

## Body for Investors' Protection Asks Cos to Deposit Unclaimed Funds

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** The investor protection authority under the corporate affairs ministry has started sending out notices to several listed and unlisted companies, including some non-banking finance companies, to deposit unclaimed shares, deposits and dividends with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), according to a senior government official.

The fund holds unclaimed shares and dividends worth ₹25,100 crore but some estimates have pegged the actual value of unclaimed shares, dividends and deposits in the country at four times this. "We are in the process of issuing notices to listed companies, non-listed companies and NBFCs to transfer these unclaimed amounts to us. Some estimates say the total market cap of unclaimed shares and dividends of companies could exceed ₹1 lakh crore," said IEPFA chief executive Rajiv Bansal at an ASSOCHAM conference on Wednesday.

All companies are required to transfer all unclaimed shares, dividends and deposits to the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority if they remain unclaimed for seven years.

Bansal had earlier said IEPFA had unclaimed dividends worth over ₹4,100 crore and unclaimed shares worth approximately ₹21,000 crore. It could refund only dividends worth ₹4 crore and 600,000 shares worth approximately ₹45 crore to investors so far due to issues around transmission of shares to legal heirs of deceased shareholders, according to another government official who wished to remain anonymous.

# Rise in investors demanding unclaimed money

**MADHUSUDAN SAHOO**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

This fiscal year may see a steep jump in the number of investors seeking unclaimed dividends, shares and deposits from the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) expects to receive 24,000 claims this year against just about 2,000 two years back.

The ministry has sent notices to several listed and non-listed companies, including non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), to transfer unclaimed amounts lying with them at the earliest.

As per rules, companies have to transfer any unclaimed payment to the IEPF Authority and then investors have to claim the same from the authority.

"The MCA's Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) is reaching out to companies and investors in large numbers who have unclaimed dividends, shares and deposits and expects to receive about 24,000 claims by end of this

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year," a top MCA official said at an Assocham event in New Delhi on Wednesday.

"In the last to last year, we had received something about 2,000 claims in the entire year but today we are receiving 2,000 a month, so we will be ending this year by about 24,000 claims, that is a huge increase," said Rajiv Bansal, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, MCA and CEO, IEPFA, adding that the MCA is also in the process of issuing notice to companies both listed, non-listed and NBFCs to transfer unclaimed amounts

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