

This is a very broad picture of Government policy. I do not want to present too much detail which might obscure the main lines of our activities. I should remind you, however, that carrying out an economic assistance programme is not simply a matter of making allocations - writing a larger cheque each year as it were. That is only the beginning. The agency concerned must then proceed on the basis of parliamentary authority to implement the plans. This involves a very considerable effort of discussion and negotiation, the movement of people and supplies, the introduction of new programmes, the criticism and revision of existing programmes and the effective central administration of public funds.

International organizations are, of course, involved in the use of some of the funds we allocate. For the most part, however, our aid is carried out by Canadians, by the Government and by the agencies and individuals whose services are enlisted. In considering the expansion of assistance in recent years, therefore, we must not think only of total allocations but consider also the significance, in terms of time and effort, of the increased levels of activity and of new departures in aid techniques.

Current Activities

The past fiscal year has been characterized by an expansion in the size of both bilateral and multilateral aid programmes. A new development-loan programme has been implemented. There have been record levels of recruitment and training in the field of technical assistance. We have given particular emphasis to food aid in response to urgent requests from abroad.

Churches in Canada were particularly concerned about the critical shortage of food in India. We expect to ship 1 million tons of wheat to India during 1966. Canada will, therefore, be contributing more wheat to India, on a general comparative basis, than other countries.

Canada sponsored training programmes and courses of study for some 2,300 overseas students from over 60 different countries during the year and provided over 800 teachers, professors and technical advisers for service abroad. These figures should be set alongside the comparable ones of 700 overseas students and 83 Canadian experts, five years ago, as an indication of the growth in these programmes. Work went rapidly ahead on projects ranging from dams to schools in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. These were financed under grant aid and the new development-loan programme introduced late in 1964.

The chronic agricultural problem which prevails in most of the developing world received particular attention. During the past year we devoted approximately 16 per cent of our bilateral aid to overseas agricultural development in the improvement of irrigation facilities and rural electrification, in the provision of pesticides, fertilizers and fertilizer components and in many other ways.

Since we are particularly interested in Africa today, I might mention, by way of example, some of the projects or programmes under way in that continent. As you probably know, we have two programmes there, one for Commonwealth African countries and one for French-speaking countries.