

Transport and Communications

Transportation is of course another basic facility of prime importance in economic development of any country or area. Such roads and railways as existed in South and South-East Asia had suffered serious deterioration in the Second World War. At the end of hostilities more than a third of the pre-war track had been torn up and rendered useless, and roads and bridges were destroyed, together with large numbers of water craft and working animals. During the last sixteen years, some of the deficiencies in the transport facilities and equipment of the area have been made good, but not all the railways have yet been re-built, and in addition much expansion of these facilities is required. This applies also to highways: the development of hydro-electric power stations, irrigation systems and industrial plants entails movement of heavy construction equipment, for which improved roads capable of bearing the increased traffic and loads are now essential.

In total, Canada has allocated more than \$43 million to Colombo Plan countries for the development of transportation and communications. One of the earliest projects in this field to which Canada contributed was that of the Bombay State Transport in India in 1952. There was a serious congestion at that time in Bombay harbour because of inadequate means for removing freight offloaded there. Canada's contribution was in the form of truck and bus chassis, tractors, truck bodies, trailers, diesel bus engines and pick-up trucks, together with equipment for maintenance shops.

The Government of India is paying particular attention, of course, to the rehabilitation of railways. The supply of rolling stock available after the war was dangerously low, and India could not then produce sufficient locomotives quickly enough to meet the demand. Colombo Plan assistance was therefore sought. Canada was at that time able to make delivery earlier than other countries, and allocated more than \$23 million to Indian railways in the form of steam locomotives and boilers. More recently another \$2 million of aid in the form of diesel locomotives has been provided. Canada has also supplied wooden railway ties to the value of about \$5.5 million.

Pakistan—Canada also supplied railway ties, similar to those given to India and valued at more than \$2.5 million to Pakistan to aid in the rehabilitation of Pakistani railways.

Ceylon—Canada has contributed over \$7 million to Ceylon for various projects in the field of transportation. To assist in the modernizing of Ceylon's railways, Canada has supplied railway ties and diesel locomotives. Diesel electric cranes were shipped to assist in the Colombo Plan seaport development programme. The Ceylon Department of Civil Aviation is developing