

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
SECURITY OF PSBs IN MAOIST INFLUENCED AREAS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the security arrangements in the Public Sector Bank branches in Maoist influenced areas need to be strengthened;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of branches of PSBs in those areas where the incidents of looting of banks took place during last one year; and
- (d) the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as they are not aware about the places which are officially included in 'Maoist influenced areas', it does not have specific information regarding the number of branches of PSBs in Maoist influenced areas where the incidents of looting of banks took place during last one year. However, as per information compiled by RBI, during October 2008 to September 2009, 460 branches of Public Sector Banks have reported the incidents of theft/burglary/dacoity/robbery.

(d) : Preventive measures taken/initiated by RBI in this regard are as follows:

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) Indian Bank's Association (IBA) had circulated guidelines on security arrangements in banks in July 2004 for protection of banks' properties.

iii) RBI has requested IBA, in November 2008, to review the entire gamut of security management of bank branches encompassing crucial aspects of security management such as access control, visitor's control management, surveillance, alert, strict, norms for cash holding limit, escorting cash valuables, accountability for failing to adhere to such norms etc. in consultation with the banks. IBA has advised that they have formed a Working Group to study the entire gamut of security aspects based on the communications/feedback received from the banks.

iv) 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.

v) 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.