

the Electric Motive Unit (E.M.U.) coaches are increasing between Kharagpur and Midnapur on S.E. Railway;

(b) if so, how many criminals have been apprehended on this section; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken as a special measure to curb them in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such alleged increases have been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All E.M.U. Trains are already being escorted by R.P.F. between Kharagpur and Midnapur. Besides, patrolling of tracks and picketing of Black Spots in this sector are being organised as far as possible.

NRIs' Deposits In Banks

1113. SHRIMOCHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited by Non-Resident Indians in the branches of nationalised banks and non-nationalised banks of the country during the years 1987 and 1988;

(b) whether the deposits have shown any decline;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the interest on N.R.Is. deposits is more than the interest on deposits of Indian nationals; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other facilities being given to N.R.Is. to deposit their money in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total outstanding balance held in the Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE) & Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) Accounts maintained by Non-Resident Indians with Banks in India were as follows:-

<i>As at the End of</i>	<i>(Rupees in Crores)</i>
December 1986	7470.62
December 1987	9401.66
August 1988 (Provisional)	11314.85

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Statement is attached.

(e) Besides Deposits in Bank Accounts, Non-Resident Indians can invest in Equity Shares, Debentures, Deposits of Indian Companies, National Savings Certificates, Units of UTI and the NRI Bonds being floated by State Bank of India.

Passenger Amenities on S.C. Railway

1114. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a waiting hall for metre gauge passengers and store room for goods and parcels for broad gauge line passengers at Manmad and if so, when these will be provided;

(b) whether it has also come to Government's notice that the bed rolls being

provided to passengers on South Central Railway are not clean; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No such specific complaint has come to notice. However, instructions have been given to the Railway to ensure that bed rolls are clean.

Investment of Gold In Government Securities

1115. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Bullion Association has put forward the proposal for mobilising gold and investing it in Government Securities; and

(b) if so, the views of Government regarding practical applicability of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Bombay Bullion Association have in a representation suggested "creation of a gold bank to look into problem of mobilisation of resources of gold and reducing its physical demand by issuing gold certificate." However no specific proposal or details have been given in this regard.

(b) In view of (a) above, (b) does not arise.

Income Tax Exemption on the Interest Earned on National Savings Certificates

1116. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department is treating the interest earned on the National Savings Certificates (VI issue) as invested for granting the benefit under Section 80 C of the Income Tax Act; and

(b) if so, the reason for differential treatment to interest credited to the Provident Fund account of an employee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The interest accrued to the provident fund account of an employee does not bear the character of his income in the absence of any enabling provision similar to rule 19 of the National Savings Certificates (VI Issue) Rules 1981. By virtue of this rule, the interest on N.S.C. (VI Issue) is deemed to accrue to the holder or holders of the certificate at the end of each year and the interest so accruing at the end of each year upto the end of 5th year is deemed to have been re-invested on behalf of the holder or holders. This makes such interest on National Saving Certificates (VI Issue) eligible for benefit under section 80C of the Income-Tax Act. There being no such provision in respect of provident fund account of an employee, the interest credited to such account is in fact not the income of the employee but accrues to the Fund and therefore cannot be treated as his income. As such, it cannot be given the same tax treatment as is given to the interest accrued on the National Savings Certificates (VI Issue) and deemed to be re-invested therein.

Reservation for SCs/STs in Judiciary Appointments

1117. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: