

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5345
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
ROBBERY / THEFT IN BANKS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of robbery and theft from lockers of various branches of nationalised banks in various States have rapidly increased during the last three years till date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise/bank-wise/State-wise;
- (c) whether investigations have been conducted in each case;
- (d) whether bank employees/officers have also been found involved in these incidents;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have not come across any rising trend in the cases of robbery and theft from lockers of various branches of nationalized banks in various States during the last three years. During this period only two incidents of thefts from lockers i.e. one at Allahabad Bank, Commercial Agricultural Finance Branch, Ludhiana, Punjab in December, 2003 and another at Punjab National Bank, Nauroji Nagar Branch, New Delhi in July 2004, occurred, which are under investigation of police. In the case of Allahabad Bank, no involvement of any staff has been reported. However, PNB has observed certain lapses on the parts of its officials against whom the Departmental enquiry is in progress. RBI has issued a circularrelaborating on the relationship between the bank and the locker holder as also liability of the bank in case of lapses in taking adequate measures to safeguard deposit lockers. Further, security measures to be taken by public sector banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by RBI.