

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5031
ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011
DACOITY AND THEFT IN BANKS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidents of dacoity and theft of rupees and ornaments from the lockers in the banks have increased during each of the last three years and the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents reported alongwith the amount involved therein, State-wise and Bank-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government/ Reserve Bank of India has conducted any enquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken against the guilty officials; and
- (e) the other remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government/RBI in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As reported by the Department of Banking Supervision, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), data on incidents of theft, burglary, dacoity and bank robberies from the lockers in Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks, Statewise and Bankwise, during the years 2008-11 (upto June 30, 2011) is enclosed as Annexure-I & II.

(c) to (e): No Sir. No enquiry has been conducted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or Government of India in this regard. However, Department of Banking Operations & Development(DBOD), RBI has issued circular on `Extension of Safe Deposit Lockers/Safe Custody Article Facility and Access to Safe Deposit Lockers/ Return of Safety Custody Articles by Banks` and Master Circular on Customer Service which deals with `Instructions for operations of Safe Deposit Vaults/ Lockers.` RBI has advised that banks should exercise due care and necessary precaution for the protection of the lockers provided to the customers. It has further been advised that banks should review the system in force for operation of Safe Deposit Vaults/Locker at their branches on an ongoing basis and take necessary steps. It has also been advised that the security procedures should be well documented and the concerned staff should be properly trained in the procedure. Instructions emphasize that Internal Auditors should ensure that the procedures are strictly adhere to.