

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2926
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010
LOTTERY AND EMPLOYMENT FRAUDS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is investigating the emerging trend in the country using bank accounts for lottery and employment frauds whereby money deposited by victims siphoned off through Automated Teller Machines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) : Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been receiving complaints from citizens and organizations across India regarding communications relating to fictitious offers of funds from abroad. The fraudsters send official sounding communications through e-mails, letters, mobile phone calls, SMS etc. to gullible people, offering them alluring schemes of receiving funds from abroad through prize money, lottery winning, scholarship offers, grants etc.

As per information compiled by the RBI, five complaints have been received regarding losing money while responding to fake e-mails /SMS messages during the last two years. The amount involved in the complaints is T 13,02,705/-

RBI has issued from time to time, many circulars since 2000 onwards cautioning the banks authorized to deal in foreign exchange (called Authorized Dealer Banks) about such frauds, the latest in the series being circular dated 26th May, 2010. Banks have also been advised to give wide publicity and also bring the contents of these circulars to the notice of the constituents and customers concerned. RBI has also issued a Press Release dated May 28, 2010, advising the general public not to fall prey to fictitious offers for release of cheap funds claimed to have been remitted by overseas entities to banks in India and not to make any remittance towards participation in such schemes/offers from unknown entities.