

the east coast, more settlers will move in and the dry belt in Ceylon will become inhabited once more. It used to be a very prosperous area when, in the twelfth century A.D., a progressive king of Ceylon built catchment basins which held all the rainfall and irrigated what is now a dry zone.

Modern engineers say that if they had to do it all over again they would put these catchment basins exactly where the king put them. What they do not know is how he made his calculations so accurately. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is engaged in a project to clear the jungle from these basins so that they can again catch water which now rushes uselessly to the sea.

In the third year of the plan, which is this year, I have just returned from another tour of the area. On these tours I conferred with the Central Government, state governments, engineering departments and tried to work out with them what would be the most useful contribution that Canada could make.

At the present moment, for India we have under consideration, some further assistance to the Indian railway system. I went up into Assam and looked into a project known as Umtru which, if we undertake it, would provide power and some irrigation in an endeavour to better the lot of some of the backward tribes in Assam, which borders on Tibet. Fruit grows there in great abundance and canneries could be set up. The people are very fine weavers but need power machinery to produce enough of their product for export. The Government of India is very anxious to have this border area made more prosperous, and if we can reach an agreement we will help them to do it.

Another project I looked into was transmission lines for the Madras area. There has been a drought in Madras for six years now and the condition of the farmers in the area is pitiful. They have been compelled to dig their wells so deep that bullocks can no longer pull up the water. It has to be pumped, and in some wells I saw it even has to be lifted by two pumps.

It is only the fact that Madras is an advanced province electrically that has saved it at all. Recently they have increased their power production from several plants and now need distributive equipment for an extensive rural electrical development scheme. Peasants will then be able to rent pumps and so irrigate their land and keep themselves going until the rains come again.

In Pakistan we have already agreed to an extension of our aerial survey. In view of the food shortage which Pakistan ran into last year, we are now going to photograph West Pakistan from a land use point of view to see where more agricultural development is possible, where irrigation schemes would be likely to pay and to provide a background against which the Food and Agricultural Organization and Pakistan's own Agricultural Department can work. This we hope will prove to be a very valuable project.

We have also appropriated some more money for Warsak and it has been agreed that a firm of Canadian consulting engineers will re-design the project and supervise its erection. Canada will supply the electrical generating equipment.