

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1999

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

SEBI's Refund to Investors

QUESTION

1999. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of investors and quantum of money invested in the bonds sold by the companies of the Sahara Group;
- (b) whether any fund has been given to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) by the Sahara Group in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to return the money to the investors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the quantum of money paid to the investors by SEBI out of the said fund;
- (d) whether the Government intends to return the said money to the Sahara Group which was made available to SEBI by the Sahara Group to enable the Sahara Group itself to return that money to the investors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a): Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited (SIRECL) collected Rs. 19400.87 crores from 232.85 lakh investors and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Limited (SHICL) collected Rs. 6380.50 crores from 75.14 lakh investors.

(b) and (c): Yes. Pursuant to the order of the Supreme Court dated 31.08.2012 and the subsequent orders, SIRECL and SHICL collectively deposited Rs15,503.69 crores into a designated 'SEBI-Sahara Refund' Account as on December 31, 2021 against the Principal Amount Rs 25,781.37 crores collected from the investors. SEBI received 19,644 Applications in total involving 53,642 Original Bond Certificates / Pass Books for an aggregate Principal Amount of Rs 81.70 crores. 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 an Interest). The remaining applications were closed either due to their records not being traceable in the documents/data provided by SIRECL and SHICL or because no response was received from the bondholders to further queries raised by SEBI.

(d) and (e): SEBI, based on 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, has made the refunds. Further, SEBI has also filed an Interlocutory Application dated 21.10.2021 seeking further directions from the Supreme Court in the matter.
