

Regarding immediate release of Rural Development Fund (RDF) dues to Punjab-laid

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): The Government has withheld the Rural Development Fund (RDF) to the Government of Punjab to the tune of Rs.5637 crore. The RDF has not been released for the last many Kharif and Rabi marketing seasons. The RDF is the legitimate right of the Government of Punjab. The RDF is to be utilized by the Government for the welfare of farmers of the state and development of rural infrastructure including maintenance and creation of rural mandis and rural link roads for enabling easy access in transporting agricultural produce to the nearest mandis. If RDF of Punjab is not cleared in time, the rural infrastructure will be hit and the Government will have no resources to maintain the rural and mandi infrastructure. I urge upon the Government that in the larger interest of the development of rural infrastructure in the State of Punjab, the entire pending amount of Rural Development Fund (RDF) which is the legitimate right of Punjab may be released immediately. The Government may also develop a robust system of checks and balances to check any leakage or misuse and ensure complete transparency in the utilization of RDF funds by the Government of Punjab.

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12.14 hrs