

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 60
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2016
[PHALGUNA 7, 1937 (SAKA)]**

INVESTMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME

QUESTION

***60 SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:
SHRI ALOK SANJAR:**

**Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:**

कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware that small investors are being cheated in the absence of knowledge on financial matters and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to organise 'Investor Awareness Programmes' in collaboration with various stakeholders for the benefit of investors including small investors of rural areas in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the objectives of the said programmes;**
- (c) the details of funds allocated and utilised under the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) during each of the last three years;**
- (d) the details of funds which remained unutilised during the said period along with the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of small investors?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्री

(श्री अरूण जेटली)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) of the LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 60 FOR 26th FEBRUARY, 2016 REGARDING INVESTMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME

(a): Of the various complaints received by the Ministry, some pertain to cheating of small investors, particularly by the companies involved in Chit Fund/Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) activities. On the basis of such complaints, the Ministry has ordered investigation through Serious Fraud Investigation Office into the affairs of 167 such companies upto 31.01.2016. Of these, investigations have been completed in 77 cases and directions to file prosecution have been given against the companies/directors/officers in 68 cases.

(b): The Ministry organizes Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) with the objective of creating awareness amongst the investors about fraudulent schemes and facilitating informed investment decisions. The IAPs are organized in association with the three Professional Institutes, namely, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Company Secretaries of India and Institute of Cost Accountants of India. During the last three years i.e. 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 (upto 31.01.2016), 6209 such programmes have been organized. Besides, 286 programmes were also organized in rural areas during the same period through Common Service Centers set up under Department of Electronics and Information Technology. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Board of India also conducts various investor education and financial education programmes across the country covering all States and UTs.

(c) & (d): The details of funds allocated, utilized and surrendered during the last three financial years are as under:-

year	Funds allocated (Rs.)	Funds utilized (Rs.)	Funds unutilized (Rs.)
2013-14	4,50,00,000	4,38,10,000	11,90,000 (residual unspent balance)
2014-15	3,00,00,000	2,84,24,000	15,76,000 (due to ceiling on incurring expenditure upto 15% of the budget estimates during March, 2015)
2015-16	4,50,00,000	4,32,26,345 (upto 01.02.2016)	Current financial year is not over yet.

(e): With a view to spreading awareness amongst investors, jingles are aired on All India Radio, print media campaigns are undertaken through Newspapers and messages are scrolled over various T.V. channels. Besides, Companies Act, 2013 incorporates various measures to protect the interest of investors including stringent provisions relating to acceptance of deposits by companies, strict norms for corporate governance, increasing application of technology for early detection of frauds through data analysis surveillance and usage of forensic tools etc.
