

levying certain direct taxes on their own behalf. These measures were discussed at meetings between federal and provincial representatives this year and last and my Ministers feel these new arrangements constitute a comprehensive and realistic improvement in the fiscal relations between the federal and provincial governments.

The government has also announced that, once a majority of the provincial governments, representing a majority of the Canadian people, are ready to proceed, it would be prepared to recommend legislation to provide for the payment to the provinces concerned of a substantial share of the cost of a hospital care insurance program.

You have approved legislation authorizing the government to enter into agreements with the provincial governments for sharing the costs of assistance to unemployed persons in need who are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Agreements have been signed with six provincial governments.

As a result of legislation enacted at this session, construction has commenced on an all-Canadian natural gas pipe line to bring Alberta gas to eastern consuming markets.

You have passed a measure amending the Trans-Canada Highway Act to authorize increased federal participation in the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway, with a view to accelerating the completion of this important national link.

The National Housing Act has been amended to enable the government more effectively to encourage and assist the redevelopment of older sections of our cities. This Act has also been amended to increase further the amounts of loans available for home improvements.

A Joint Committee of both Houses made an extended investigation of the progress and programmes of the Federal District Commission. The Committee's study will be most useful in providing guidance for the future development of our national capital.

You have made it possible to enlarge the services available to our farming population through the Canadian Farm Loan Board, and the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

You have extended the scope of the Industrial Development Bank in order to promote still further the growth of smaller industries throughout the country.

You enacted a measure authorizing the Canadian National Railways to construct a branch line from Bartibog to Tomogonops River in the Province of New Brunswick.

An Act has been passed providing that women receive equal pay with men for equal work in industries which are under federal jurisdiction.

Amendments have been made to the Unemployment Insurance Act, among which is one that will permit the extension of that legislation to cover most of those engaged in the fishing industry.

Amendments have also been made to the Canada Shipping Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Indian Act, the Canadian Citizenship Act, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, the Post Office Act, the Small Loans Act, the Telegraphs Act, the Judges Act, the Supreme Court Act and the Criminal Code, the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act, the Foreign