

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4702
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009
ARMED GUARDS OF PSBS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the PSBs/branches do not have sufficient armed guards;
- (b) if so, the details of such PSBs/branches and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the security of bank branches which are categorized as low risk and have no armed guards posted; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that out of 26379 bank branches which are considered vulnerable, 19450 have been provided with armed guards, 2012 have been provided with unarmed guards. No guards have been provided at the remaining 4916 branches. Around 81% branches which are considered vulnerable have been provided with guards.

(c) & (d) Security arrangements at bank branches are primarily the responsibility of each bank. The strength of security personnel at each branch is dependent on security threat perception depending on the prevailing law and order situation, area specific issues, vulnerability of the branch etc. RBI stipulates deployment of armed police guards in so far as currency chest branches are concerned. At other branches, ATMs etc., the banks can devise their own arrangement with the approval of their respective Boards. However, measures initiated by RBI and Indian Banks` Association (IBA) to strengthen security arrangements of bank branches 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/decoities in their branches.

(ii) Indian Banks` Association had circulated guidelines on security arrangements in banks in July 2004 for protection of banks` properties.

(iii) Security measures implemented by public sector banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings held periodically by the Regional Directors of RBI in all the states. The meetings are attended by bankers and State Government officials including senior Police officials. The Committee takes stock of the security environment in the State, discusses steps needed to be taken to strengthen security in banks and advise issue of requisite guidelines/instructions to banks.

(iv) RBI has advised all the Regional Directors heading the RBI Offices, in February 2007 that they should assess the current position regarding providing Closed Circuit TVs in all the branches of banks and also look into the issue of improving security arrangements by introducing affordable modern technology.