IFSC codes provided).
- v. SEBI has filed 22 status reports in total before the Supreme Court in this matter, and has also filed an Interlocutory Application dated 21.10.2021 seeking further directions from the Supreme Court.
