

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5308  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000  
STEALING OF CHEQUE BOOKS BANK DRAFTS OF BANKS  
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether cases one after the other of stealing the cheque books, bank drafts from the banks have been taking place;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the documents to be easily accessible to outsiders;
- (c) whether one such case took place at Mahuli in Bihar in the Bank of Baroda's branch as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' of December 13, 1999;
- (d) if so, whether the case has been enquired into; and
- (e) if so, the facts thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b):- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the number of cases of stolen demand drafts/ cheques (Rupees One lac and above) in public sector banks was 188, 188 and 215 in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 respectively. The reasons for accessibility to documents by outsiders/ unauthorised persons may be due to non-adherence/ laxity by banks in following guidelines issued by RBI regarding safe custody of demand drafts/ cheques etc.

(c), (d) & (e):- Bank of Baroda has reported that twenty demand draft books meant for Mahuli (Bihar) branch were sent by their Madras Security Printers to the Regional Office, Patna in 1998 through Courier Service. The consignment was not received and these demand drafts were reported lost in transit. On receipt of information of the loss, the bank issued circular cautioning its branches. Complaints have been lodged by the bank at Patna with local Police and by M/s. Madras Security Printers with local Police at Chennai.