

Refund Status of Money deposited with the Sahara Cooperatives

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In an Interlocutory Application filed by the Ministry of Cooperation in WP (C) No.191/2022 (Pinak Pani Mohanty vs UoI & ors.), the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29.03.2023 inter alia ordered that:

“(i) Out of the total amount of Rs. 24,979.67 Crores lying in the “Sahara-SEBI Refund Account”, Rs. 5000 Crores be transferred to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, who, in turn, shall disburse the same against the legitimate dues of the depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies, which shall be paid to the genuine depositors in the most transparent manner and on proper identification and on submitting proof of their deposits and proof of their claims and to be deposited in their respective bank accounts directly.

“(ii) The disbursement shall be supervised and monitored by Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge of this Court with the able assistance of Shri Gaurav Agarwal, learned Advocate, who is appointed as Amicus Curiae to assist Justice R. Subhash Reddy as well as the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in disbursing the amount to the genuine depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies. The manner and modalities for making the payment is to be worked out by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in consultation with Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge of this Court and Shri Gaurav Agarwal, learned Advocate.”

In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 29.03.2023, an Online Portal “CRCS-Sahara refund portal” <https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in> has been launched on 18.07.2023 for submission of claims by the genuine depositors of 4 Multi-State Cooperative Societies of Sahara Group, namely; Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Lucknow, Saharayn Universal Multipurpose Society Ltd., Bhopal, Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Kolkata and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd., Hyderabad for refund of their legitimate deposits. Entire process of disbursement is digital and paperless and is being carried out under the supervision and monitoring of Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with the assistance of Shri Gaurav Agrawal, Amicus Curiae.

Applications received on the Portal are being processed in transparent manner, on proper identification and on submitting proof of their identity and deposits. The payment is being deposited directly in Aadhaar seeded bank account of the genuine depositors. As per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), depositors whose deposits have matured and remained unpaid as on 31.03.2023, are eligible to submit their application on the portal. Presently, principal amount payment only upto Rs.50,000/- is being disbursed to each genuine depositor of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies against verified claims through Aadhaar seeded Bank account. Further, ceiling limit of disbursement per depositor is increased from time to time keeping in mind the small depositors on priority and availability of funds.

Further, in case of any deficiency found in the application of the depositor on the portal, deficiencies are being conveyed to them for re-submission of their application through the “Re- submission portal” <https://mocresubmit.crcs.gov.in> already launched on 15.11.2023.

As on 23.07.2025, an amount of Rs. 5,139.23 Crore has been disbursed to 27,33,520 depositors out of 1,35,34,410 depositors of Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies and amount of Rs. 523.72 Crore was available for disbursement. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted the extension for disbursement of refund to the Sahara depositors upto 31.12.2025.

This was stated by the Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

VV/RR/PR/PS/HS

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