

security, the Government of India have any plans to restrict the stay of foreign tourists only in government hotels and whether, for that purpose, the Government of India are going to construct hotels throughout the country.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I have said that the foreign tourists can stay in government hotels and other hotels. There is no restriction for the tourists who come to this country that they should stay only in government hotels. Now he is asking whether, for reasons of security, we are going to construct more hotels. Not for that. But for actual necessities of tourism in the country, particularly for people with comparatively less means, Government is keen to construct. Some of the hotels are already under construction. There are joint ventures between the Central and State Governments. In the private sector also we want more hotels to come up.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Generous assistance for 5-Star hotels is being extended from financial institutions with a view to attracting foreign exchange. But what has been really happening is that our own private sector executives have been staying in them, without getting any foreign exchange whatever, leading to artificial demand for more five star hotels. In view of this, will the Government consider imposing a restriction that only those who can pay in foreign exchange could stay in five star hotels?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I think the Hon. Member is not correctly informed. I would suggest that certainly we want that foreign tourists should get accommodation in these hotels. But it is not the position at present that foreign tourists are not getting accommodation because accommodation is not available and because other tourists come and stay there.

(Interruptions)

Please wait, I can understand you, I can invite you for a discussion.

The present position is that during the last one year, it has been a very lean season of tourists. In fact we have more accommodation in five star hotels available.

There is another Question at Sl. No. 93, that you can utilise for this. Therefore, it is not correct to say that accommodation is not available for foreign tourists; nobody else will come. That is not the position.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He has said that I have been incorrectly informed. But he has not informed the House. Will the Minister be able to say what is the proportion of foreign exchange earned by the five star hotels in relation to the total amount received by them?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I can inform the Hon Member that in five-star hotels much more accommodation is available.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, look here, I cannot allow a discussion here. If I allow you, you will hold on to it. I can allow one more supplementary.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If the reply is independent of the Question what do we do?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister—because he had just said that he is not going in for any more five star hotels. I would like to get clarification from him regarding those ITDC hotels which are in the pipeline and especially the one relating to Bhopal. Is it going to be made or not?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : So far as Public Sector is concerned, the ITDC and so on, we have decided that during the 7th Five Year Plan we shall not have any more five star hotels except one which we are thinking of putting up in Bombay.

Bank Robberies and Bank Protection Force

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*88. **SHRI ANAND SINGH :**

SHRI I. RAMA RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of bank

robberies committed in nationalised banks during the current year upto October, 1985, month-wise, and the amount and lives lost thereby;

(b) the security measures taken or proposed to be taken to further strengthen the measures to thwart attempts of robberies;

(c) whether keeping in view the increase in bank robberies in the country, Government propose to form a Bank Protection Force;

(d) whether bank employees and security guards at the nationalised banks are also involved in the robberies; and

(e) the number of persons apprehended and brought to book ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (e). The information, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India, is given in the Annexure below.

(b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order and have been requested to take suitable preventive measures for curbing the incidents of bank dacoities/robberies. A High Power Working Group was earlier set up by the Government to critically review security arrangements in banks and to

make suggestions for improvements therein. As recommended by the Working Group, banks have, inter-alia, appointed Chief Security Officers to advise the management on security measures. On the advice of the Chief Security Officers, the banks have identified vulnerable branches and have taken measures to strengthen the security of the premises and posting of security guards in a phased manner. Recently, the Government convened a meeting of the Chief Security Officers of public sector banks and the need for tightening the various security measures within the bank premises was reiterated. At this meeting the banks have been advised to classify their bank branches according to the risk and make improved security arrangements in branches with high risk.

(c) The question of organising a Banks' Security Force under the Central Industrial Security Force Act was examined by a Committee set up by the Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Taking into consideration the special features of the security cover to be provided to banks and the technical and operational requirements of the Central Industrial Security Force, the Committee came to the conclusion that the CISF Act will not meet the requirements of banking establishments. The Committee also considered the proposition of raising an All India Bank Security Force on the lines of para-military organisations working under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs but did not find the proposition workable.

(d) No such instance has been reported by the bank/Reserve Bank of India,

ANNEXURE

State and Month of Occurrence	No. of Robberies	Amount involved in lakhs of Rupees	Lives lost	No. of persons apprehended and brought to book
1	2	3	4	5
ANDHRA PRADESH				
March 1985	1	12.75		

	1	2	3	4	5
ASSAM					
May 1985	1	0.28		1 Bank Manager	—
September 1985	1	0.27		—	1
BIHAR					
January 1985	2	2.34		—	—
April 1985	1	4.07		—	—
May 1985	2	1.23		—	2
	(includes one attempted)				
June 1985	1	0.19		—	—
July 1985	3	4.12		—	—
September 1985	3	6.31		—	—
October 1985	3	2.41		—	—
HARYANA					
February 1985	1	2.40 + Gold (400 Gms)		3 Outsiders	—
DELHI					
March 1985	2	4.64		—	—
May 1985	1	—		1 Outsider	—
June 1985	*1 (attempted)	—		—	—
July 1985	1	3.02		—	—
August 1985	1	4.19		—	—
CHANDIGARH					
January 1985	1	0.33		—	—
September 1985	1	0.11		—	—
KARNATAKA					
January 1985	1	0.06		—	7
June 1985	1	0.20		—	—
KERALA					
October 1985	1	0.64		—	1
MADHYA PRADESH					
April 1985	1	0.08		—	—
May 1985	1	2.39		—	—
October 1985	1	1.70		—	—

*As reported by Delhi Police.

1	2	3	4	5
MAHARASHTRA				
January 1985	1 (attempted)	—	1	—
May 1985	1	4.18	—	5
September 1985	1	1.23	—	—
MANIPUR				
February 1985	1	less than 0.01	—	—
NAGALAND				
January 1985	1	15.35	—	—
May 1985	1	2.04	—	—
June 1985	1	9.38	—	—
PUNJAB				
January 1985	1	0.08	—	—
February 1985	1	0.11	—	—
May 1985	1	0.54	—	—
June 1985	2	0.24	—	3
July 1985	1	0.27	1 Bank Guard	—
September 1985	1 (attempted)	—	—	1
October 1985	2 (including one attempted)	0.10	—	1
RAJASTHAN				
January 1985	1	—	1 Watchman	—
UTTAR PRADESH				
February 1985	1	2.38	—	4
March 1985	2	1.57	—	1
May 1985	3	14.81	—	—
October 1985	1	3.13	—	—
WEST BENGAL				
September 1985	1	0.45 + gold worth Rs. 0.64	—	—
October 1985	1	3.34	—	—
HIMICHAL PRADESH				
January 1985	1	1.21	—	2

1	2	3	4	5
JAMMU AND KASHMIR				
May 1985	1	0.32	—	—
July 1985	1	0.05	—	—
TOTAL	62	114.52 lakhs	8	28

+400 gms. gold

+gold worth

Rs. lakhs 0.64

SHRI ANAND SINGH : The answers have revealed a few facts here. One is that rupees one crore and fourteen lakhs have been robbed during this year so far and two months are still to go which are in favour of robbery.

Secondly, nobody has been apprehended as they have shied away from answering the (e) part. I assume that nobody has been apprehended or brought to book during this period. Now, I ask the question in this light that a bank robbery is no more an old style bank robbery. People are using modern weapons. Not only that, with certain groups in this country it has become a recognised political activity, especially in Uttar Pradesh and everywhere. It was in this light that I had put these questions. The answer given to me says that a high powered working group was established, Chief Security Officers were appointed, banks were identified as vulnerable branches according to risk, the question of Banks Security Force under the CISF Act was examined and it was found that it would not meet the requirements of banking establishments, and so on.

The question is about what was done. I don't want to know what was not done, I would like to know what positive steps have been taken in order to protect the banks, the money and the lives.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : This question has five parts. The hon. Member has asked for the information and we have given all the answers to you and then, if you say that it is not required, it is not my fault. It is your question I have answered,

Coming to banks, there were about...

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : What action you have taken—that is what he wants to know.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Kindly go through my reply.

MR. SPEAKER : That is known only as a question of bonus—that answer.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : In the year 1985, upto 30-6-85 10 persons have been arrested. The action that has been taken has been clearly spelt out in the main reply itself and if the hon. Member is not satisfied, at the cost of repetition I can say that a Working Group had been appointed and they have submitted their recommendations which have been sent to the State Governments and also to the banks for implementation. Now, secondly, even the banks have been provided with security guards, collapsible gates and also armed guards in certain banks. For this purpose the banks have been classified into four categories and they are : (1) Currency Chest Branches, (2) Branches which are prone to high risk (3) Normal Risk Branches and (4) Branches not vulnerable but with very low risks. Now here wherever there are currency chest branches, there a round-the-clock vigil is kept. So far as the branches prone to high risk are concerned, there two security guards, fully armed, are provided and where the Branches are prone to normal risk, there one unarmed guard is provided. Where there are branches with very low risk and cash handling, there it is left to the management to provide sufficient security. Now we have got 50,983 branches throughout

the country. For all the Branches we cannot provide guards. Here also, the amount involved in decoities and to robberies is about Rs. 150 lakhs. Now if you have to provide guards to all the Branches throughout the country to 50,983 branches, the cost element will be more than Rs. 200 crores....

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Then who will do it ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : So let them lose more so that we can have armed guards for all the branches.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It is a continuous process. But we do not defend dacoities or robberies. But we have to take into consideration the cost factor also....

MR. SPEAKER : That will create employment, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : May I add to what my colleague has said ? My colleague has explained the situation where in regard to vulnerable branches where there is a need for more security, action is taken in co-ordination with the State Governments and other law-enforcing agencies. The point is that the banks have to function and for that matter, not only the banks but various other agencies also have to function in the general security environment at large and it is the general security environment which is the guarantee against robbery or dacoity. Every special agency cannot have its own law protection agencies. It is the general environment which we are trying to strengthen and it is where special attention is needed and steps are being taken, as explained by the hon. Minister.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You are giving an open field to the people to rob.

SHRI ANAND SINGH : If you go through the answer, part (e) has not been replied by the hon. Minister. Now the Minister says that 10 people were apprehended. When the question was so simple and clear, he said here...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has said that dacoits are responsible for the dacoities.

SHRI ANAND SINGH : The number of persons apprehended and the measures that have been just read out to us are not given in the answer at all. If you go through this it says that a high-power working group was earlier set-up. It also says that the CISF Act will not meet the requirement of banking establishments. It also says that the Ministry of Home Affairs does not find the bank security forces proposition workable but it does not speak about the positive action which they have taken.

My next question is that there are rural banks and the policy of the Government is to go on opening rural banks so that they can reach the village people to meet their demands. Will these security forces cover these banks or they will be confined to cities and urban areas ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, as regards the first part of the question the hon. Member may refer to the Annexure where we have given the details of the action taken by us. Coming to the rural banks I have already stated that the banks have been classified into those which are prone to more risks and ordinary risks. Security guards have been provided at those banks which are vulnerable and if the hon. Members tell about any banks which are vulnerable and risk prone then definitely we will provide sufficient and adequate security there.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister inform why the Capital city is the hot bed of bank robberies and other crimes ? How many bank robberies occurred last year and how many have been detected and how much amount has been recovered ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have given the details in Annexure I.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : In view of the fact that State Governments are specially interested in getting more and more banks opened in rural areas and other areas has Government taken any steps to invoke their assistance in preventing such trouble ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, a very pertinent question has been raised. We have already written to the State Governments. Law and order is a State subject. We have written to the State governments to take sufficient steps to prevent such robberies.

SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : The hon. Minister has classified the banks according to the degree of vulnerability. I would like to know whether he has made a study of vulnerability of nationalised banks vis-a-vis private banks which have not been nationalised.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : These things should be considered by the management concerned. Law and order is a State subject and as the hon. Finance Minister has said the State Governments have also to provide sufficient security and safeguards.

(Interruptions)

**Seizure of Smack and Gold Biscuits by
Custom Officials**

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*89. **SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :**
SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Custom officials have seized smack and gold biscuits worth Rs. 50 crores from the baggage left unclaimed at Palam and other airports in different parts of the country in recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the persons who have been arrested in this connection; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to prevent such crimes ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). The total value of contra-band goods seized at various airports in the

country during the period from January to September, 1985 amounted to Rs. 29.25 crores (provisional) out of which gold accounted for Rs. 16.18 crores and dangerous drugs Rs. 4.64 crores. 903 persons were arrested in this connection under the Customs Act.

No separate statistics regarding seizures from baggage left unclaimed at airports is maintained.

(c) The drive against smuggling activities at the airports has been intensified. The existing intelligence and preventive set-up of the customs at the airports is being further strengthened with a view to preventing smuggling activities at the airports. The scheme of rewards to informers and Government servants has also been liberalised.

Besides, the trends of smuggling and seizures made at the airports are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action as warranted.

Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in courts. Apart from confiscation of goods involved and the imposition of personal penalties, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part (b) of my question, I had asked about the persons arrested in this connection. In reply thereto, the hon. Minister has replied that 903 persons were arrested under the Customs Act. I want to know from the hon. Minister the names of top Customs Officials, let him tell only four or five names, arrested under the Customs Act... *(Interruptions)* I want to ask from the hon. Minister the number of top officials of the Customs Department arrested under this Act? In your reply you have stated that the cases were also instituted in the Courts; I want to know the number of persons against whom prosecution was initiated? You only give the names of three or four officials if it is not possible to give the names of all of them,