



## **Asthana dies in mysterious circumstances**

17 Oct 2009, 1747 hrs IST

The prime accused in Ghaziabad Provident Fund scam Central Nazir Ashutosh Asthana has died under mysterious circumstances. Asthana has been under arrest for more than one year for embezzlement of funds. During interrogations Asthana had revealed the names of 36 judges including a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and 11 High Court judges who were also involved in the scam. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was investigating the case. Asthana was arrested on the basis of the FIR on April 10, 2008 for embezzlement of funds.

Asthana was first introduced to the scam by a district judge. He confessed that from the Rs 7 crore embezzled, he had given cash and gifts such as air conditioners, refrigerators, expensive clothes, jewellery and furniture to as many as 36 judges, including about 10 High Court judges and one Supreme Court judge. In a sworn statement before a magistrate, Asthana revealed that this fraud had run from 2001 to 2007 with the active connivance of district judges. Every month, Asthana even paid bribes to various judges, from Rs 25,000 to a whopping Rs 1.5 lakh.

<http://www.timesnow.tv/Asthana-dies-in-mysterious-circumstances-/articleshow/4329907.cms>