

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 13th August, 1985/
22 Shrawana 1907 (Saka)

The House meet at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bank Robberies in Delhi

*301. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:†

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of bank robberies have taken place in the Capital during the last few months;

(b) if so, what is the number of such incidents reported during the above period along with the cash and other valuables involved in each case and in how many cases the culprits have been apprehended;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many of the banks lack security arrangements and the bank authorities appear to be moving at a slow pace in providing such arrangements specified by the police authorities; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard, and what further action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During the year 1985 (up to 31st July, 1985), 4 cases of bank robberies/dacoities involving public sector banks, one case of attempted robbery involving a public sector bank and two cases of robberies/dacoities involving a cooperative bank and a private sector bank have been reported to Delhi Police as per details below:-

Sl. No.	Date of occurrence	Name of the bank	Amount		Persons	
			Looted	Recovered	Involved	Arrested
(A) <i>Dacoities/robberies public sector banks :</i>			Rs.			
1.	31st March 1985 (12.45 P.M.)	Union Bank of India Anand Niketan branch.	44,994	Nil	4	Nil
2.	14th March 1985 (7.15 P.M.)	State Bank of India, Greater Kailash branch.	4,18,998	Nil	3	Nil
3.	21st May 1985 (12.10 P.M.)	Bank of India, New Friends Colony branch..	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
4.	10th July 1985 (12.40 P.M.)	New Bank of India, Majid Mohd (Panchsheel En- clave, branch).	3,01,560	Nil	3	Nil
(B) <i>Attempted dacoity/robbery:</i>						
	4th June 1985	Vijaya Bank, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.	Nil	Nil	1	1
(C) <i>Cooperative/private Sector banks dacoity/robbery :</i>						
	8th March 1985 (7.25 P.M.)	Jain Cooperative Bank, Daryaganj, Delhi.	6,250	Nil	6	Nil
			+ (4 watches & 4 gold rings belonging to employees of the bank)			
	9th April 1985 (12.35 P.M.)	Laxmi Commercial Bank, R. Ambagh, Tri- Nagar, Delhi.	One lakh	One lakh	1	1

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. E. Balaram.

(c) and (d) The High Power Working Group on security arrangements in banks had recommended certain security measures for adoption by banks. The recommendations of the Working Group were forwarded to all public sector banks and State Governments for implementation. The Working Group had, however, recommended that the banks may adopt the security mix in various branches of the banks depending upon the identified degree of their vulnerability and having regard to the cost-benefit ratio. The public sector banks in Delhi are implementing the recommendations in a phased manner.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, the Minister in his reply has already stated that a number of bank robberies have taken place in the Capital city. He has also said that the High Power Working Group's proposals have already been sent to the banks for implementation. Still I feel the situation is not very satisfactory. The security arrangements in many banks are very poor. Sir, I would like to cite one or two instances. In Hauz Khas area, that is in South Delhi, about 14 banks are without any security measures, including the alarm system. In Mehrauli area, about 11 banks are still without any security arrangements. In Nizamuddin area, about four banks are still without any protective system. I do not want to go into any more details. What I feel is that even though the recommendations were sent to the banks, they are still hesitating to implement the recommendations. I do not know what are the recommendations which were given by the High Power Working Group. I would like to ask the Minister: is the Government satisfied with certain ad-hoc measures, or are they thinking of implementing certain serious protective measures?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. In fact, Sir the recommendations of the Working Group are being implemented. For the information of the hon. Member, we have got information regarding 16 banks and in 455 branches in Delhi, the alarm system has been introduced. In 232 branches, we have got security guards. In

386 branches, we have got armed guards. In 503 branches, as a security measure, we have got collapsible gates. The hon. Member has brought to our notice that in some time also to introduce these in all the armed guards and also other security measures, Sir, I take note of it. It takes some time also to introduce these in all the branches. Strenuous efforts are being made to take security measures in branches which are at vulnerable points.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, according to my information, the Home Ministry has already made a study about this affair, and they have found out that about 40 per cent of the cases registered go unconvicted. There is a public feeling that the cases are not very well conducted against the dacoits. I would like to ask the Minister what steps he proposes to take to remove this feeling amount the public.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, about conducting of the prosecution and conviction being obtained from the courts, this is a State subject and if the questions are kindly directed to the Home Department, they will be in a position to answer.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, I do not think the hon. Minister should be allowed to escape with the statement that security is a State subject. Here we are dealing with Delhi, which is directly under the Centre's rule. Now, Sir, coming to my question, in the statement laid on the Table of the House, four cases of dacoity or robbery in the public sector banks have been listed between the 4th of March and the 10th of July. And in none of these four cases has any person been arrested. Will the honourable Minister be pleased to state whether this is also a State subject—arrest of criminals who indulge in robberies and dacoities in public sector banks in Delhi—or whether it has something to do with the inefficiency of the police and the administrative set-up, and what measures the honourable Minister would propose to streamline the administration so that such robberies and dacoities do not go unpunished at least in future?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: In Delhi in one attempted case of dacoity one person has been arrested; in another case, in the case of Lakshmi Commercial Bank, one person was arrested...

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, I protest. This is already there in the statement. He should answer the point that I asked. I have not asked for this statement. I have asked about the four cases where nobody has been arrested.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: It is true nobody has been arrested. As regards the steps taken by the local administration, particularly the Delhi Police, I can read out the same: To ensure that bank dacoity and robbery cases are investigated thoroughly on a priority basis, a bank meeting has been called by the Delhi Police and a special cell has been created in the Crime Branch of Delhi Police; specially selected experienced and competent police officers have been put in charge for speedy investigation of these cases. In order to have a quick response checking and interception of fleeing vehicles has been started in the shortest possible time after commission of the offence. These provisions have been made. Banks have been advised to have alarm system outside the branch to alert the neighbours and the passersby about the commission of a crime. I have stated already in how many branches this alarm system has been introduced and also what security measures have been taken: A system of sealing the border and checking of fleeing vehicles has been introduced in cases of crime committed in any part of the city. Banks have also been advised to make special arrangements in the case of banks which are open after sun-set. Police Staff equipped with arms and wireless sets have been posted at strategic points and day and night patrolling has been intensified, and the staff deputed is being properly briefed. These are some of the steps taken in Delhi.

श्री शान्ति त्यागी : दिल्ली में बैंक डकैतियाँ निरन्तर बढ़ती जा रही हैं। इस हाउस में यह प्रश्न कई दफा उठ चुका है और मंत्री जी ने इसी सदन में इस सम्बन्ध में कई दफा जवाब दिया है। मेरा निवेदन

है कि दिल्ली पुलिस के पास बहुत से साधन हैं, बड़े उपकरण हैं इसके बावजूद भी कोई भी डकैत कभी भी आन द स्पॉट नहीं पकड़ा गया। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ जिस पुलिस अधिकारी के क्षेत्र में बैंक डकैती होती है उसके खिलाफ कभी किसी किस्म का कोई एक्शन या कोई कार्रवाई करने के लिये गृह मंत्रालय को सूचित किया ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: As I said, mine is Finance Department and when cases are detected, investigation and other things have to be conducted by the Police Department. It is for them to take effective steps. I shall be very grateful if these questions are directed to the Home Ministry.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: The functioning of banks including the aspect of their security is a matter of so much concern to us that, in fact, a Private Members' Resolution is being discussed in this House, it has been moved by me and it will continue to be discussed on 23rd. My specific supplementary is the then Home Minister in reply to a Call-Attention question on bank robberies had mooted the idea of a special security force for banks. I would like to know from the Minister whether the recommendations of the high-power working group have taken note of this and include a suggestion for setting up a special security force for banks in the country, and in view of the modern electronic revolution which is there, whether these alarm systems which are being provided will have an automatic link to the nearest police station.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, this suggestion which has been referred to by the honourable Member is being implemented and the Government is taking a very serious view of it and we have taken the steps also, Sir to have, as the honourable Member suggested a Special security Force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Hanspal.

श्री हरबेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : चेयरमैन साहब, यह जो स्टेटमेंट मंत्री महोदय ने रखी है, इन्द्रदीप सिंह जी ने अभी

क्वेश्चन बिधा कि कोई आदमी पकड़ा नहीं गया, पुलिस ने कोई केस नहीं किया, पुलिस ने पकड़ा नहीं। मेरा यह कहना है कि जो पकड़े गये हैं और द स्पॉट, जो उनका स्टाफ है उन्होंने पकड़ा है। इस तरह से कुछ पकड़े गये या जहाँ 6-8 आदमी इकट्ठे हुए वहाँ कोई आदमी पकड़ा नहीं गया। इसका कारण मैं यह समझता हूँ कि कुछ समय पहले जहाँ पर आर्म्ड गाइड्स रखे गये थे शायद आर बी आई से कुछ डाइरेक्शन इस तरह का आया कि वह आर्म्ड गाइड्स बिड़ड़ा कर लिये गये वहाँ पर जितना पैसा, कैश बांच में रहता है उसका इश्योरेंस कर लिया जाता है। मैं यह मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ऐसी डाइरेक्शन आर बी आई से बैंक्स को आई है क्या? दूसरी बात यह है कि क्वेश्चन के सी और डी के आन्दार में लास्ट में बताया है :

The public sector banks in Delhi are implementing the recommendations in a phased manner.

फेज्ड मैनर का क्या मतलब है? क्या यह चाहते हैं कि साल दो साल निकल जाए रोबरी लगातार बढ़ती रहे? क्या वहाँ पैसे की कमी है या कोई और कारण है। क्यों नहीं एकदम इम्प्लीमेंट किया जाता है?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, regarding the pending cases, it is not proper for me to give any details which may be used against the prosecution afterwards.

Regarding the withdrawal of the guidelines, I do not think that any withdrawal has been made. On the contrary, we are taking steps to implement the recommendations, as stated earlier. Even in Delhi, Sir, we have taken steps to post the people and it has been made very clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long will it take for you to implement the recommendations? That is what the hon. Member is asking. How long will it take?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: As stated earlier, Sir, we are implementing them. Now Sir, you know that about 50,000 bank branches are there throughout the country.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANS-PAL: I am talking of Delhi only.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: About Delhi, Sir, I have already stated. In about 450 branches, Sir, we have the alarm systems and in 232 branches security guards have been posted and in 386 branches armed guards have been posted and collapsible gates have been introduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already said all that.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: As early as possible we will do it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all what he wanted. Yes, Mr. Virendra Verma.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो हाई-पावर बकिंग ग्रुप बनाया है उसने कुछ संस्तुतियाँ की हैं रिक्मंडेशंस दी हैं, अकेले दिल्ली के लिये नहीं, अकेले नेशनलाइज्ड बैंक्स के लिये नहीं, क्योंकि सब बैंक्स में पब्लिक का पैसा है तो क्या हिन्दुस्तान भर के बैंक्स में उस हाई-पावर बकिंग ग्रुप की रिक्मंडेशन के अनुसार पैसे की सेक्योरिटी के लिये आदेश भेजने और उनका कम्पलाइंस कराने की कृपा करेंगे? दूसरे दिल्ली जो हिन्दुस्तान की राजधानी है यहाँ पर इतने पुलिस स्टेशन्स हैं, इतने वायरलेस स्टेशन्स हैं और इतनी गश्ती पुलिस भी है, घूमती हुई पुलिस है बावजूद इसके इस थोड़े से पेरियड में पांच बैंक्स में जो डकैतियाँ हुई हैं उनमें एक-एक आदमी जो पकड़ा गया है क्या इससे वह सैटिसफाई हैं और अगर सैटिसफाई नहीं है तो क्या और अधिक एक्शन लेने की कोशिश करेंगे और अधिक एक्टिव एक्शन लेंगे?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the recommendations of the Working Group have been sent to the Reserve Bank and the Chief Executives of the Commercial banks and also the State Governments. These instructions are being implemented. Coming to Delhi, with regard to the information that the honourable Member wanted with regard to wireless sets and other things, Sir, I am not having the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kapur.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: Sir, an hon. Member just now referred to the Bank Security Force and I think a proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Finance some time ago. But, because of some financial constraints or other constraints, that proposal was turned down. The Working Group, Sir, has made in all 17 recommendations and if one were to read these recommendations, one will find that they are in such general terms that I do not think that you will ever be able to have some kind of security which will ensure total security in the banks against robbery and dacoity. I would like to read out one line, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Sir, please.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: I would like to ask the Minister that one of the recommendations says that banks should ensure that in the event of a robbery or dacoity taking place the damage that will be suffered is the least. What does this mean? What action will the banks take to ensure that when the robbery takes place the damage is the least? The second is that banks may give selective publicity on preventive steps, without disclosing the details, to boost the morale of the staff as well as the confidence of the general public. What has the Minister got in mind and what kind of publicity the Ministry desires to make to establish this morale?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the details of these have been sent to the concerned Chief Executive of Banks. Now, coming to the question raised by the hon. Member, Sir, it is correct that we cannot provide security guards to all the branches about 50,000 branches. The cost factor is also there; Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 crores is involved if we post guards to all the branches. Now, Sir, coming to the amount involved in dacoities, in the year 1983 and 84 it is about Rs. 1 to 1-1/2 crore. So the cost ratio... (Interruptions)

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: Sir, my question has not been answered. I asked

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I will come to that. So we are not in a position to post guards in all the branches—armed guards and security guards. But efforts are being made to post guards at some of the branches which are vulnerable to these dacoities and robberies.

Now, coming to the publicity and other things, how bank people are working when dacoities are committed, what steps have to be taken, etc., we are working out these things in detail. Now, coming to the point as to the minimum damage, etc., now, Sir, take the example of harm or injury to the person concerned, that is a bank employee. And what steps the bank employee should take, these are some of the secret instructions given to the bank employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

बैंकों द्वारा ऋण मंजूर करने में पक्षपात

* 302. श्री लाल कृष्ण आहवाणी :
श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह कहने की कोशिश करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 9 अप्रैल, 1985 के अंग्रेजी दैनिक "स्टेट्समैन" में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है, जिसमें यह बताया गया है कि हरियाणा के एक प्रभावशाली राजनेता के निकट संबंधियों को पक्षपातपूर्ण ढंग से अग्रिम ऋण उपलब्ध करवाने में कुछ भारतीय बैंकों द्वारा असंधारण उत्साह दिखाया गया ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो समाचार में लगाए गए आरोपों का जवाब क्या है ;

(ग) इस संबंध में की गई छानबीन के क्या परिणाम निकले ; और ;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इन संबंधियों की सहायता करने वाले कुछ बैंक अधिकारियों तथा अन्य व्यक्तियों को

सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री लाल कृष्ण आहवाणी द्वारा पूछा गया ।