

the Planning Commission and the Economic Council, which have the responsibility for preparing and reviewing the 5-year plans and annual improvement programs, including reclamation programs and projects. The role of the Planning Commission has been expanded to cover reporting of progress and advising on facilitation. The central Ministry of Finance is concerned, of course, with fiscal and budgetary aspects of reclamation projects.

At the provincial level in West Pakistan, His Excellency the Governor, the Chief Secretary, the Additional Chief Secretary for Administrative Affairs and the Additional Chief Secretary for Planning and Development, each have a significant general and supervisory responsibility for reclamation projects. Two Departments of a total of ten, one Authority, and one Corporation are directly responsible and involved.

Water

First, reference should be made to the Secretariat-Department of Irrigation and Power, which reports to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Irrigation. This is the senior member of the water family. It is responsible for a monumental system of barrages, canals, distributaries, and irrigation outlets, and for the assessment of water charges. Under the supervision of an Engineer-Secretary, the Irrigation Department has a wide ranging organization of regional chief engineers and divisional deputy chief engineers, each with a hierarchy of executive engineers, subdivisinal officers, overseers, zilladars and patwaris. The Department has grown with the irrigation system to a high level of competence and prestige. However, at the time of partition it lost many of its technicians. Further erosion has been caused by large losses of trained personnel and important functions to other agencies. In the last year there has been considerable decentralization to the regional chief engineers.

In 1952, a Soil Reclamation Board was created with broad powers for reclamation and land improvement through tubewell installation, drainage, control of water and land, agricultural services of all kinds, and community development. The Lahore Regional Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department is Chairman of the Board, and the Land Reclamation Directorate of the Department provides important technical services. The Board has broad powers to intervene in land and water development but small freedom of action or flexibility to manage its internal affairs. Envisaged as a