

The Bangladesh Times

198

Dacca, Friday, January 11, 1980

Enlarged ADP

The Annual Development Programme for the current year (1979-80) has been enlarged to accommodate several national priority projects, and the financial allocation for that has been raised from the original Tk. 2,070 crore to Tk. 2,212.90 crore. The National Economic Council has accorded its approval to the revising of the ADP and the provision of additional funds of Tk. 142.90 crore. The NEC, in its meeting on Tuesday, also considered various measures for the mobilisation of resources for meeting these extra costs on account of increased activities in different sectors of the country's economy.

The inclusion of the programmes for canal digging and procurement and distribution of fertilizer, seeds and pesticides in the said priority list indicates an added emphasis on food production, particularly with a view to overcoming the effects of the serious drought of 1979. It is hoped that the food deficit can be substantially met by these efforts. And, needless to say, if this can be done, the revised ADP will perhaps be a success on this score alone. Other projects to receive the allocation of the additional money are also of vital importance to the national economy. Intensification of oil and gas exploration, Ashuganj Fertilizer Factory, Teesta Barrage, Kurmitola International Airport, Chittagong Dry Dock, power development work and mass literacy campaign, for instance, rank really high in the priority of things for our economic and social progress.

It is indeed encouraging that these projects and programmes, barring a few, have gained momentum in terms of work. And on account of the increased volume of work, they need more money now. Rising prices in internal and foreign markets of commodities, implements, expertise and technology, required for their implementation, must also be another factor for the rise in the cost of their execution. In any case, the provision of additional funds became essential and that has been done. What, however, we would emphasise is that achievement will have to be measured in terms of real work and result, and not in terms of money.

It is, therefore, that all the implementation agencies concerned should take two things into account for the success of these projects and the ADP as a whole. First, the schedule for the completion of work should be scrupulously maintained. For, any delay would entail further rise in cost. Second, perfection has to be attained in the work as far as practicable. For these, the implementation cells have to be geared up. The authorities may take a fresh look into the matter.