

Table 1. Levels of Economic Development in 1949:
Comparative Indicators

	Unit per thous. popuh.	India	Pakistan	Ceylon	Malaya	U.K.	U.S.A. (a)
Electricity production.....	th. kwh.	13	1.9	9.6	117	1,033	2,296
Coal consumption.	tons	80	18	28	85	3,884	3,473
Petroleum con- sumption.....	tons	7.8	11	23	99 [†]	327	1,638
Steel consumption	tons	3.8	1.3	6	16	194	364
Cement consump- tion	tons	7.2	3.6	19	25	148	229
Locomotives (per million population).....	Nos.	22	16	32	31	410	309
Railway wagons carrying capac.	tons	10 ^{††}	8.8	4.5	13	276	556
Rail freight... thous. ton miles		65	--	--	32	446	4,568
Load-carrying road vehicles...	Nos.	.2	.1	1.41	3.	16	43
All-weather roads	miles	.3	.1	.9	1	3.7	2.2
Telephones.....	Nos.	.4	.2	2.2	7.7	98	261

(a) In most cases, figures refer to 1948

* Excluding service supplies and bunkers

†† Excludes 16,516 wagons for which no carrying capacity is recorded.

7. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE VERY GREAT.

The scope and the need for development are great, but so also are the potentialities of the region's underdeveloped natural resources. In India it is estimated that improvements in agricultural practices and technique alone could by 1956-57 secure increases of 3,000,000 tons in food-grains, 195,000 tons in cotton, 375,000 tons in jute and 1,500,000 tons in oil-seeds.

In Ceylon it would be possible in the long run to bring another 3 million acres under the plough, thus doubling the cultivated area.

In Pakistan two irrigation projects at present in hand will make an additional 4,800,000 acres available for cultivation, and a further 2,300,000 acres at present lying waterlogged in West Pakistan could be recovered by the construction of the tube-wells to lower the water-table in the area.

The hydro-electric power resources of the area have hardly yet been tapped. Pakistan's potential, for instance, is estimated at over 5,000,000 kilowatts; the actual installed hydro-electric capacity is now 9,600 kilowatts; and in the next six years it is to be increased by 200,000 kilowatts.

What is true of hydro-electric power is true also of the mineral resources of the area; in many of the countries the extent of these resources has not yet even been ascertained.

The most effective and efficient pattern of development is different for each country. There is no standard formula which can be universally applied.