Controls on rational basis, PM asserts

MADRAS, October 5.

PRIME MINISTER Indira Gandhi said here today that the Government did not believe in the philosophy of "controls for controls' sake."

Addressing industrialists at a reception accorded to her by the city chambers of commerce, Mrs. Gandhi pointed out that the long-term interests of both the businessmen and the Government were not "divergent."

She made an offer to lift controls to the extent the private trade and industry reflected their sense of awareness of social responsibility.

Only with the co-operation of all sections of people, faster growth of the economy was possible and this could be achieved only if the social justice was ensured for all.

There was no question of any "confrontation" between the private sector and the public sector. "In our economy they have to be complementary to each other. Our aim should be how to increase production and how to help the country to progress in the right direction."

Before Independence, due to various reasons, the development of the country was rather uneven. After that event, although many opportunities had opened up, it was, perhaps, natural that the developed areas were in a position to take advantage of the new opportunities and this led to further uneven development.

"So it is the more necessary that the dialogue between the Government and all the industry should be not merely at the national level, but also at the regional levels," Mrs. Gandhi said.

Mrs. Gandhi called for stability in the country which she said was "a dynamic concept" and pointed out that "stability in the Indian context should signify that the people's lot is being improved."

Reverting to bank nationalisation, the Prime Minister made it clear that the needs of the industry and trade for productive purposes would be met by the nationalised banks.

'Not enough'

She stressed the need for a more vigorous programme to open more branches of the nationalised banks which would help mobilise larger resources "to meet the require- [illegible] address of welcome, suggested the establishment of an export bank in the country on the lines of those in the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan for financing the requirements of exporters, adds PTI.

He also suggested that a high-power committee be constituted to manage bank credit so that the genuine needs of industry and trade were safeguarded. As long as the genuine demands of the industry and trade, "which the Prime Minister was good enough to assure us would be met" there need be no reason for the business community to worry about bank nationalisation.

Mr. Easwaran felt that the credit needs of agriculture be channelled through co-operative banks, instead of commercial banks indiscriminately spreading their branches in rural areas, and thus posing the threat of competition to co-operatives.