

GOVERNMENT



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The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mr. S. Morley Scott, High Commissioner for Canada in Pakistan, and Mr. Said Hasan, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, signed recently a detailed engineering agreement, on behalf of their respective Governments, for the provision under the Colombo Plan of a steam power plant, boilers and generators at Hardinge Bridge, East Pakistan. The Canadian Government is also providing certain building materials, including structural steel, for the construction of the power house in this Ganges-Kobadak project. The total external cost is estimated at \$1,800,000. All local costs and labour will be financed by Pakistan. An agreement in principle was signed on March 10, 1955, and during the short time that has elapsed since then, all the machinery for the plant has already arrived from Canada and is being transported to the site ready for erection after the monsoon season.

Mr. Brian V. Moss, the Senior Engineer of R.A. Hanright and Company, the Canadian supervising engineers, has been in East Pakistan since February 1955, working closely with East Pakistan engineers in selecting the site and preparing for the erection of the machinery.

The steam power plant will provide 10,000 k.w. of energy for use in pumping water from the Ganges River into canals and channels for the irrigation of a large area in the districts of Kushtia, Khulna and Jessore.

The steam power plant forms part of a large irrigation scheme which is an outstanding example of international cooperation. The general plan of the irrigation scheme was worked out by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations under the direction of Mr. Van Blommenstein. Pumping equipment is being provided by the Foreign Operations Administration of the United States. The Chief Engineer, Irrigation, of East Pakistan is in charge of construction of the extensive civil works. The Canadian Government is providing the steam power plant, design drawings and specifications, and building materials not available locally, as well as the technical personnel required for supervising the erection of the power house steam plant, and generators.
