

The dam has been designed to withstand floods, wave pressure and even seismic disturbances. Its northern wing is a gravity bulkhead section while its southern wing has a 740 ft. spillway controlled by twenty-one gates each 30 ft. long by 15 ft. high. The bulkhead section includes three low-level and three high-level under-water sluice gates for the control and passing of irrigation water. The penstocks each 6 feet in diameter will provide the powerhouse with its water needs.

In West Bengal the canals of the Mayurakshi project are over 840 miles in length and more are being built. They fan out from the harnessed river system in an arterial network which will irrigate 600,000 acres of land. During the *khari*f or main crop season (June to October) all of these acres will be provided with water. During the remaining seven dry months, known as the *rabi* season, 120,000 acres will benefit. Although the project can ration its store of water, it can only get new supplies when the monsoon so wills. In Bihar the canal which leads from the dam will carry water to 30,000 acres in the Santhal Parganas region in the wet season and to 6,000 the rest of the year.

Over the more than 1,000 square miles through which the project extends, the staple crop is rice and the yield per acre has been low. Through sample surveys and harvesting experiments Indian experts have calculated that henceforth irrigation will increase the rice output grown in the *khari*f season by 325,000 tons a year. Most of what will be grown in the *rabi* season will be pure gain because before there was very little double cropping. Sugarcane and cotton will probably become the main crops of this season. Long ago, by Canadian but not Indian standards, Birbhum cotton was famous in South Asia and merchantmen of the East India Company beat their way home under sails made from it.

### Official Estimates

According to official estimates, the total capital outlay for Mayurakshi—some \$31 million—will be recovered in about three years' time in the form of increased agricultural produce. Such an estimate does not take into account the possible secondary results of irrigation. For example, villagers will be encouraged to invest their new-found savings in improved implements and fertilizers and hence to increase their production still more. Small wonder that Mr. Pearson when he opened the dam should speak of the magic of this project where an initial investment of Canadian wheat (not to mention boilers) would be transformed into great harvests year after year after year. Instead of being a wasting asset this project is a compounding one.

In northern India the weather smiles from November to February and it got off to a good start on November 1 when Mr. Pearson came to Mayurakshi. The dam, curried, brushed and tidied for the occasion, bounced back the bright light like a glacier. The lake of its creation still burdened with the red silt from the fields below spread out like an arm of the upper Bay of Fundy. The jungle-clad hills threw a scalloped hem around the horizon. Below the dam near the three sluice-gates a gayly coloured canvas canopy had been erected to shield from the sun the official party and distinguished guests. About this canopy and along the sluiceway crowded thousands of inhabitants of the area,