

Projects for land development either now under way or proposed include: the damming of the Gal Oya in the Eastern Province, which is being carried out under the direction of United States engineering firms, and from which it hopes to irrigate 100,000 acres now under jungle, and to improve 30,000 acres already cultivated so that two crops may be harvested instead of one as at present. A similar project at Huruluwewa is to provide water for 10,000 acres of paddy land and 6,000 acres for garden crops. Another project, the damming of the Walawe Ganga is to be started in 1952, and this will irrigate 40,000 acres of new land, to ensure supplies of water to 13,000 acres of existing paddy land and to produce 10,000 kilowatts of electric power.

Transport: The Port of Colombo, which is important not only to the communications of the Island itself but also as an important centre of sea communications to all parts of the world, is to be developed.

Power: The first stage of the only hydro-electric scheme in the country is now almost completed. This will provide an installed generating capacity of 25,000 kilowatts. It is now proposed to commence the two further stages of the scheme each of which will have a capacity of 25,000 kilowatts. A complementary project is the erection of 941 miles of transmission lines with 60 sub-stations. With the completion of the multi-purpose agricultural projects additional power will become available.

Industry: Ceylon has little manufacturing industry, but projects are now being developed for the processing of local agricultural products and raw materials. Under the coconut oil project, which is one of the more important of those proposed, about 3,800 tons of low-grade oil will be available from the extraction of oil cake by the continuous solvent process. It is expected to produce annually about 800 tons of glycerine, 4,800 tons of fatty acid, 50,000 tons of cattle and food and 1,000 tons of lauryl alcohol. A fertilizer project is designed to produce 80,000 tons of ammonium sulphate and 35,000 to 45,000 tons of superphosphate. Other projects include the manufacture of caustic soda, the exploitation of the large deposits of ilmenite and the refining of locally produced sugar-cane.

Social Capital: The part of the programme allotted to social investment is devoted largely to schools and hospitals, and in a lesser degree to housing. It is most important to maintain the high educational standard which has led to 70 per cent literacy in the country. To do this, there must be considerable rebuilding. Hospital capacity is to be doubled; at present the capacity is 2.7 beds to every thousand of population compared with the standard generally accepted in Western countries of 15 beds to every thousand.