

Colombo Plan

It will be appropriate, I think, if I say a word or two here about the assistance which Canada has been giving in recent months to the less-developed countries under the various programmes which have been established for this purpose, especially since most of Canada's assistance has gone to our partners in the Commonwealth family. I refer, of course, to the Colombo Plan. If the Commonwealth association is to continue to have the meaning it now has, it is important that the less-developed countries of the Commonwealth should continue to be able to count on the active sympathy and support to those of us who are in a more fortunate position.

Since my predecessor last reviewed the position, we have been able to carry to a successful conclusion our discussions with Pakistan and Ceylon with respect to their share of the Colombo Plan appropriation voted by Parliament for the fiscal year 1958-59. As a result of these discussions we have now agreed that \$13 million in the form of Canadian commodities and equipment will be made available to Pakistan and \$2 million to Ceylon.

Under the Pakistan programme we have agreed to provide a further \$2 million worth of wheat in addition to the \$2 million of which the House was informed last November. The amount of \$2,800,000 will be devoted to the provision of industrial metals which are urgently required for the industrial sector of the economy to help maintain reasonable levels of industrial activity and employment. Some \$650,000 will be made available in the form of wood pulp which is required for a new newsprint mill being constructed by a Canadian engineering firm. Then \$120,000 will be provided for the purchase of pesticide spraying equipment and \$200,000 for the purchase of three Beaver aircraft to help with the eradication of crop pests. The sum of \$500,000 has been set aside to provide spare parts and to finance the cost of overhauling the equipment which has been used in the construction of the Warsak Dam, and which will be turned over to the Government of Pakistan as and when it ceases to be required on the project. An amount of \$1,100,000 has been allocated to the construction of a transmission line from Karnaphuli to the port of Chittagong in East Pakistan. The balance of \$3,630,000 available from the \$13 million set aside for Pakistan is being allocated tentatively to two new projects, one in the construction field and the other aimed at creating additional electrical generating capacity in Pakistan.

Turning to the Canadian aid programme in Ceylon, the Government has approved an allocation of \$710,000 to finance the continuation of the aerial photographic and resources survey which a Canadian firm has been carrying out in Ceylon under the Colombo Plan. A second project, which has been tentatively selected, covers the construction of transmission lines in an area in the development of which Canada has already had an opportunity to participate.