

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:795

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006

RECOVERY OF WEAPONS

Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Gandhi Smt. Maneka;Manvendra Singh Shri ;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that some weapons were recovered from the locker of a bank recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith name of bank;
- (c) whether no proper care was taken while opening the account;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to check lockers throughout the country which are non-operational for long periods;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) & (b) : State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that their bank had found fire arms/ammunitions like Stengun, hand grenades, cartridges, detonators etc. in a locker at their Turner Road Branch, Bandra, Mumbai when the said locker was broken open on 27.1.2006 as the locker rentals were in arrears for several years. The police were intimated immediately. The locker was hired on 3.9.1984 by one Shri Arjun Ronald Viz with recorded address at Francisca Apartment, 14 Chimbai Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. The locker agreement which is signed by the hirer, clearly forbids deposit of any explosive or destructive materials. However, the contents of a locker are not known to the bank as the relationship between the bank and locker hirer is that of a licensor and a licensee.

(c) to (g): The available records suggest that the formalities required at that point of time were observed while allotting the locker. However, Indian Banks` Association (IBA) has requested all member banks to review security arrangements at branches and take measures to strengthen the arrangements, wherever necessary and carry out a quick review of application of `Know Your Customer` (KYC) formalities in respect of existing locker hirers.