

Installation of Electronic equipment in Banks

913. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued instructions to all the Chairmen of the nationalised banks to install sophisticated electronic equipment as a safeguard against robberies;

(b) whether these instructions have been carried out in all the branches;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some of the branches have ignored the instructions and have installed equipments which do not conform to the standard; and

(e) if so, what action Government have taken against the management of such banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHNA POOJARY): (a) to (e) Government had advised all public sector banks to tighten security measures in their office premises. One of the measures suggested was the Provision of alarm system in metropolitan areas and also vulnerable branches in the District towns and other important towns. The Working Group, which was set up under the Chairmanship of former Finance Secretary, had also, *inter alia*, recommended in its Report that banks should arrange for introduction of deterring factors such as alarm system, posting of armed guards etc. The Report of the Working Group was forwarded to all banks for implementation. The exact security measures to be adopted in a bank office have, however, to be decided by the concerned bank managements in the light of the degree of vulnerability of a particular office. The banks have accordingly undertaken a phased pro-

gramme of strengthening the existing security arrangements in their offices. Since no particular specifications have been laid down for any arrangement, the question of violation thereof does not arise.

Army Deserters after Punjab Operation

914. SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND
MOHUNTA:

DR. MAHABIR PRASAD:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel who desert their respective Regiments owing to incorrect and exaggerated rumours about the Army action in Punjab;

(b) how many of them were apprehended and whether there were any casualties on this account; and

(c) whether any Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to investigate into the incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) A few Army personnel had indulged in acts of indiscipline. Courts of inquiry are investigating into these. Complete details regarding the number apprehended, casualties etc., will be available when the proceedings of the Courts of Inquiry are completed.

Raising of interest rate by the United States

915. SHRI CHATURANAN
MISHRA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Government have re-

cently increased the interest rate by half per cent;

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

(c) how much more India will have to pay on this account;

(d) whether India had protested against the increase; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The prime rate of U.S. Banks is reported to have gone up by half per cent and is now 13 per cent.

(c) Since the prime rate of U.S. Banks is domestic to U. S. Banking system and we have not approved recently and significant commercial borrowings in the United States, the direct impact of the increase in prime rate on our debt servicing liability would be negligible.

(d) and (e) Since this is an internal matter concerning the U. S. Banking system, the question of our making any protest as such does not arise. However, along with other developing countries, in various international fora, India has expressed concern about high interest rates prevailing in the developed countries.

Offer from Kerala State Small Industries Development and Employment Corporation Limited for Supply of Uniforms for Defence Services

916. **SHRI K. MOHANAN:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Defence Supplies has received an offer from the Kerala State Small Industries Development and Employment Corporation Limited regarding the supply of 'Disruptive Pattern Combat Uniforms' for the army;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what decision the Department has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) A request has been received from the Kerala State Small Industries Development and Employment Corporation Ltd. for a sample order of 1,000 sets of 'Disruptive Pattern Combat Uniforms' being placed on them.

(c) The matter is under verification.

Murder of Brigadier Puri of the Sikh Regimental Centre, Ramgarh (Bihar)

917. **SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the circumstances which led to the murder of Brigadier S. C. Puri at Sikh Regimental Centre, Ramgarh in Bihar;

(b) whether any Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) whether any financial or other help will be extended to the family members of late Brigadier Puri?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) On the morning of 10-6-84 some Army Personnel including recruits indulged in acts of gross indiscipline in Sikh Regimental Centre, Ramgarh, owing to the incorrect and exaggerated rumours about the Army action in Punjab Brig. S. C. Puri was shot while trying to bring them under control. The court of Inquiry ordered as in progress.