the Cabinet and the two Provincial Governors. Similarly, the military courts have been withdrawn for the most part and the bulk of the work is handled by the regular courts which have remained intact. This is in line with the Government's policy, announced at the very beginning, to operate through civilian agencies as much as possible, and to use martial law regulations only to "tighten up" existing laws on matters like malingering amongst officials, corruption, hoarding, black-marketing or other types of anti-social activity. However, while General Ayub's Government is resolved to use civilian agencies where possible, it has also made an effort to improve their efficiency. To expedite this, an elaborate framework of screening committees has been organized to examine all public servants at the centre, in the provinces, and in subordinate offices and corporations such as the City of Karachi. A press note has stated, "it is not intended through this screening to embark upon a witch hunt, but to identify cases of glaring inefficiency or corruption". There are also plans to reorientate recruiting for the public service, to establish a training school for civil servants, and to reduce administrative red tape generally.

Economic and Social Policies

Probably the most far-reaching new policy of the Government has been the commencement of land reforms in West Pakistan (the East Wing introduced them several years ago). The new measures set maximum private holdings of land, with all acreage in excess of the limit to revert to the state, which, in turn, would sell it on easy terms to the present tenants. The land owners will be paid compensation for the excess land, which has been estimated to total some 9 million acres. Also important are new regulations setting minimum land holdings in order to prevent the uneconomic fragmentation of the cultivable soil. Coupled with land reforms has been a programme to move farmers from over-crowded areas to idle, newly-irrigated lands in the Indus Basin. A high priority has also been set on bringing about the efficient utilization of fertilizers, irrigation and drainage schemes and seed multiplication farms. All these moves are designed to help rehabilitate the under-developed rural regions, where 80 per cent of the population live, and to overcome the nation's chronic shortage in food production.

The President, the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the State Bank, have all drawn public attention to the imperative necessity of Pakistan living within its means. The primary problem they regard as inflation, and the basic requirement as more production. As indicated above, the Government has placed the main emphasis on production in the agricultural rather than the industrial sector where the aim will not be large-scale industrialization but the utilization of existing capacity. There will also be more concentration on medium, small and cottage industries and the use of local raw materials. Measures are also envisaged to mobilize internal savings and to restrict consumption. Initially, the Government imposed price controls and ceilings on the profits of business firms in order to bring down consumer prices but Mr. Shoaib, the Minister of Finance, has stated that price stability in the long run can be achieved only by stepping up production.

Another big task is to increase the volume of exports and thus increase foreign exchange earnings. To foster this, the Government has announced a new export bonus scheme which, it is hoped, will open an era of freer trade.