

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4260  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2005  
BOFORS CASE  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether CBI's investigation into the Bofors pay-off has suffered a crippling blow;
- (b) if so, whether the Swiss Government had not entertained the request of CBI for cooperation in the case;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Swiss Government;
- (d) if so, the response of the Swiss Government; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The Swiss Government has rendered co-operation in the matter of execution of the Letters Rogatory issued in the year 1990 and 1998. However, the Swiss Authorities expressed their inability to execute certain points of the Second Letters Rogatory of 1998 on the ground that transactions in question pertained to a period which is older than ten years and Swiss banks are obliged to keep their documents for a period of 10 years only and further that some of the banks in question have, in the meantime, been sold or merged or reorganized and most of the Bank officials who were required to be examined for gathering relevant information, were no longer present in their original function.

(c) & (d): A CBI delegation held detailed discussion with the concerned Swiss Authorities during April, 2004 in the above matter. The Swiss Authorities informed in writing that the facts of the case fell under the rule `Lapse of time` and it regretted that it could not offer any further help to the authorities of India on account of reasons mentioned above. However, should new facts emerge not covered by the lapse of time clause, the Swiss authorities would reexamine the matter.

(e) Does not arise.