

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:933
ANSWERED ON:10.07.2009
BANK ROBBERIES
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a spurt in the incidents of bank robberies in various parts of the country in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the amount looted from the nationalized banks during the current financial year, so far; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the bank security to check the recurrence of such incidents ?

Answer

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

a) The total number of cases and amounts involved in dacoity/robbery/theft as reported by the commercial banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during last four quarters are as under:

During the Quarter ended No. of incidents Amount (Rs. in lakh)

June 2008	111	1009.00
September 2008	159	566.58
December 2008	146	374.08
March 2009	171	412.99

While the number of incidents have increased, the amount lost has shown a decreasing trend, except during the quarter ended March, 2009.

(b) The amount looted from the nationalized banks for the quarter ended June 2009 was Rs.218.47 lakh in 68 incidents.

(c) The steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen bank security are as under:

(i) RBI issues circulars to banks on security arrangements from time to time advising them to be more vigilant, tighten up security arrangements and take preventive action against robberies/dacoities in their branches.

(ii) Security measures implemented by Banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meeting convened periodically by the Regional Directors of RBI in all the states. Besides senior officials of commercial banks and RBI, the meetings are attended to by Secretary level State Government officials, Police chiefs, officials of CBI, Customs and Fire Service. The Committee takes stock of the security environment including crimes against banks in respective States, discusses steps needed to be taken to strengthen security in banks and advise issue of state specific requisite guidelines/instructions to banks.

(iii) The RBI has also stipulated deployment of armed police guards and periodical security inspections of currency chest branches.

(iv) The data on crimes against banks is also shared with the Head Offices of banks concerned on quarterly basis to enable them to further strengthen their security arrangements.

(v) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had circulated guidelines on Security arrangements in banks in July 2004 for protection of banks' properties. Banks are required to devise their own security arrangements at their branches, ATMs etc. with the approval of their respective Board of Directors. Thus, it is normally left to the discretion of the management of the banks concerned to arrange for required security at their branches.

(vi) The RBI through their Regional Directors is also involved in assessment and review of security arrangements at the branches of banks by the use of affordable modern technology. Accordingly, based on threat perception, security scenario, sensitive/border areas,

etc. of respective branches towards strengthening security arrangements, security equipments/gadgets like i) Alarm System, ii) Closed Circuit TV (CCTV), iii) Collapsible door/shutter, iv) Night latches, v) Grill Gate to strong room, vi) Time lock device and vii) Armoured Cash Vans etc. are required to be put in place by the banks.