

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

1, STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA-700 001.

Phone: 2213-0663, 2213-0154, 2213-0665 (after 5.30 P.M.), Fax : (033) 2210-1684



e-mail: sbioabengalcircle@gmail.com
www.sbioabengal.com

IP No. 500077

Circular No. 101/2018

Date : 03.08.2018

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 82 dated 03.08.2018 issued by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Soumya Datta
(General Secretary)

To all our Affiliates / Members:

TERRORIST ATTACK ON QUIMOH BRANCH - SECURITY CHALLENGE FOR VALLEY BRANCHES

We have today sent a communication to the Management on the captioned subject. A copy of the same is enclosed for information.

2. All our members/affiliates are requested to await further developments in this regard.

With greetings,

(Y.SUDARSHAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY

No. 8401/37/18

DATE: 03.08.2018

To,
The Deputy Managing Director & CDO,
State Bank of India,
Corporate Centre,
Madame Cama Road,
MUMBAI - 400 021.

Dear Sir,

TERRORIST ATTACK ON QUIMOH BRANCH - SECURITY CHALLENGE FOR VALLEY BRANCHES

We are deeply concerned and anguished at yesterday's terrorist attack on our Quimoh branch located in District Kulgam of Kashmir Valley, which has sent shock waves down the spine of all employees and officers working in the Banking Industry in general, and our colleagues working in the valley in particular.

2. We have regularly been raising the security issues concerning day to day working at various branches especially at sensitive areas.

3. These issues were raised by the Chandigarh Circle Association and the module association continuously. These issues were listed in the Agenda for the meeting at Chandigarh Circle.

Soumya Datta
General Secretary
Mobile : 9830044737

State Bank of India Officers' Association

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 2 :

4. Since last year we have been witness to a spate of violence unleashed on Bank Staff by terrorists while attempting to loot cash from Banks. In one incident last year, 7 persons including two bank guards and five policemen were shot dead by terrorists and numerous attempts to loot cash vans were reported. A branch of Ellaquai Dehati Bank was robbed and numerous attempts of looting our ATMs were reported. The incident of bomb explosion next to sopore branch and imprints of bullet guns on branch server are still fresh in the minds of our members.

5. The details of the present incident are horrifying and gory. It was sheer luck that the Branch Manager, Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Laway, escaped an attack on his life, though he suffered injuries while facing a physical attack by the terrorists, who demanded vault keys from him. The officer risked his precious life but did not part with the vault keys, even with a gun being pointed at him. The terrorists have decamped with cash available at the counters that they could lay their hands on, but due to exemplary courage shown by the Branch Manager and the rest of the staff at the branch, other assets were protected.

6. We draw your attention to some of the grey areas in security which needs immediate attention.

- a. Most of the branches in the valley do not have armed guards.
- b. Gun licenses have since expired and no efforts at the administrative level are being taken to renew them.
- c. Guns provided at the branches are outdated and not in working order.
- d. Security audit has not been conducted lately, which otherwise should have been a regular exercise.
- e. Security concerns of Banks need to have been raised with the State Administration in forums like SLBC etc.
- f. On most occasions, no escort is provided for Cash Remittance between Currency Chests and branches. Repeated requests to put a Cash Administration Cell in place in the valley have not been heeded. Branch staff is compelled to accompany remittances when retention limits are exceeded, to avoid loss of revenue, or to fetch cash for branches to meet customer demands/ATM replenishment.
- g. While transporting cash for ATM replenishments too, no escorts are available. It is pertinent to note that many ATMs are located offsite, at a considerable distance from the parent branch. Possibility of outsourcing ATM Cash replenishment needs to be looked into.
- h. It is for the first time over a year now, ever since the eruption of terrorist violence in the valley 29 years back, that non-local officers are being posted to branches in rural and far flung areas, where the security scenario is even more grave. As per various directives of the Government, all non-local staff posted in the Valley is to be provided with:
 - (i) Dormitory accommodation with security.
 - (ii) Mess facility.
 - (iii) Transport facility to and fro from place to work to place of stay.
 - (iv) Proper Security Cover and insurance.

7. Our branches in the valley and the staff deployed are vulnerable to all sorts of harm that can be caused to their lives and to the assets of the Bank by anti-social elements. This horrifying incident should serve as an eye opener. The life of each and every employee/officer of the Bank is precious. In the aftermath of the incident, we appeal to you to show the same urgency towards the security aspect of our colleagues as is being shown towards the growth of the business. Needless to add that it is these employees and officers alone who are the engines that drive growth of business for the Bank, and if they become sitting ducks and are exposed to the threats of the kind we witnessed yesterday, the fear psychosis is bound to take its toll on their efficiency as well as on the performance of the Bank. We request that an urgent meeting be conducted by the Chandigarh Circle Management with the Circle Association to discuss issues, action points and their implementation in time bound manner.

8. Similar exercise may be conducted on a priority basis at circles which are prone to terrorist attacks and sensitive, which will go a long way in instilling confidence in the officers and staff posted at sensitive areas.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(Y.SUDARSHAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Soumya Datta
General Secretary
Mobile : 9830044737