

THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF PAKISTAN

Population: 82,000,000

Occupational distribution: Pakistan is predominantly agricultural and 80% of its population is dependent upon the land.

Post-war Problems: The war laid a serious burden on the country. Equipment was over-worked and depleted and food production was seriously dislocated. Chittagong Port was subject to intense strain during the war and greatly in need of repair. The indirect effects of the war were also serious. The strict control of food prices kept down agricultural incomes, but on the other hand there was a general increase in the price of manufactured goods and the consequent diminution in the value of savings was especially damaging to the agricultural communities which form so large a part of the country.

Pakistan, like India, felt certain direct economic consequences of partition. She found herself with over 80% of the world production of jute but with no jute manufacturing capacity. She was producing annually 200,000 tons of cotton, mainly of fine quality, but with a negligible textile industry. There were no tanneries, no woollen mills, and very little other industry. So far the Government has been largely preoccupied with problems of an emergency character, including the heavy task of rehabilitating nearly seven million refugees. Nevertheless strenuous efforts have been and are being made both at the government level and by private enterprise to improve the country's industrial resources.

Basis and Objectives of the Programme

In order to avoid dissipation of the limited resources of the country on less important projects and to concentrate on urgent objectives, the new six-year plan of development concentrates on projects of the highest priority, and by no means exhausts the possibility of initiating new projects during the period. It is inspired not only by the desire to improve the standard of living but also by the conviction that the country is endowed with an industrious and virile people inhabiting a land whose natural resources call for a vigorous programme of development. The programme is essentially one of basic development intended to prepare the country for future advancement. It is based on the assumption that Pakistan must continue to be essentially an agricultural country, but that agriculture must be carried on in the most efficient way.