

The House may notice that no food aid has been allocated at this time for Ethiopia and a few other past recipients, while current allocations to Bangladesh and the Sahel are considerably lower than they were last year. It should therefore be emphasized that the present allocations are preliminary and will be revised as both CIDA and the Department of Agriculture obtain adequate information to assess the real needs of prospective recipients. It should also be recognized that the changes in the allocations follow from the shift in the structure of the Canadian Food Aid program, since some countries' requirements, which were met last year with bilateral allocations, will be satisfied this year by multilateral agencies to which Canada's contributions, as noted earlier, have more than quadrupled.

Moreover, some improvement in both the crop and food supply situations of some recipients has fortunately been registered recently. In Ethiopia, for example, good crops have obviated the need for as much food aid as was originally planned. 5,000 metric tons of wheat, credited to CIDA's 1974-75 budget, will be delivered in May for distribution in southern Ethiopia, where a modest shortage still exists. The food situation in Ethiopia is being monitored very closely and if more Canadian aid is required and conditions permit its delivery and distribution this year, the reserve fund could be used to provide such assistance. It should be noted that recent disturbances in Ethiopia have made deliveries highly problematic, since only one port, Djibouti, is not controlled by insurgents and since this port has limited handling capacity.