

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2953

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2009

SIDF

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount generated/earmarked and the amount spent under the Social and Infrastructure Development Fund during 2008-2009 and 2009-2010;

(b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) has pointed out that the SIDF was diverted to unspecified programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) No amount was transferred from the Consolidated Fund of India to the Social and Infrastructure Development Fund (SIDF) in the year 2008-09 and 2009-10. However, an amount of Rs. 4,464.08 crore and Rs. 1,070.18 crore was provided for funding various schemes from SIDF in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. The major schemes funded from SIDF through Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2008-09, as approved by Parliament, are

(i) Loan for creation of a Corpus Fund for providing scholarships to students under 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' (Rs. 641.54 crore),

(ii) Standalone Water Purification System in Rural Schools (Rs. 100 crore),

(iii) Installation of desalination plant near Chennai (Rs. 300 crore),

(iv) Contribution to the Corpus of National Skill Development Corporation (Rs. 1,000 crore),

(v) Loans to Institute Management Committee (IMC) for upgradation of Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership (PPP) (Rs. 627.50 crore),

(vi) Augmenting the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna Premium Fund maintained with LIC for meeting the liability of the Central Government towards its share of premium payment (Rs. 1000 crore),

(vii) for crediting to the Social Security Fund maintained by LIC for providing 50% share of premium under Janshree Bima Yojana for all Women Self Help Groups (Rs. 500 crore), etc. The schemes to be funded from SIDF during 2009-10 are

(i) Agricultural Education (Rs. 73.37 crore),

(ii) Schemes under Special Fund for infrastructure upgradation in North Eastern Region (Rs. 146.80 crore),

(iii) Loans to Institute Management Committee (IMC) for upgradation of Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership (PPP) (Rs. 750.01 crore), and

(iv) Standalone Water Purification System in Rural Schools (Rs. 100 crore).

(b) & (c) No amount was diverted from SIDF to unspecified programmes. The schemes/ programmes/ projects funded from SIDF were part of budget announcements. However, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has, in his Report on the accounts of the Union Government for the year 2007-2008, pointed out that though the amount was transferred from the Consolidated Fund of India to the SIDF and was treated as capital expenditure, an amount of Rs. 1586.75 crore was incurred from SIDF in 2007-2008 on items of expenditure which were of revenue nature, thereby overstating the capital expenditure of the Government.

As per the scheme, funds from SIDF can be utilised for incurring revenue expenditure in deserving cases. An Action Taken Note on this specific Audit Observation will be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee.