

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.33
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Foreign Aid to the States

33. Adv. Adoor Prakash:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has granted permission to the State of Maharashtra to receive foreign contributions under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had declined the request of the State Government of Kerala for accepting foreign aid following the flood occurred in the State in 2018;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons thereof; and
- (e) the criteria for accepting the foreign aid to the States?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e)

As intimated by the MHA,

- no permission has been granted by the Government of India to the State of Maharashtra to receive foreign contributions under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.

- As per Section 11 of the *Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA)*, no person shall accept foreign contribution unless such person has obtained a certificate of registration or prior permission from the Central Government. Applications for registration or prior permission are to be submitted online in Form FC-3A or FC-3B respectively, through the Ministry's portal <https://fcraonline.nic.in>. These applications must be accompanied by requisite documents such as the memorandum of association, activity reports, audited financial statements, and affidavits/ declarations by office bearers, as prescribed under the Rules.

The grant of registration is subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions under Section 12(4) of the Act, including lawful existence, engagement in genuine activities for the benefit of society etc.

In accordance with these provisions, the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Maharashtra, which is a distinct legal entity incorporated as a public charitable trust, independently submitted an application under the FCRA. Upon examination of its application and satisfaction of all statutory conditions, FCRA registration was granted in May 2025.

- As per FCRA portal, no application for registration or prior permission under FCRA, 2010 had been received from Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF), Kerala.
- Further, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 50 of the FCRA, the Central Government has, vide Notification S.O. 459(E), dated 30th January 2020, exempted organisations (not being a political party), constituted or established by or under a Central Act or a State Act or by any administrative or executive order of the Central Government or any State Government and wholly owned by the respective Government and required to have their accounts compulsorily audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) or any of the agencies of the CAG, from the operation of all provisions of the FCRA.