



This godown at Urmi Village is one of six built in Haryana with the help of a Rs. 3.2 lakhs grant from the Canadian International Development Agency.

## Godowns For Haryana

As part of Canada's development assistance programme in India, the Canadian International Development Agency provides financial support to private voluntary organizations undertaking projects in rural areas. One recent example where CIDA financing was used to support a project of this type was the construction of six godowns in Haryana State under the auspices of CARE of Canada.

CARE has been engaged since 1962 in providing daily meals for school

children in the rural areas of Haryana State and is currently providing food commodity assistance for 235,000 beneficiaries in 2659 schools located in 83 educational blocks in the State. Since the inception of this programme, the commodities arriving at Indian ports were sent directly from the port of arrival to the Block Education Officer by rail who was then responsible for despatching the commodities to the schools functioning as feeding centres. A random sample

survey conducted during fiscal year 1974 had revealed that 29.2% of the potential feeding days were being lost due to the non-availability of the commodities at the feeding centres. This was largely due to the fact that there are more than 1,000 miles of inland transport involved in bringing the commodities from the port and when they arrived in Haryana there were inadequate godown facilities for storage. This prevented the accumulation of proper buffer stocks and resulted in shortfalls in commodity availability, which caused an interruption of the flow of commodities to the feeding centres.

In order to avoid these interruptions in the feeding programmes and to enable buffer stocks of at least 3 months supply to be built up, it was proposed that CARE construct six Regional Godowns at strategic locations in the State.

With the help of a C\$40,500 (Rs. 3.2 lakhs) grant from CIDA and a C\$23,000 (Rs. 1.8 lakhs) contribution by CARE of Canada, six godowns were built, one each at Umri village, Gharaunda village, Sonapat, Palwal, Rewari and Narwana to provide safe storage for three months stocks of commodities. On August 20, 1977 at a colourful ceremony at Umri village Mr. V.G. Lotto, Counsellor (Commercial and Development) at the Canadian High Commission formally handed over the six godowns as a gift of the people of Canada to Haryana's Education Minister Col. Ram Singh. With the inauguration of these regional godowns it will now be possible to avoid interruptions in food supplies and to ensure that the mid-day meals programme in the state will be able to operate even more effectively.



Mr. V.G. Lotto, Counsellor (Commercial and Development) of the Canadian High Commission distributes the noon time meal provided by CARE of CANADA to school children in Haryana.