

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Export of deoiled rice bran is allowed within a limited ceiling. The size of the export quota for 1982-83 is yet to be decided.

Introduction of Master Card System

9439. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Bank of India has entered into an agreement with Master Card International Inc. U.S.A. for a tie-up of Central Card with Master card;

(b) if so, whether it is used as an alternative for both currency and cheques; and

(c) what other advantages will accrue to Government by the introduction of the master card system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India, Central Bank of India has been permitted to acquire a licence from the Interbank Card Association, New York, USA for its membership so as to get the benefit of the Master Card for India.

(b) The card enables the holder to purchase goods and services from authorised retail outlets (Establishment) upto a certain limit without immediate cash payment. Thus, the Credit Card affords immediate credit facility and relieves the cardholder the risk of carrying cash or a cheque book.

(c) It helps to increase the foreign exchange earnings besides promoting tourism.

Fraud involving travel documents in Canada detected by Air India

9440. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India detected a major fraud involving travel documents called Miscellaneous Charges Orders in Canada;

(b) if so, the nature of the fraud and loss if any, suffered;

(c) what is the action that has been taken in the matter; and

(d) the identity of the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). According to the information available, 523 Miscellaneous Charges Orders (MCOs) were stolen in July 1980, from a travel agency in Canada alongwith identification plates of 28 international airlines. Five MCOs were presented at Air India booking office during December 81/January 82 for conversion into tickets through a non-IATA travel agency. Air India has also detected one such case at Delhi. Loss to Air India on this account has been estimated at Rs. 27.42 lakhs. Keeping in view recovery of MCOs worth Rs. 10 lakhs and cash to the extent of Rs. 1.32 lakhs from the agent.

At Bombay the matter is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. One, Mr. Ashraf Patel, Director, Regency Travels was arrested and has been released on bail. At Delhi, a complaint has been lodged with the Police and the matter is being investigated.