

BANGLADESH

The House will recall that a CIDA Mission headed by the Agency's President, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, recently returned from Bangladesh. The Canadian food aid allocation to that country over the last three years has averaged approximately 250 thousand tons per year, or roughly twelve percent of total foodgrain imports into Bangladesh. In dollar terms, this amounted to an average of forty million dollars per year and counted for approximately seventy-five percent of total Canadian aid disbursements to that country. The \$29.0 million Bangladesh allocation for 75/76 should be compared with an original contribution of \$20 million for last year, rather than with the year-end total of \$60.0 million for 74/75. The difference of \$40.0 million was for additional emergency shipments of food throughout last year, due to severe floods in that country which caused widespread damage. Those additional allocations included shipping costs and some rapeseed.

Because food aid represents such a large component of our aid program to Bangladesh and because food aid and food production are critical not only to human welfare but also to long-term development, the CIDA Mission focused much of its attention towards this area. In general terms, the conclusions of the Mission are outlined below.

Storage and Transportation

The Mission reviewed the production, procurement and distribution system with officials of the Bangladesh Government as well as with other major food aid donors and multilateral organizations. The mission also visited the port facilities at Chittagong (the major port for food imports), its grain storage facilities, as well as the grain transportation facilities and the outer anchorage where larger ships are offloaded.