The Reconstruction and Development Programme 1960-1965 has been extended by one year, and the expenditure ceiling raised to Rs 400 million.

Before the next Development Plan is prepared, it is hoped that an Economic Planning Unit, for which token provision has been made in the current Budget, will be set up. We are now trying to find the right man to head this Unit, which is badly needed to enable us to determine priorities, and to secure co-ordination of many activities, in a more scientific manner than has been possible hitherto.

Mauritius has only some 720 square miles of land. Her population, which is still rapidly growing, is now about 730,000. Thus the density of population is over 1,000 per square mile, an unprecedented figure for an almost entirely agricultural country.

In such circumstances we cannot afford to waste any of our land, and we are indebted to the United Nations Special Fund for putting in hand an expert survey of our land and water resources.
In order to diversify our economy, which is still almost wholly based on sugar, to reduce our bill for imports, and to provide increased opportunities of employment for our growing population, the development of secondary industries is of prime importance. A Development Bank was set up in 1964 to assist in financing such projects and tax holidays are offered to entrepreneurs setting up new industries.

The area under tea cultivation is expanding yearly, and additional tea factories are planned.

Every encouragement is being given to the tourist industry. In this connexion, the extension of Plaisance Airport to enable it to take the biggest jet aircraft is nearly complete.

Our port facilities are good and have recently been improved.

Much has also been done in the past four years to improve an already good road network, and further improvements are being planned.

The expansion of electricity and water supplies, to meet an increasing demand for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes, continues.

The rapid growth of population places an ever-increasing strain on our resources, and we are hard put to it to provide the additional educational facilities required annually by the thousands of new entrants to primary schools. But this does not mean we are neglecting further education. A secondary technical school has recently been opened, and a trade-testing centre and senior primary schools are to be established.

We have decided to go ahead with a University College on lines recommended by Professor Colin Leys which take realistic account of the practical needs of Mauritius.

Housing is another problem which has been vigorously tackled. Following the extensive damage caused by the cyclone of 1960, an intensive housing programme was put in hand, with financial aid from the UK 14,000 units are planned, to house about 12 per cent of the population, and of these 9,400 have been built.
However, our main problem is fundamentally that of over-population. A problem which is certainly not new and one which can be tackled in many ways, one of them being through economic expansion. This is therefore a cardinal point in our national policy and we shall need all the assistance we can obtain to help us achieve a "break-through" on this front.

As an associate member of the Economic Commission for Africa, we do not benefit to the same extent as full members. Nevertheless we have watched with great interest the work undertaken by ECA in many varied fields, and particularly in launching the African Development Bank, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the forthcoming conference on East African Industrial Co-ordination.