

(c) and (d). The detenus have been lodged in different jails all over the country. After the completion of investigation and requisite procedural formalities, they are also liable for prosecution under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Seizure of Gold from a Crew's cabin in a Panamanian Registered Ship

2437. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK :

SHRIMATI RENUKA
CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the *Times of India* of the 4th July, 1988 to the effect that the Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized gold worth Rs. 2 crores from a crew's cabin in a Panamanian registered ship M. V. Orient Express;

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

(c) whether any action has since been taken by Government against the culprits?

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

(b) and (c) Search of the Cabin of Second Officer of a Panamanian registered ship M. V. 'Orient Express' on 3rd July, 1988 resulted in the recovery and seizure of 375 foreign marked gold bars weighing 10 tolas each collectively valued at Rs. 1.42 crores approximately. The vessel valued at Rs. 2.5 crores approximately alongwith containers and goods meant for other ports collectively valued at Rs. 50 lakhs were also seized. The Second Officer was arrested.

Permanent Account Number to Income Tax assesseees

2438. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :
SHRI BEKAL UTAHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allot permanent account numbers to every income-tax assessee during the financial year 1988-89 as a stringent measure to enforce income-tax laws and reduce incidence of tax evasion through better monitoring; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the total number of income-tax assesseees in the country at present and how many of them have been given a permanent account number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Income-tax Department's scheme is to allot permanent account numbers to all the assesseees through the computer system if such a permanent account number has not been allotted earlier. The Computer Centres at Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore have completed the allotment of permanent account numbers. The Computer Centres at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Pune, Agra, Kanpur, Amritsar, Coimbatore, Madurai, Jaipur and Nagpur are allotting permanent account numbers to the assesseees. The Computer Centres which have been established during 1988-89 at Patiala, Allahabad, Meerut, Bhopal, Baroda, Jalandhar, Nasik, Kolhapur, and Rohtak would also start allotment of permanent account numbers through computers.

Permanent account number is allotted for establishing the identity of a taxpayers. It will facilitate computerisation programmes pertainin gto tax receipts, assessments of income verification of transactions etc. It will also facilitate verification of various transactions which may be notified under Section 139A(6) of the Income-tax Act. These measures would lead to better monitoring of compliance of tax laws and procedures and would result in reducing tax evasion.