



—Gov. of West Bengal

ARRIVAL AT THE CANADA DAM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mrs. L. B. Pearson arrive at the site of the Canada Dam for the opening ceremonies. Included in the party, at Mrs. Pearson's right, is the Chief Minister, West Bengal, Dr. B. C. Roy, and the High Commissioner for Canada in India, Mr. Escott M. Reid.

Our assistance did not stop here. The plan for the dam included provision for a small hydro-electric plant. Canada agreed to donate, at a cost of about \$3 million, the electrical equipment needed to put this plant into operation. The powerhouse will have an installed capacity of 4,000 kws. of hydro-electric power, half of which will be certain throughout the year. Its full capacity will be realized during the monsoon season when the power will be most needed for cottage industries which are being developed in the area to help the villagers supplement their means of livelihood. During the rains they cannot work their plots. When they can, those whose lands lie in areas where lift irrigation is necessary, will continue to derive benefits from cheap power in their farming activities. Electricity will operate the irrigation pumps.

West Bengal and the Indian Union have reason to be proud of what Indian skills and labours have accomplished in the Mayurakshi project. We have mentioned the length and height of the dam and the size of the reservoir. However, there are other facts about the project equally impressive. For example, the method followed in constructing the dam combined the employment of manual labour for rubble masonry work with the use of light hoists for lifting operations. Through this method six million cubic feet of masonry work were completed in a single year even though the only shift was of eight hours and the work had to be done in circumstances which were not always favourable. The structure was finished before schedule at a cost within the estimate. Since the time of the President's visit to Messanjore more than 15,000 manual labourers have toiled on the dam and in the canals. Strikes have been unknown.