

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1414
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
BANK ROBBERIES
M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of bank robberies in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount looted so far from the nationalized banks during the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the security in the banks to check this trend ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b) As per the information compiled by RBI, the incidents of robberies and the amount involved therein reported by banks during the period April 2005 to September 2009 is as under:

Period No. of incidents Amount (rupees in lakhs)

April 2005 to March 2006	17	9.29
April 2006 to March 2007	3	12.37
April 2007 to March 2008	19	165.64
April 2008 to March 2009	26	200.24
April 2009 to September 2009	25	166.59

(c) Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association have taken the following measures to strengthen security arrangements of bank branches:

(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 Banks' Association had circulated guidelines on security arrangements in banks in July 2004 for protection of banks' properties.

(iii) RBI had requested Indian Banks Association (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 reiterated to banks that emphasis should be given to accord top priority on security as laxity in security measures could not only make banks soft targets for attacks from anti-social/ extremist organizations but also de-stabilise the economic progress of the country. Besides, IBA suggested that banks may also consider putting in place an effective crisis/ disaster management plan to safeguard the bank's assets and assist agencies like state police, fire brigade etc. to carry out relief operations expeditiously and effectively. Keeping in mind the guidelines/instructions issued from time to time, banks have drawn their own security policies. The monitoring authorities/security officers of banks supervise the security arrangements during their visit to bank/branch premises and ensure that the laid down norms are implemented and lapses, if any are rectified.

(iv) Security measures implemented by 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.