

No. 35 in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd May, 1967 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken by I.A. C. to raise internal fares and freight rates; and

(b) what percentage of the passage fare is accountable to the passengers running on Government expenses on the I.A.C. planes?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):

(a) The existing fares and freights of the Indian Airlines Corporation are being increased with effect from 1-8-1967 by 15 per cent on all sectors except those in the Assam area where the increase will be restricted to 5 per cent.

(b) The Indian Airlines do not have any means of assessing the percentage of passenger revenue on Government account.

DIVERSION OF LAND UNDER CASH CROPS TO CEREALS

352. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased state the area of land that has been diverted to cultivation of cereals from cash crops in 1965-66 and 1966-67?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): Separate data regarding areas of land diverted from cereals to cash crops are not available. During 1965-66, area under both cereals and cash crops registered a decline as compared to 1964-65 as will be seen from the table below: —

Area ('000 hectares)		
Cereals	Pulses	Cash crops.*
1964-65—		
93,74°	23,793	29,072
1965-66—		
90,192	21,450	28,113

*Cash crops include oilseeds, cotton, jute, mesta, sunnhemp, potato, sugarcane, black pepper, chillies, ginger, turmeric and tobacco.

It, therefore, appears that there was no diversion of area, at the all-India level, from cereals to cash crops in that year.

Statistics of area under all crops for 1966-67 are not yet available.

UTILISATION OF AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

353. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the percentage of credit so far channelised through cooperatives for agricultural production which has been diverted to consumption expenditure;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the view of Shri H. V. R. Iyyengar, a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, that in general a large scale extension of credit through cooperatives at this stage of their development instead of being utilised to stimulate agricultural production, might be diverted to consumption and thus actually aggravate inflation; and

(c) whether Government propose to incorporate suitable built-in checks in the credit system to ensure utilisation of credit exclusively for the purpose for which it is intended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) A survey conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission, with 1961-62 as reference period, showed that of the total credit advanced by primary agricultural credit societies, about 8 per cent, was diverted for consumption purposes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is the intention of Government that credit channelised through