

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दूसरे तरीके से महत्व देंगे, ऐसे नहीं देंगे। हम महत्व दे रहे हैं, हमारी प्रधान मंत्री इस काम को कर रही हैं और हम चाहते हैं अमरीका भी करे। लेकिन यहां पर इस तरह से 388 की प्रथा नहीं चलनी चाहिए।

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : फिर 388 को आप निकाल दीजिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : काफी गम्भीर बात हो तब ऐसा करना चाहिए। और इस मामले में तो किसी को भी कोई मतभेद नहीं है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : हम भी तो केवल बरस की मांग कर रहे हैं।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Robberies in Banks

*838. SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has given guidelines to the commercial nationalised banks to check frequent recurrence of dacoities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what other concrete measures are proposed to be taken to foil robberies in banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Government have impressed upon all the Public Sector Banks the urgent need to strengthen their internal security arrangements. Certain guidelines

have also been issued in this connection. The guidelines inter-alia include appointment of Chief Security Officers to advise and supervise security arrangements and a mixed provision of armed guards, alarm system, locking arrangements, review of general lay-out in the branches, etc. It would not be in public interest to disclose full details of the security arrangements in existence, being made and contemplated.

While Government have issued instructions for strengthening the internal security arrangements within the banks and the banks also are making efforts to tone up their security, the occurrence of dacoity/robbery is essentially a matter of law and order. It is for the State Governments to take appropriate measures to ensure that such dacoities/robberies are prevented or when they occur, effective steps are taken to bring the culprits to book. Government have already addressed the State Governments to take stock of the situation obtaining in their respective States and strengthen the existing security arrangements wherever considered necessary.

SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK: In the statement the Minister has said:

“Robbery is essentially a matter of law and order”.

I agree that it is a matter of law and order and law and order is a State subject. Even though this is a nation-wide problem its occurrence is alarming and particularly in the State of West Bengal these occurrences are much more than any other State in the country. Therefore, the State should co-operate and take measures whatever are being taken by the Government of India. Therefore, I would like to know the measures which the Government is taking.

Are they taking any steps to co-ordinate the steps taken by the State Government and also by the banks in this matter? Has the Central Government any scheme to supplement those steps?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The occurrence of dacoity/robbery is essentially a matter of law and order. In this connection the Government has issued instructions and also requested the State Government to take stock of the situation and also to take necessary measures to curb these dacoities and robberies.

So far as the banks are concerned the Government has issued directions and also the guidelines. These guidelines include the appointment of Chief Security Officer to advise and also to supervise security arrangements and a mixed provision of armed guards, locking arrangements, review of general layout in the branches, etc. It would not be in public interest as also banks interest to disclose full details of the security arrangements in existence, being made and contemplated.

MR. SPEAKER: I am happy that there has been a break through in the robbery. Police must be congratulated for this.

SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK: I would like to draw your kind attention to the Calling Attention discussed in this House on 16th April, 1982. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs—Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah—said; "The bank authorities have to be more vigilant." He said that the bank authorities had to be more vigilant. He further said that in spite of their repeated communications to them, there seemed to be some sort of laxity on the part of the employees in the matter of

taking proper steps. Sir, it is well-known that the bank money is exposed to the machination of these bandits at three points. One is at the counter which is transacting the business when the bank is open. Second is in the strong room, normally done outside the banking hours. Finally, when the boxes of currency are carried from one branch to another and to their head office. In the light of this and in the light of the fact that the employees of the banks are not so security conscious and they are not moving in that way, may I know from the Minister whether the Government have in mind to take any concrete steps in this matter to get over the situation?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: As I stated earlier, the guidelines have been issued to the banks and when there is a violation of these guidelines, proper action has also been taken. In one of the cases, when we found immediately after the dacoity, that there was some deficiency in following the guidelines, the bank manager has been kept under suspension and proper action has also been taken.

So far as the instructions of the Home Ministry are concerned, these are being examined and wherever it is possible, these guidelines have been followed strictly and vigorously. The banks have been following the guidelines. Not only that, the Reserve Bank of India has also come with a proposal to set up a working group to find out the measures so far as the security arrangements are concerned.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rightly you have congratulated the Home Minister and the Delhi Police on apprehending the criminals. At the same time, in the villages where the

rural banks are concentrated, there is no adequate security measure. For example, in my Constituency, Sambalpur district, there is one Kulavira village Grami bank where Rs. 56 lakh worth of gold has been robbed. But uptill now, no break-through has been made and no officer or Chairman had written to that bank about it and the employees had not been taken to task. Based on this fact, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the guidelines prescribed to keep money and other valuable worthy materials in a village Gramin bank? This particular bank people had kept Rs. 56 lakh worth of jewellery but they have not been taken to task.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The curbing and investigation of the offences is a part and parcel of the functions of the State Governments and we have brought to the notice of the State Governments also regarding the undetectable cases.

So far as the security point is concerned, all the banks have their own internal security arrangements for protection of their cash and valuable articles, particularly at the bigger centres as also small centres. Some of the arrangements which are commonly found in all the banks are:

(i) Strong room under joint custody for overnight storage of cash.

(ii) Protective enclosures for cashiers who receive cash at the counter.

(iii) Armed escorts for cash during transit.

(iv) Armed guards at the branch premises.

Effect on Indian exports of New USA Import Rule

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*839. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:**

SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new U.S.A. import rule affects Indian items;

(b) if so, whether Indian products which had earned \$ 1636 million from exports to U.S.A. in 1981 have become ineligible for GSP treatment;

(c) if so, what are the Indian exports which have been greatly affected by the new U.S. Import rule;

(d) whether India has taken up this question with the authorities of U.S.A.; and

(e) if so, what is their reaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (e). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Under the Generalised System of Preferences of the U.S.A. there are certain limitations on preferential treatment for products included in the scheme. These limitations provide that if during a calendar year, export of a product from a beneficiary developing country to the USA exceeded certain value (US \$ 50.9 million at present) or 50 per cent of the total imports into USA, the beneficiary country concerned would become ineligible for preferential treatment with respect to that product in the following year. These limi-