

(b) and (c). Indian Airlines will operate an Airbus service to Gauhati as soon as the aerodrome there has been made ready to receive the aircraft.

Indian Airlines would also consider operation of Airbus services to Goa and Srinagar when these airports are adequately developed for operation of wide bodied aircraft. Necessary development works at Gauhati, Goa and Srinagar are in progress.

Rise in prices in Delhi

923. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prices in Delhi are rising alarmingly;

(b) whether the price index figure for March last year was 324 indicating that there has been a rise of 21 points over the last 12 months; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Consequent on the inflationary pressures built up in the country since the last week of March, 1976, there has been a rising trend in prices in the country as a whole, which has been reflected in the price trends in the Union Territory of Delhi as well.

(b) Yes, Sir. The consumer price index for industrial workers in Delhi (base 1960—100) had moved up from 324 in March, 1976 to 345 in March, 1977.

(c) Remedial measures taken at the national level are likely to have

impact on prices and availability of essential commodities in the Union Territory of Delhi also. The measures taken include: (i) removal of restrictions on inter-State movement of wheat, (ii) increased releases of non-levy sugar for the months of May, June and July, 1977, (iii) regulated exports of potatoes and onions; (iv) continuance of imports in adequate quantities of edible oils through the State Trading Corporation and the private trade, and (v) imposition of an export duty of Rs. 5 on tea from April 9, 1977 and simultaneous withdrawal of the excise rebate on tea exports.

In addition, Delhi Administration has taken some more specific measures in this regard. These include the following:

Pursuant to a scheme of the Government of India, arrangements have been made to sell imported rapeseed oil at a retail price not exceeding Rs. 8.50 per kg. During the past three months 3000 tonnes or rapeseed oil has been put in the market in Delhi. The procurement of soft coke has been entrusted to Bharat Coking Coal Limited as a result of which the price of soft coke has been brought down from Rs. 10.82 to Rs. 10.32 per 40 kg.

An Essential Commodities Traders Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of associations of traders of various essential commodities, National Consumer Co-operative Federation, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., and some officials of the Delhi Administration, was formed last month to review the situation of availability of essential commodities and articles of mass consumption at reasonable prices.

It has been decided to set up 50 fruits and vegetables fair-price retail shops. Some of these shops have already started functioning.