

heavily in improved service and is continuing to maintain and improve the telecommunications sector.

Air mail and surface mail services are available on a worldwide basis. Locally, mail is delivered within two days. Air mail deliveries between Singapore and Canada take from 10 to 20 days.

Electricity is generated by the Public Utilities Board's six power stations, whose total installed capacity is 2 691 MW. A seventh power station is now under construction. Electricity is available to every part of the country, with tariff schedules giving preferential rates to large industrial power consumers.

## Tendering on Projects

Almost all government purchasing is done through tenders. Invitations to bid on tenders may be restricted to contractors registered with the department initiating the request or they may be open to general bidding. Invitations to tender are published in the *Singapore Government Gazette* as well as local daily newspapers.

Singapore's economic status has precluded it from program or project financing by the World Bank. However, Singapore may borrow from the Asian Development Bank on a project-specific basis.

You may be interested to know that the information office of the Asian Development Bank publishes the status of projects. Project information can also be obtained from the Asia Pacific South Trade Development Division of the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa or the Commercial Division of the Canadian High Commission in Singapore.

## Labour

Singapore's total labour force is 1.2 million (as of 1985). It is estimated that some 18 per cent of the labour force belongs to a union. Government legislation requires that all trade unions be registered with the Registrar of Trade Unions. In addition, unions must comply with the requirements of the Trade Unions Act, which includes the registration and control of unions, their rights and liabilities, and the proper use of union funds. Legislation dealing with labour matters, such as principal terms and conditions of employment, is contained in the Employment Act of 1968.