

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 882
ANSWERED ON JULY 30, 2024/ SRAVANA 8, 1946 (SAKA)
AWARENESSES CREATION ON STOCK MARKET SCAMS**

882. Shri Sandosh Kumar P:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the increasing incidents of cheating cases in which stock market investors are lured by fake websites using social media platforms;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken cognisance of the gravity of the scam;
- (c) whether Government has taken any program to create awareness among the potential investors; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (d): Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has received some complaints in the recent months regarding some entities fraudulently pretending to be SEBI registered market intermediaries and trying to dupe the investors through social media platforms and/or apps by asking funds for purchase of securities.

A joint press release was issued in March 2024 by the recognized stock exchanges advising investors to transact only through their recognized stockbrokers and to verify the details of such stockbrokers, including their bank accounts, from the websites of the exchanges. Further, stockbrokers have been instructed to file a police complaint for any impersonation and issue public notice in leading newspapers along with intimation to their clients.

As of 17th July 2024, SEBI has informed 8,890 unlawful/misleading social media content relating to securities market to the concerned social media platform providers for legal action.

SEBI, in co-ordination with stock exchanges and depositories, carries out regular investor education and awareness programs across different parts of country. During 2023-24, SEBI, along with its regulated entities, conducted 43,826 investor awareness programmes across 687 districts covering more than 27.93 Lakh participants/potential investors. These free of cost programs, *inter-alia*, illustrate common features of investment scams; caution against unsolicited investment schemes and unauthorized trade through unregistered intermediaries and create awareness on identification of such fake entities/ schemes.
