

figure is Rs. 86.79 lakhs compared to Rs. 70,000 crore deposits. But we are not defending it. We are seized of the matter and we have taken a serious view of it. Now, coming to steps that have been taken, I would like to mention that a high power committee has been appointed and they submitted their recommendations and their recommendations have been sent to the Reserve Bank of India, all the commercial banks and also the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments. Now, Sir, as I stated, the law and order subject is the State subject. It is for the State Government to take action. We have to strengthen our machinery. Not only that. Wherever the branches are located, those branches which are vulnerable, we have posted the guards. So many security arrangements have been made and I do not want to go into detail because earlier I have already given them.

MR. SPEAKER : We discussed it before long also and I think we agreed on this aspect that each bank should have complete security arrangements. But in certain banks, last time there was no guard. There should be a circular about this that no bank should be without security arrangements.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, we have 48,128 branches all over the country. Whether it is vulnerable.....

MR. SPEAKER : Every bank is vulnerable.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Now, about the steps which have been taken I may mention that even though it is not satisfactory, last week I personally went round to some branches and I am also making some security arrangements in the bank branches. For your information, Sir, the instructions have been given to the bank people to look their cabin immediately after having entered the cabin. But in so many branches, the bank employees are not locking their cabin. They have to observe certain guidelines. These are the steps being taken. Sir, your suggestion is taken note of and we will work on that.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Sir, obviously the hon. Minister himself is not satisfied with the answer provided to him by his department. So, in that case, apart from administering warning formally in this House, what concrete measures does he propose to take against the department for sending this very unsatisfactory answer which he is now providing to us.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : According to the Department it is satisfactory ; according to me, as Minister in-charge, it is not satisfactory. I am not defending anybody ; as a Minister. I have got the overall responsibility. That is why, I have made it very clear that firm steps should be taken. We are taking steps as also monitoring that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would request you not to bring the Department into the picture. As far as this House is concerned, Minister and the Department are part and parcel of one entity. Do not separate yourself from the Department.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am not satisfied myself and I am just bringing these facts to the notice of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to make himself satisfied by taking further action.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We called a meeting of the Chief Executives and brought it to their notice that their performance was not satisfactory and that action should be taken where required. An action plan has also been given to the bank people. Once in every three months, we, the Finance Minister as also myself, are going to monitor this, and would be taking the required action.

[Translation]

Equipping Income Tax Officers with Arms

*167. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Aykar Adhikari Hathiyaron Se Laise Honge" (Income Tax Officers will be equipped with arms) appearing in 'Jansatta' dated the 22nd June, 1985 ; and

(b) if so, the type of arms they will be equipped with ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the report which is inaccurate.

(b) The question of providing adequate protection to the Income Tax Officials while on search and seizure duties, however, is under consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has told that the question of providing adequate protection to the Income Tax Officials while on search and seizure duties is under consideration. This is a very good step. I want to know the time by which a final decision in this regard will be taken by the Government.

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We are examining the entire issue for providing training to the officials who go for search and seizure. In some places, there was a threat to their life and in some places, they have been assaulted also. We are thinking of getting some trained personnel on deputation as also going to train these officials to meet the situation, so that whenever necessary, they can defend themselves. But it is not the intention of the Government at this stage to arm them. But at the same time, all precautions have been taken and we have been requesting the State Governments to provide sufficient protection to these officials whenever they are on search and seizure duties.

[Translation]

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of incidents of assault on the Income Tax Officials during the last 4 to 5 years, the amount of compensation paid and the criteria adopted for paying compensation ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : That information is not available. I shall furnish that to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of officials who have asked for arms for self-defence to perform these duties and whether any survey has been conducted in this regard ? Also, please tell me how many officials are capable of using these arms when the time so demands ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : There is no such request, but the Government are alive to the situation and that is why we are thinking of providing training to the officials to protect themselves in self-defence. It is being examined.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action Government have taken in connection with the attack made on these officials during raid in Surat recently ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : That was not an Income Tax raid. That was an excise raid.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : It might be an excise raid. But what the Government did to the officials who led the raid was that they transferred them, and you are not giving the information.

MR. SPEAKER : He cannot give the information.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Is that true or not? I want that information. Who are behind all this? You are talking big and you say that you are doers.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : They have not been transferred because of any allegation. The transfers have been effected in the normal course. And we are not talking big. We are very serious on this and we are for action.....*

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Please pull him up Sir.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This does not form part of the record. I am giving my ruling. Please listen..... (Interruptions)

You can listen to it. This is what I am saying. Hon. members, I would like members and the Minister both, to be relevant to the question put. That is all, you see!

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You may kindly make the observation if you think it fit that references to the West Bengal Government should not become the last refuge of the Ministers who are incapable of answering questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In repartee, it happens at certain times. It is not made sarcastically.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will that form part of the record Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Then, we are satisfied.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : There should not be any allegation that there is a Government in West Bengal!

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Poojary has distributed a pinck of *prasada*, that is why they feel inconvenient.

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes, one cannot digest it.

[English]

Export of Ago-Based Product

*170. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of the ago-based products exported during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) whether there is a big scope to boost this industry and increase the export of agro-based products ;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the finding of this survey and what measures are being taken to increase our export of such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The value of exports of principal agricultural and agro-based products (excluding textile goods) during the last 3 years were as under :

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1981-82	1982-83	(1983-84)
		(Provisional)	(Provisional)
	2376	2295	2463

*Not recorded.