

The institutions, however, which are being increased in the area in large numbers are not the atomic research centres, important though they might be, but the numerous schools of technology and scientific and research laboratories which have already started producing technicians to man the development projects that have been launched. The Report gives a number of instances of such activities in a special section devoted to the subject.

As regards experts, of the total number of 572 provided up to the middle of the year, 156 were in the field of medicine and health, followed by engineering (88), education (70), food, agriculture and forestry (67), transport and communications (65), industry and trade (46) and fisheries (29).

Special Equipment

Training of students or advice of experts will not be complete unless they are accompanied by the equipment necessary for demonstration or for actual work. Requests for equipment made under the Scheme include three broad categories, namely, laboratory equipment, training equipment and research equipment. Over £2 million worth of equipment has already been supplied or is on order or offer, by the Governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom. Of this over £600,000 has been for laboratory equipment, £1,300,000 on training equipment and £375,000 on research equipment.

Growth of Mutual Aid

Mutual aid by the countries of South and South-East Asia with a view to promoting national development is a remarkable feature in the progress of the Colombo Plan during the last five years. Out of a total amount of £5,616,511 spent under the Technical Co-operation Scheme from the inception of the Colombo Plan to June 30, 1956, the assistance given by the countries of the area to each other amounted to £376,182 or about 7% of the total assistance, the Report shows.

When the Colombo Plan started in 1950 technical assistance for economic development of the area was provided by the advanced countries outside the region, namely Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The progress of development in the countries of the region has now brought about a welcome change in this pattern of assistance, namely that while assistance from the original donors is continuing some of the countries of the area have come forward with assistance to the others. Among such donors are Ceylon, India, Indonesia, the Federation of Malaya, Pakistan and Singapore. As of June 30, 1956 Ceylon had provided 23 training places and 2 experts to the countries of South and South-East Asia; India 462 training places and 20 experts and Pakistan 30 training places.

Ceylon has assisted Nepal in training nurses for Nepal's tuberculosis control programme. Burma and the Federation of Malaya have been assisted in the field of co-operatives, while India is being assisted by a Ceylonese zoologist to set up a National Zoological Park in New Delhi.

Of the 462 training places that India provided, 273 were filled by the nominees of Nepal, 99 went to Ceylon, while the rest went to Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand. Training facilities provided to Nepal cover civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, pure and applied sciences, medical,