

# 27 Years Of Canadian Development Cooperation With India

Indo-Canadian development cooperation is as old as the Colombo Plan itself. From the Plan's inception in 1951 until the end of March 1977, Canada provided a total of almost \$1.5 billion (approximately Rs. 13,500 crores) in bilateral development assistance to India. In fact, Canada has provided more bilateral aid to India than any other country other than the United Kingdom and the United States, and continued to rank among the first three or four bilateral donors in terms of net aid flows during the past three

years. Roughly a quarter of all Canada's bilateral aid has been allocated to India, and it remains today, one of the major recipients of Canadian aid in terms of its share of total bilateral and multi-lateral assistance provided by Canada each year.

Moreover, Canadian aid has been given under terms which are among the most concessional offered by donor countries. Nearly two-thirds of total bilateral aid or \$900 million (Rs. 810 crores) was provided as outright grants,

and the balance of \$600 million in the form of "soft" development loans. For the past decade, these loans have been interest-free, with a ten-year grace period after the initial loan and a total of 50 years for completion of repayment.

## CANADIAN INTEREST

Canada's interest in cooperation with India came partially from the personal association between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Prime Minister of Canada, Louis St. Laurent, who shared



The Idikki Dam in the State of Kerala built with the help of development funds from Canada has a capacity to produce 780 megawatts of hydro power. It is the largest dam site in south India and the highest dam in Asia.