

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 389
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Compensation from ERF

389. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no compensation has been paid from the Environmental Relief Fund (ERF) across the country in the last five years, if so the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Central Government has taken any steps to get any specific directions from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for awarding compensation out of ERF in the last five years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7(A) of the Public Liability Insurance (PLI) Act, 1991, the Central Government has established the Environmental Relief Fund (ERF) Scheme, 2008. The ERF was established to provide immediate relief to the persons affected by accidents occurring while handling any hazardous substance and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Applications for such claims are presented before the respective Collector. The Collector thereafter by an order directs the Fund Manager to deposit an amount from the said Fund to the account of the Collector, who in turn, disburses the same to the Claimant. Since no claims have been made under the provision of the said rules, no funds have been released in the last five years out of ERF. Further, the Hon'ble NGT has not issued any specific directions for awarding compensation out of ERF.
