

relates to the period July 1970 to June 1971, has mentioned that 'although the economy was able to attain for the second year in succession the targetted rate of growth in the Fourth Plan, it is currently passing through quite a difficult period. Foremost among the aspects of the economy which is causing concern is the price situation. The year began with a strong upward pressure on prices. Subsequently as a result of the various measures taken, prices eased off. However, in the recent months, the rising trend has asserted itself once again.' The Report calls for price stability and has emphasised the need for maintaining a reasonable degree of balance between increases in money supply and those in real income.

As for the Planning Commission it is, at present, engaged in a mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Plan. Its views in regard to the economic situation will be known when this appraisal is completed.

(c) The Government is fully aware of the situation and has been taking all possible measures to control undue price rise. In the fiscal field, steps have been taken to economise on non-plan expenditure, both at the Centre and in the States; measures have also been recently announced both by the Centre and the States to mobilize additional resources to help in meeting the needs of the refugees from East Bengal. On the monetary side, the Government's credit control policies have been geared to tackle manifestations of inflationary pressures, and a fairly restrictive credit policy is being pursued. Major foodgrains continue to be sold at fixed prices through a net-work of fair-price/ration shops, and the State Governments have been advised to further strengthen the public distribution system. Prices and/or distribution control is being maintained on a number of essential commodities; this has recently been extended to steel rollers' products. Cotton textile mills have been asked to step up the output of controlled varieties of cloth and

to stamp the 'consumer price per metre' on every metre length of the cloth. With a view to checking speculative activities certain lacunae in the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 have been removed; forward trading, including trading in non-transferable specific delivery contracts, in all edible oils and oilseeds was suspended last month, and futures trading in *gur* was banned. In addition, larger imports of essential commodities such as raw cotton, edible oils, steel and soda ash, are being arranged to make up the shortfall in the indigenous output.

Air Taxis between smaller Airports to improve Tourist Traffic

*129. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to allow private parties to run air taxis between smaller airports to improve tourist traffic ; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

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

(a) and (b). The question of allowing private operators to establish air taxi services on routes not operated by Indian Airlines, particularly for promotion of tourism in various parts of the country, is under examination.

Performance Test of HS-748 Planes

*132. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA :

SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

SHRI PRAVIN SINGH

SOLANKI :

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

(a) whether a Technical Committee appointed by Government have found