

band funds and personal contributions; 1,500 will be constructed in 1966-67. Some \$10,000,000 will be spent to supply safe drinking water and proper sewage disposal and a rural electrification program is being undertaken, using public utilities wherever possible, at a cost of about \$7,000,000. The remainder will go toward providing better roads. Expenditures on these projects during 1966-67 will amount to \$13,276,545.

Welfare.—The provision of general welfare assistance and services to indigent Indians is an essential factor in assisting them to raise their social and economic status. The welfare program administered by the Indian Affairs Branch includes public assistance (food, clothing and shelter) to dependent Indians and certain categories of non-Indians living on reserves, care and maintenance of children and adults, and rehabilitation services for physically and/or socially handicapped Indians. Since January 1965 the Branch has adopted the same rates of assistance and the same eligibility conditions as apply to other recipients of public assistance in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. The scale of food assistance established by the Branch continues in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

As there is no specific federal welfare legislation in respect to Indians, the Indian Affairs Branch relies on provincial welfare legislation and provincially accredited welfare agencies for the enforcement of such legislation. In the field of child welfare, the Federal Government has entered into agreement with 25 children's aid societies in Ontario whereby Indian children may receive the same services as non-Indians in accordance with provincial child welfare legislation. There are similar agreements with the Governments of Manitoba and Nova Scotia. The Indian Affairs Branch assumes financial responsibility for both the administrative and maintenance costs of Indian children who are placed in the care of such agencies. Some provinces provide services on a voluntary basis and, by informal arrangements, the Federal Government pays the cost of maintenance of children placed in foster homes or institutions. Where such services are not available, Indian Affairs Branch staff, with the consent of parents or guardians, arrange for care of neglected children in foster homes or institutions. The Branch provides maintenance and care in homes for the aged and other institutions for physically and socially handicapped adults who do not require active medical treatment.

In general, provincial rehabilitation programs are extended to handicapped Indians on the same basis as to non-Indians. Under separate agreements with the Alberta Tuberculosis Association, the Saskatchewan Society of Crippled Children and Adults and the Manitoba Sanatorium Board, the Federal Government assumes financial responsibility for full maintenance and tuition on behalf of Indian students participating in upgrading and social orientation programs in these provinces. The Federal Government is negotiating cost-sharing agreements with provinces to provide Indian residents the full range of welfare programs administered by provincial governments. A welfare agreement between the Government of Ontario and the Federal Government allows for the inclusion of Indians in the established welfare program of that province.

In addition to the extensive welfare program for Indians financed and administered by the Indian Affairs Branch, welfare services and social benefits available to Indians in Canada include: (1) programs under which Indians are eligible for such categorical benefits as family allowances, youth allowances and old age security, administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare; (2) programs financed jointly by federal and provincial governments and administered by provincial governments, such as old age assistance and blind and disabled persons' allowances; and (3) specific programs established by provincial governments—in Ontario, Indian women may receive mothers' allowances and assistance to widows and unmarried women; indigent Indian mothers in Quebec are eligible for needy mothers' allowances; and, upon application, abandoned children and adult Indians in Nova Scotia receive certain benefits in accordance with the Nova Scotia Social Assistance Act.