THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (f). The enactment of an appropriate legislation for the setting up of a National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is under the consideration of Government. This will be broadly based on the recommendations of the interim report of the Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman to undertake a review of the institutional arrangements for the rural credit. The Committee was to review, inter alia, the structures and operations of the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC), consultancy service provided by the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), the Agriculture Credit Division of the Reserve Bank and the Regional Rural Banks, and to suggest improvements in the structure of co-operative financing institutions. The final report of the Committee has still not been submitted.

Questions relating to capital and institutional structure, administrative arrangements, merger of other institutions with the proposed new bank etc. will be considered in the light of the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee.

Racket in sale of Bombay-Cochin Airline Tickets at a Premium

*168. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that operating of a racket in the sale of Bombay-Cochin airline tickets at a premium involving some airline personnel recently came to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) action taken by Government to curb such exploitation as also against the airline personnel involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). A few months back, some complaints were received alleging malpractices in which, among others, certain Indian Airlines personnel were also reported to have been involved. Of the two cases reported during the current year, one is under investigation; and in regard to the others, the Departmental inquiry has not brought out any involvement of personnel belonging to the Indian Airlines.

(c) The following remedial msasures have been taken to avoid harrasment of passengers:—

(i) Special handling facilities have been provided on the Bombay/Trivandrum, Bombay/Cochin counters.

(ii) Extensive publicity has been given in Malayalam papers in Kerala about the existence of such anti-social elements at Santacruz Airport.

(iii) Passengers have been advised to contact only uniformed Indian Airlines staff for any assistance required in the reservations.

(iv) Capacity has been increased to over 500 seats as against 350 seats offered prior to August, 1980 on the Bombay/Cochin/Trivandrum routes by introduction of extra Boeing and Airbus services.

(v) Special Assistance Counter has been set up in the International Arrival Lounge in order to assist the in-coming passengers connecting Indian Airlines domestic flights.

(vi) A Notice Board in Malayalam is displayed for the benefit of passengers bound for Kerala.

(vii) Complaints as and when received are promptly investigated and necessary and appropriate remedial action taken.