

should include the necessary complement of posts of stenographers of appropriate grades; and

(b) if so, has the above been followed in toto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are followed generally except when they attract the ban on creation of new posts.

Missing of soiled Notes Lockers of Punjab National Bank, New Delhi

2289. SHRI JAGPAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that soiled notes worth Rs. 20,000 were recently found missing from the lockers of the Punjab National Bank, Parliament Street, New Delhi which is a nationalised bank;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter;

(c) if so, what is the result thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) to (d). Punjab

National Bank has reported that no soiled currency notes worth Rs. 20,000/- were found missing from the lockers of its Parliament Street Branch recently. However, certain shortages have been noticed in the balances kept in the currency chest at Parliament Street, New Delhi. The position regarding this is indicated below.

In the third week of October, 1982, Reserve Bank of India started checking the cash balances at the Parliament Street, New Delhi Currency Chest, maintained by the Punjab National Bank. Of the total amount of Rs. 47.9378 crores stored there, a sum of Rs. 47.5603 crores had been counted upto 16th February, 1983. A total shortage of Rs. 76,828/- has been found. The counting of the balance amount is in progress.

Punjab National Bank has already lodged an F.I.R. with the local police on 3-1-83 in connection with the shortages detected. The bank has also suspended two cashiers and one cash peon who are suspected to be responsible for the shortages.

Government have advised the Reserve Bank of India and the nationalised banks to tighten the administrative arrangements and ensure strict observance of the instruction on the subject with a view to preventing such losses. The Reserve Bank of India has also asked the Punjab National Bank to order a thorough investigation to find out the circumstances under which the losses have occurred and fix responsibility. The Punjab National Bank apart from issuing revised guidelines for strengthening control aspects of the management of currency chests, has also ordered an internal enquiry into the matter.