

Ceylon

The Report of the International Bank mission on the economic development of Ceylon cites as the first of the general problems in connection with agricultural development: "Further considerable expansion [is required] in extension work generally and the interest and services of Co-operative Societies, Rural Development Societies and others concerned with village welfare should be fully mobilized."

The Report states that the real and effective limitation on the expansion of co-operatives in Ceylon is the shortage of competent and responsible officers for the co-operative societies. The Report recommends a further extension of training facilities at the Government School of Co-operation. The Report also recommends that credit co-operatives be authorized to make long-term loans for improvement and for expansion or consolidation of rural debt as an aid to rural development.

Pakistan

A recent editorial in the Karachi newspaper "Dawn" on the occasion of the setting up of the I.L.O. Asian Co-operative Mission at Lahore, points up what would appear to be the most important problem hampering the development of co-operation in Pakistan and in India and Ceylon as well. The editorial states that "What we need in our country is an increase in the utility more than an increase in the number of co-operative societies." It goes on to say that the co-operative movement is not playing as important a role as it ought to play in the economic life of Pakistan, where 80% of the population consists of landless peasants. Reference is made in this connection to the importance of developing multi-purpose co-operatives and to the organization of the co-operative marketing of agricultural products. The editorial concludes by suggesting that the co-operative movement in Pakistan must be given a reorientation by laying stress on providing subsidiary occupations to farmers, organization of co-operative marketing and growth of consumers' and wholesalers' co-operatives. The Government of Pakistan proposes to reorganize minor irrigation schemes for agricultural production, agricultural marketing and cottage industries on co-operative lines. "In this vast field of co-operative enterprise", the Governor of Punjab has said, "we hope to concentrate mainly on rural re-organization."

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