

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to collect the arrears and the amount collected year-wise during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE/

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b) The requisite information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

STEPS TO ACHIEVE PRICE STABILITY

श्रीरंगराय:

श्रीकल्याणराय:

श्रीबालचन्द्रा मे-नन:

श्रीम.व.भद्राम:

Will the Minister of FINANCE/ फाईन *रत be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India as well as the National Council of Applied Economic Research have recently urged upon Government to take immediate steps for maintaining a reasonable degree of price stability; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE/ फाईन *रत (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The latest Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of India has *Inter alia* mentioned that "the most important need of the moment, however, is the maintenance of a reasonable degree of price stability in the economy." The National Council of Applied Economic Research, in a recent issue of its journal, has suggested restraint on Government expenditure.

(b) The Government has initiated various measures for ensuring price stability in the economy. On the fiscal side, economies are being effected in the non-plan expenditure at the

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Centre, and the State Governments too have been urged to economise on current expenditure and to exercise restraint in the matter of over-drafts from the Reserve Bank of India. Simultaneously, steps have been announced for mobilising additional resources to help meet the expenditure on account of the refugees from East Bengal.

A fairly restrictive credit policy, put in operation since January 1970 by stages, is being pursued. With a view to discouraging speculative price increases, forward trading, operations, including non-transferable specific delivery contracts, in all edible oils and oilseeds have been suspended, and certain lacunae in the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act have been sought to be removed through an Ordinance issued last month. Future trading in *gur* has been banned. Price and distribution controls are being continued over a number of essential commodities, and have recently been extended to cover the products of iron and steel rollers. Regulatory steps have been taken for ensuring adequate releases of sugar from the mills, and restrictions have been placed on the stocking of sugar by registered wholesalers. The current gap between supply and demand in respect of several essential commodities like raw cotton, edible oils, steel and soda ash is being made up through larger imports. Additional foreign exchange has been allocated recently for the import of a number of special steel items. Major cereals continue to be sold at fixed price through a net work of fair price/ration shops; the State Governments have been advised to further strengthen the public distribution system.

CHANGES IN TIME SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS IN EASTERN ZONE

104. श्रीद्विजेंद्रलाल सेन गुप्ता: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/ पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the public reaction due to change of the time schedule of the various flights in Eastern Zone;