

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *183

TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 2024/ SRAVANA 14, 1946 (SAKA)

Refund of Money Deposited in Sahara Group and PACL Limited

QUESTION

†183 **SHRI AMRA RAM**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposed plan of action of the Government to refund the money deposited by the investors in Sahara Group and PACL Limited along with the savings institutions;
- (b) the number of investors who have been refunded their deposited funds;
- (c) the time by which the said deposited funds are likely to be refunded to their investors;
and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF FINANCE

(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (a) to (d) of the LOK SABHA Starred Question no. *183 raised by Shri Amra Ram due for reply on 5th August 2024 regarding “Refund of Money Deposited in Sahara Group and PACL Limited”.

(a) to (d): In terms of the Hon’ble Supreme Court order dated 31.08.2012, Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited (SIRECL), Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Limited (SHICL) and their Promoters and Directors were directed to deposit an aggregate amount of Rs. 25,781.37 crore with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), within a period of three months from the date of the order. Pursuant to various orders passed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court and the attachment orders of SEBI dated 13.02.2013, an aggregate amount of Rs. 15,775.50 crore was deposited with SEBI as on 31.03.2024.

Hon’ble Supreme Court also directed SEBI to refund the amount to bondholders of SIRECL and SHICL, along with interest, on production of relevant documents evidencing payment and after counter checking the records produced by SIRECL and SHICL. SEBI, accordingly, invited applications for refunds through various press releases and advertisements. Based on directions issued from time to time by the Hon’ble Supreme Court, advice rendered by Justice (Retd) B.N.Agarwal appointed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court and validation of the applications received, SEBI has made refunds to 17,526 eligible bondholders for an aggregate amount of Rs. 138.07 crore. SEBI has, further, filed an interlocutory application dated 21.12.2021 seeking further directions from the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the matter. The Hon’ble Supreme Court has constituted a three Judges’ special bench for further proceedings.

SEBI, in its order dated 31.10.2018, directed Sahara India Commercial Corporation Limited (SICCL) and its directors to refund the money collected to its bondholders. The matter is sub-judice before the Hon’ble Supreme Court.

A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd) R M Lodha, on the directions of Hon’ble Supreme Court for disposal of the properties of PACL Ltd, so that the sale proceeds can be distributed to the investors. After considering the amount of funds available for distribution with the Committee, it has decided to make payments, with due verifications, to the investors in a phased manner, starting from small investors. As on 31.03.2024, the Committee has effected aggregate refunds of Rs 1,021.84 crore to 20,84,635 eligible investors with outstanding claim amount upto Rs. 19,000.
