

mation Unit of the Bureau assists in the promotion of knowledge of the Colombo Plan in member countries by collecting, collating and distributing information about the Colombo Plan for use by governments in their own territories.

Since 1951, and including the fiscal year 1962-63, Canadian contributions under the plan have amounted to \$423.2 million. The estimates for 1963-64 contain an amount of \$41.5 million for Canada's Colombo Plan Programme. Canadian Colombo Plan assistance has been provided in the form of grants; the chief recipients have been Commonwealth countries — India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Malaysia. Non-Commonwealth countries in the area are also eligible for Canadian assistance and significant amounts of technical assistance as well as some capital assistance have been provided to them.

Investment and Industry

The Consultative Committee noted at its fifteenth meeting that the rate of economic growth in the countries of the Colombo Plan region showed some variation, with increases in gross national product of up to 9 per cent in the year under review. On a *per capita* basis, changes in national income ranged from a rise of up to 5 per cent to actual declines in some cases. This was due partly to high rates of population increase and partly to fluctuations in agricultural production, which achieved, at best, no more than a slow rate of growth. The rate of capital investment in many countries, however, showed significant increases, and in most countries in the area the share of industrial production in the value of gross national product showed a marked increase.

The Committee noted that comprehensive and integrated national planning for economic and social growth was now a feature of all of the countries of the region. Development programmes vary, but most of them emphasize the need to develop irrigation and water resources, the importance of introducing improved agricultural techniques, of promoting land reform and rural development, of expanding co-operative enterprises and exploiting mineral resources. The countries of the region showed a common concern for the need for industrial development and for the expansion of transport and power facilities. There is growing awareness of the importance of human resources and the need to develop them through education, training, health and community-training programmes.

The rising level of development expenditures imposed some strain on the stability of prices in a number of countries in the area. Most governments in the Colombo Plan region have had to resort to deficit financing to cover a portion of the cost of development, which has increased the money supply and the price level. The main factors contributing to the inflationary pressures in many countries in the area continued to be the relative inadequacy of domestic savings and the excess of government expenditures over revenues.

Agricultural Production

Though agricultural production registered a slow rate of growth during the year,