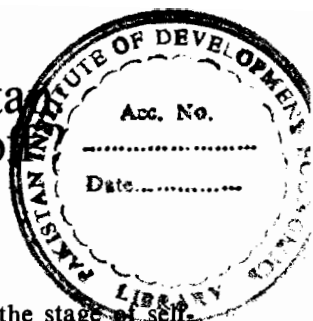


Industrialization in Pakistan

A case of frustrated take-off

by
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Development planning in Pakistan aims at reaching the stage of self-generating growth "within a measurable period of time"¹. The perspective of long-term growth outlined in the *Second Five Year Plan* envisages a quadrupling of national income and the achievement of a six-per-cent per annum growth rate by the end of the sixth-plan period². This is generally taken to define the period of planned take-off into self-sustained growth. The choice of a 30-year period is, in any case, consistent with take-off periods identified by Rostow for a number of countries, all of which fall within a range of 20 to 30 years³.

Whatever merit the device of identifying stages of growth has for economic history, the stipulation of a limited period during which it is expected that the transition from economic stagnation to steady progress will have been largely completed has two advantages for development planning. First, in view of the sacrifices required, a landmark of achievement, visible within the time horizon of the "take-off generation", is almost essential if there is to be any measure of popular support for economic development. Second, it provides a time schedule of planned progress to discipline policy decisions and to serve as a yardstick against which to measure economic performance.

The first of these functions of an identified take-off period has been largely absent in Pakistan. There has been remarkably little in the way of an attempt to popularize economic development, and correspondingly there has been little in the way of sacrifices asked or made.

As for the second function, the second-plan targets have been set within the framework of a 30-year perspective and the Planning Commission assesses the economy's progress against the standard of these targets. So, while the

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¹Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, *Second Five Year Plan*. (Karachi: Manager of Government Publications, June 1960), p. 4.

²*Ibid.*

³W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960), p. 38.

30-year take-off period has not found a place in the popular imagination, it does serve as an operational concept for the planners. How effectively it disciplines policy decisions is another matter, however.

The take-off is a period of acceleration after which steady sustained growth presumably carries the economy to maturity. Therefore, growth in the initial years of the period must be expected to be modest compared to that at the end. Just how modest a growth is consistent with the eventual successful completion of take-off cannot easily be delimited, since there is an infinite variety of time schedules theoretically compatible with ultimate success. Nevertheless, after eight years of "planned development" in Pakistan, it is perhaps appropriate to assess the extent of progress thus far to ascertain whether there are as yet any signs of an incipient launching of take-off. First, however, at the risk of treading all too familiar ground, I will venture a few remarks on the nature of take-off, since in what follows certain aspects of the process will be emphasized at the expense of others.

THE CONCEPT OF TAKE-OFF

Rostow's preconditions for take-off — an improvement in agricultural productivity to create a surplus for saving, the provision of a minimum of social overhead capital to make investment profitable, and a broad revolution in social attitudes, class structure, and institutions to favour rational calculation and wealth accumulation—are so well known as scarcely to require repeating⁴. What must be emphasized, however, is that in the West these preconditions were achieved over centuries of gradual change, while in the newly developing countries today, they must to some extent be created simultaneously with the attempt to launch the take-off itself. This is true even for a country as relatively well favoured in this respect as is Pakistan.

This might suggest at the outset that a much longer period of take-off should be contemplated by planners in these countries. There are two important offsetting factors to consider, however. First is the demonstration effect of Western ideas and the material manifestations of Western technology. These aid enormously in hastening the change in attitudes and institutions. Second is the presence of economic aid. This serves to provide the required additional margin of saving plus investment in social overhead capital, thus enabling economic growth to begin earlier and at a higher rate than would otherwise be possible. Under these conditions, the attainment of self-sustaining growth is a process of replacing foreign with domestic saving, as well as one of raising the ratio of investment to income.

Still the presence of foreign aid only raises the possibility of initiating take-off before the preconditions have been fully established. It does not

⁴Rostow, *op. cit.*, pp. 17-28

insure that the effort will be successful. Foreign aid can serve to forestall as well as encourage the social and institutional changes that are required. It can serve as an excuse for postponing the reorganization of ownership and production in agriculture that is often a prerequisite to raising agricultural productivity. And, if misdirected, it can fail to provide the infrastructure needed to sustain the growth of directly productive investment. The preconditions cannot be imported, but in their absence what can be imported is rendered less effective.

What this suggests is that one way of assessing progress toward take-off in the Pakistan economy would be to take a careful look at the gains along each of these fronts. One suspects that he would find much remaining to be accomplished before the basis for compound-interest growth is laid. And if growth in the first eight years of the 30-year take-off period has been at a pedestrian rate, this may be the most important reason.

But an analysis of the extent to which the preconditions have been established is not the purpose of this paper. I take an agnostic view on the question whether Pakistan can launch a take-off under present conditions. I will address myself rather to less fundamental and more immediate questions about policies affecting saving and investment, especially those which relate to the character of the industrialization process.

So, in turning to Rostow's requirements for the take-off itself, as opposed to the preconditions, I will pass over "the existence or quick emergence of a political, social and institutional framework which exploits the impulses to expansion . . . and gives to growth an on-going character"⁵. My concern will be instead with his other two requirements: a rise in the rate of investment from five to ten per cent of national income, and the development of manufacturing, *i.e.*, industrialization.

In order to provide a theoretical base for what follows, I would like to present a view of the take-off process somewhat different from Rostow's. A part of the difference, though not all of it, stems from the emphasis here on the situation facing the newly developing countries today. I suggest that we focus on three different, but interrelated, structural disequilibria that give the take-off period (for these countries, at least) a specific character.

First is the agriculture-industry sectoral disequilibrium. Given the ratio of land to population almost everywhere in the world, labour productivity in agriculture (with best techniques for given factor proportions) can begin to approach labour productivity in industry only after there has taken place a drastic reallocation of labour (in terms of proportions, if not in absolute terms) away from agriculture and toward industry. This, reinforced by the

⁵Rostow, *op. cit.*, p. 39.

relative income elasticities of demand for agricultural and industrial products, dictates the basic structural change that is required to raise per-capita income and generate a surplus for saving and reinvestment.

Second is the structural disequilibrium at the factor level between the growth of labour supply and saving. Given the rapid rate of population growth in most underdeveloped countries today, it takes a very high rate of saving to equip the additions to the labour force in productive nonagricultural employment. In Pakistan, for example, it has been estimated that in the first two years of the Second Plan only half of the growth of the labour force was able to find nonagricultural employment⁶. This means simply that a failure to correct the second structural disequilibrium has intensified the first. So a successful take-off requires a sharp rise in the rate of saving⁷.

Third is the disequilibrium between imports and exports. Take-off requires growth rates of the order of five or six per cent per annum (given population growth rates of two to three per cent). The import requirements of such a growth process would undoubtedly rise even more rapidly in the absence of import substitution. Demand for the traditional primary commodity exports of underdeveloped countries, however, is likely to grow at a much slower rate, while relatively low price-elasticities of demand for these commodities make it undesirable to attempt to increase overall supply at a more rapid rate. This implies a rapidly rising potential balance-of-trade deficit that must be met eventually by import substitution and promotion of new—presumably manufactured—exports⁸, even if in the short run foreign aid can fill a part of the gap. This need reinforces the urgency of industrialization stemming from the first disequilibrium. On the other hand, a failure on the front of import substitution and export promotion implies also a failure on the saving front, again emphasizing the interrelatedness of these three elements of structural disequilibria⁹.

⁶Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, *Mid-Plan Review of Progress in 1960/61—1961/62 under the Second Five Year Plan*. (Karachi: Manager of Government Publications, March 1963), p. 5.

⁷A sharp fall in the rate of population growth would be a better solution, but this possibility is ignored in the present analysis.

⁸R. Nurkse, *Patterns of Trade and Development*. (Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell, 1959), pp. 34-45. As Nurkse points out, the petroleum-exporting countries have proved exceptions to this generalization in recent decades.

⁹The term "structural disequilibria" is used here to suggest something deeper than ordinary "market disequilibria". That is, the solution is not simply one of permitting market forces to exert their natural corrective influences *via* changes in relative prices. For example, devaluation would not work to correct the third disequilibrium in the absence of some means of reducing the excess of investment over saving. But investment cannot be reduced without giving up the growth goal, and saving is low not because interest rates are low but primarily because the country is poor. Likewise, there is conceptually some set of relative factor prices that could correct the first disequilibrium *via* inducing a high average labour intensity of production over the economy. But it may be impossible for the market wage rate to fall to the required level, especially if labour in agriculture receives through communal sharing its average product rather than its marginal product.

A substantial rate of progress in the direction of correcting these basic disequilibria is then a part of the general requirements for take-off into self-sustaining growth. To the extent that a country has a relative abundance of high-quality land, adequate water supply, and other natural resources, industrialization is of course less urgent, both because of the opportunities for high productivity employment in primary activities and because of the export potential that this implies. Again, if foreign aid could be expected to continue at a rising rate indefinitely, the saving and balance-of-trade problems would be less immediate. For most countries, however—and Pakistan surely falls in the general case—evidence of initiating take-off will include measurable gains along all three fronts.

So, in reviewing the progress of Pakistan's economic development in the light of the requirements for take-off, the focus will be on industrialization, saving, and the balance of trade. Since a regional breakdown of the data is not yet available, the record relates to the experience of the economy as a whole. Because it is such a critical factor in Pakistan's development, however, I have added a brief comment on the apparent disparity in growth rates between East and West Pakistan.

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND GROWTH IN PAKISTAN

Table I shows the growth since 1949/50 of national income in aggregate and per-capita terms, the change in the shares contributed by agriculture and manufacturing, and the trend of imports and exports. Four facts clearly emerge from these data. First, the past thirteen years have witnessed a significant pace of industrialization. While national income rose by 37 per cent, the percentage share contributed by manufacturing doubled, and agriculture's share correspondingly declined.

Second, population grew at about the same pace as national income, so that per-capita income was virtually unchanged over the period. What slight gain occurred was achieved in the very early years. Annual average per-capita income was virtually the same in the three years just prior to the First Plan, during the five years of the First Plan, and in the first three years of the Second Plan.

Third, though the trends of imports and exports are somewhat obscured by the Korean War and erratic fluctuations in the stringency of foreign-exchange licensing, it appears nevertheless that imports have risen substantially while exports have not. On a per-capita basis, exports have actually declined. The aggregate data, of course, hide considerable change in the composition of both exports and imports. Within the latter, there was a great rise in machinery, metals, transport equipment and chemicals; while cotton

textile imports declined drastically. On the side of exports, the shift was from raw cotton and jute to their manufactures. Still the rise in manufactured exports was not sufficient to raise total exports significantly, nor was import substitution adequate to raise the share of domestic saving in development expenditure. The result was a rising trend in the dependence on foreign financing.

The fourth fact of importance from Table I is, then, the failure of the saving rate to rise. While its behaviour appears erratic, there is no evidence of a rise above the range of five to six per cent. The rate of 7.9 per cent for 1955/56 was undoubtedly due to the temporary effect of devaluation on the trade balance; and the rate of 7.4 per cent for 1961/62 seems to be equally abnormal for reasons I have discussed elsewhere¹⁰. In any case with the fall in agricultural production and national income in 1962/63, a drop in the saving rate is likely. The unhappy conclusion is that the saving rate is still at a pre-take-off level.

To sum up, we find over the thirteen years a significant pace of industrialization, some import substitution, but stagnant exports, saving, and per-capita income. I turn now to some of the implications of the above findings.

Has industrialization, first of all, contributed to the correction of the first disequilibrium described above—the gap between average labour productivity in agriculture and nonagriculture? Note that our index of industrialization is nonagriculture's share of output, not its share of the labour force. Is the former a good indicator of the latter?

To answer this (and some subsequent questions), consider the identity

$$\frac{Y_n}{Y} \equiv \frac{L_n}{L} \cdot \frac{Y_n/L_n}{Y/L}$$

where Y and L are, respectively, national income and total labour force; and Y_n and L_n are nonagricultural income and nonagricultural labour force. That is, the share of nonagricultural income is the product of the proportion of the labour force in nonagriculture and the ratio of average labour productivity there to average labour productivity in the whole economy.

Assume initially that labour productivity is constant in both agriculture and nonagriculture, but that it is higher in nonagriculture. Then a rising Y/L is possible only in association with a rising L_n/L . In this case L_n/L must

¹⁰J. H. Power "Two Years of Pakistan's Second Plan," *Pakistan Development Review*, Spring 1963, pp. 131-132.

rise faster than Y_n/Y because of the rise in Y/L . If, however, we abandon the assumption of constancy and permit productivity in nonagriculture to rise relatively to overall productivity, the rise in Y_n/Y can equal or even exceed the rise in L_n/L . Thus, in the general case nothing can be inferred about the magnitude of the shift in allocation of labour from the change in the sectoral distribution of income.

In the Pakistan case, however, because of the stagnation of per-capita income we must add the assumption that Y/L is roughly constant (since the labour force as a percentage of the population did not change significantly over the period studied). We can in this case draw a direct inference about productivity in agriculture, as well as the shift in the sectoral allocation of the labour force. For if Y/L is constant, then a rise in Y_n/Y implies a rise in the product of L_n/L and Y_n/L_n . Ruling out a fall in productivity in nonagriculture as extremely unlikely¹¹, the remaining possibilities all imply a fall in the average productivity of agricultural labour. For otherwise a rise in either or both of these ratios (L_n/L and Y_n/L_n) would raise Y/L . A decline in L_n/L coupled with a more than proportionate rise in Y_n/L_n (however improbable) would also imply a reduction in productivity in agriculture because of the adverse shift in labour allocation¹².

Moreover, a rise in L_n/L is much less likely than a rise in Y_n/L_n to be associated with a fall in agricultural labour productivity because the labour shift in this case is favourable. The most reasonable inference in the case of constancy of Y/L is, then, that the rise in Y_n/Y has been due more to a rise in Y_n/L_n than to a rise in L_n/L . This means that the shift in labour allocation has not only failed to match the shift in income proportions, but has failed also to prevent an actual decline in productivity in agriculture. (CSO data indicate a decline of more than 11 per cent over the period 1949/50 to 1961/62.) And only a rise in nonagricultural labour productivity has prevented an economywide decline of output per worker. Thus, we can conclude that in Pakistan the rise in the relative share of nonagricultural value added has depended too much on rising productivity in nonagriculture and too little on shifting labour from lower to higher productivity employment to provide any relief from the first disequilibrium.

¹¹Since this would have to be accompanied by a rise in L_n/L greater than the rise in Y_n/Y (which doubled in the period studied), it implies a massive transfer of labour out of agriculture into low-productivity employment or unemployment elsewhere. While it is very doubtful that this has happened, it would not affect the main argument of this paper, since it means simply a transfer from agricultural to nonagricultural underemployment.

¹² $\frac{Y_a}{Y} \equiv \frac{L_a}{L} \cdot \frac{Y_a/L_a}{Y/L}$ where the subscript 'a' designates the agricultural sector.

Since $\frac{Y_a}{Y}$ has fallen over the period and $\frac{L_a}{L}$ must have risen in this case, $\frac{Y_a}{L_a}$ *a fortiori* must have fallen.

It could be argued that a given unit of capital invested to raise productivity in this way creates a greater fund for saving and reinvestment, and thus contributes more in the long run to the correction of all three disequilibria. This remains to be proved however. And in the absence of a clearcut demonstration of the "economic" superiority of such a strategy, planners would do well to avoid the political and social (dare I say regional?) problems to which it would give rise. In any case, in Pakistan the saving ratio has not risen noticeably with the rise in nonagriculture's share of income, so it is very difficult to justify the sacrifices such a strategy implies¹³.

Turning to the failure of the saving rate to rise, one might be tempted to explain this as a result of the failure of per-capita income to rise, but in the analysis of growth dynamics we would be more inclined to explain the latter as a result of the former. In any case even without a rise in per-capita income, we might have expected a high marginal saving and reinvestment mechanism to emerge from the rapid increase in the share of income originating in manufacturing. This shift in the distribution of income plays a leading role in many theories of the take-off¹⁴. Why has it failed thus far in Pakistan?

I would like to venture the hypothesis that the character of the industrialization itself, with its emphasis on import substitution—especially the replacement of imported *consumption* goods—has something to do with it. In so doing I do not mean to downgrade the importance of other explanations any one of a number of which may deserve equal consideration. My reason for focussing on this one is not that I firmly believe it to be more important than any other, but rather that it has been relatively neglected.

I think that it is fair to say that import substitution was not the result of a carefully planned balance-of-payments strategy. Whatever were the reasons for adopting import licensing as the primary control over the foreign-exchange position, I doubt that they included a considered judgement as to the relative merits of various export- and import-competing industries based on comparative advantage, economies of scale, external economies, marginal saving rates, etc.

Nevertheless, the licensing system undoubtedly did influence the direction of industrialization. Since it gave greater protection to finished consump-

¹³Substantial improvements in agricultural output can undoubtedly be achieved in Pakistan through better techniques and organization plus relatively inexpensive inputs. This would greatly ameliorate the conditions of the growing redundant farm population and should be given an important place in the development effort. The long-run solution to the problem of poverty in agriculture will, nevertheless, still be dictated by the scarcity of land.

¹⁴See, for example, W. A. Lewis, *The Theory of Economic Growth*. (Homewood, Illinois: Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 1955), pp. 233-38.

tion goods than to intermediate goods or capital equipment, it encouraged investment in the former rather than in the latter. Moreover, since the least essential imports were the most stringently licensed, the system gave a special encouragement to investment in nonessential consumption-goods production.

How strong this influence was, whether industrialization would have taken this direction anyway, are questions I will not attempt to answer. What matters for what follows is not so much *why* as the *fact* that industrialization in Pakistan has been very heavily oriented toward production for domestic consumption some part of which could hardly be called essential for economic development.

Why should industrialization, oriented toward the production of consumption goods, be less effective in contributing to self-sustaining economic growth than one which emphasizes capital-goods production or production for export? On the surface, the former would seem to have definite advantages. There is an existing market which can easily be reserved for domestic industry by import restrictions. The products are familiar and the marketing system is already established. And there may be fundamental comparative-advantage reasons for developing consumption-goods industries first.

Moreover, the contribution to saving is potentially just as great for replacement of consumption-goods imports as for replacement of capital-goods imports or promotion of new exports. This can be seen with the aid of another identity

$$C_d + I_d + X_d \equiv C_m + C_d + S$$

where C_d , I_d , and X_d are value added in domestic production, respectively, for consumption, investment, and exports. S is domestic saving and C_m is the imported component of consumption. The left-hand side is the national product and the right-hand side is the disposal of national income.

An increase in the national product in the form of a rise in either I_d or X_d will mean an equal rise in S if consumption ($C_m + C_d$) is not permitted to rise. But a rise in domestic production of consumption goods for domestic absorption will also raise saving to the extent that C_m is correspondingly reduced. Thus in a case of pure import substitution (the rise in C_d being matched exactly by a fall in C_m) S will rise by the increase in national product just as in the case postulated above of a rise in I_d or X_d .

The analysis could be extended to the more general case where consumption is permitted to rise with the rise in national product, but the conclusion is the same. The change in saving associated with a rise in output depends on the change in consumption regardless of the kind of goods the output increase

embodies. This also emphasizes, however, that if the consumption function is affected by the investment choice, this must be taken into account along with all of the other factors in determining investment strategy.

With this I will turn now to what appear to me to be some of the dangers inherent in a strategy of primary emphasis on replacement of imported consumption goods. First, such a strategy must meet Nurkse's balanced-growth requirement¹⁵. There can be no specialization for the home market. This means encouraging investment in the production of a little bit of a lot of things, with all of the disadvantages that this implies. It means in some cases an uneconomically small scale of production. In others it means too few firms for the kind of competition that enforces efficiency and progress. It means scattering thinly scarce capital, foreign exchange, and technical and organizational talent. It means, in short, doing many things poorly instead of fewer things well.

As a consequence, the rise in the value added in manufacturing includes a lot of just plain inefficiency in production. Turning the terms of trade against agriculture (by substituting high-priced domestic manufactured goods for cheaper foreign ones) can be justified when a reasonable degree of efficiency turns the high prices into profits for reinvestment. If the high prices are matched by high costs of production, however, the hope of generating selfsustaining growth *via* such a strategy tends to be frustrated and the rationale for a transfer of saving from agriculture to industry is less evident.

The second danger inherent in this kind of import-substitution strategy is the possibility that the early momentum of industrial development will not be maintained because of a failure to develop a selfgenerating mechanism of industrial growth. This is clearly related to the first danger since a profits-saving-reinvestment sequence is a necessary part of any such mechanism. But even if this condition is met, what about the market inducements to invest after the painless takeover of the existing market from foreign competition has been accomplished?

The pace of investment and industrial growth will be gradually slowed as these market limits are reached¹⁶ unless some combination of three things happens. The first is a rapid growth of productivity across the whole economy (and especially in agriculture) which moves real income per capita ahead fast enough to warrant continuing high investment in industrial growth.

¹⁵R. Nurkse, *Problems of Capital Formation in Underdeveloped Countries*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1960), pp. 11-17.

¹⁶There is some evidence that this has occurred in Pakistan. Between 1950 and 1955 industrial production grew at an annual average rate of 26 per cent. In the first-plan period the rate was 11 per cent, while in the first three years of the Second Plan, it has been between 9 and 10 per cent.

The second is the operation of a "backward linkage"¹⁷ effect inducing investment in the production of the equipment and intermediate goods used in the consumption-goods industries. That is, import substitution must be extended to the prior stages of production. Third is the opening-up of export markets for the surpluses that would develop inevitably if the pace of industrialization is maintained.

Now none of these will happen automatically. There is no natural, spontaneous evolution from the kind of "hot-house" industrial growth induced by shutting out imports to this kind of permanent, selfsustaining growth. A rapid rise in productivity is itself inhibited by the implications of the balanced growth strategy, as discussed above. The same can be said for the development of export markets, with one additional comment. A few markets will even initially be large enough in a country the size of Pakistan to support a number of firms of economical size. These will be for the consumption goods which have a heavy weight in budgets of low-income families, e.g., cotton cloth. While these have great natural advantages for import substitution they have definite disadvantages for export promotion. The usual low income-elasticity of demand for such goods means that demand in the advanced countries is not growing rapidly. And as the less developed countries nearly unanimously select such industries for early import substitution, the export market is further limited.

This leaves the backward linkage effect on investment to replace imported capital equipment and intermediate goods. What is required is that profits from consumption-goods industries be diverted away from reinvestment there to investment in equipment and material supplying industries. This should be a natural development, but there are some influences working against it. First, the capital market is not sufficiently developed to make this kind of reallocation of profits easy. The most likely place for reinvestment of profits is in the industry where they are earned. Nor has the government's taxing and relending activities developed sufficiently to fill this gap. Eventually giant, diversified monopolies of the Japanese *Zaibatsu* type might substitute for a capital market, but this development is still at an early stage in Pakistan.

Second, since final goods are given greater protection in the import-control system than intermediate and capital goods, investment in the production of the latter always seems less profitable anyway. Ultimately, the growing supply of consumption goods would reduce the profitability of investment there, but this might occur only after the aggregate consumption function has been permitted to rise steadily, defeating all attempts to raise the saving rate.

¹⁷A.O. Hirschman, *The Strategy of Economic Development*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1958), pp. 100-116.

This brings me to the third danger of such an industrialization strategy—the danger of consumption liberalization¹⁸. We have seen above that replacement by domestic production of imported consumption goods contributes effectively to growth only to the extent that consumption is simultaneously constrained. Unfortunately, however, this strategy carries within it an automatic decontrol of consumption. Let us see how this is so.

We must start with a recognition that some sort of control over consumption was essential right from the beginning of the development effort in Pakistan, even to achieve a five-per-cent saving rate. The principal instruments of control have been the controls on imports—duties and the licensing system. When most manufactured consumption goods had to be imported, this worked not only to curb imports, but to constrain consumption as well. With substitution of domestic production for imports, however, the proportion of consumption-goods demand so constrained has steadily dwindled with the consequence that consumption has been automatically liberalized.

The objection might be raised that import controls did not really curb consumption effectively, but instead simply diverted it away from imported goods. To a considerable extent this is undoubtedly true, but it is the import substitution itself that made this easy. More important, no doubt, was the shift in income distribution that occurred. As import substitution took place, income was transferred from the government (customs duties) and from the profits of favoured importers to income recipients in the new industries. We can guess that because of the relative inefficiency of these industries, a substantial part of the value added there became non-profit income, a much higher proportion of which is consumed. This guess is at least consistent with the empirical evidence cited above.

Finally, we must note the natural tendency for the emergence of pressures to minimize the constraints on consumption when the business community is overwhelmingly committed to the output of consumption goods. As domestic production rose, the constraints on consumption steadily took more the form of restrictions on the licensing of materials, parts and equipment for the consumption-goods industries, and less the direct limitation of imports of finished goods. And so the phenomenon of excess capacity due to scarcity of imported supplies emerged. While this was clearly the result of a misallocation of investment—too much capacity installed to produce finished consumption goods and too little to produce materials and equipment—and while to justify the full use of the existing capacity would have required such a rise in consumption as to emasculate the saving plan, all of the pressures were on the side

¹⁸For a fuller discussion of this plus empirical evidence for Pakistan, see, A. R. Khan, "Import Substitution, Consumption Liberalization and Export Expansion", in this issue of the *Development Review*.

of liberalizing the licensing of supplies. For the excess capacity was there, and the cheapest way to get an increase in production (never mind what kind of production!) was to import supplies. What the economy really needed, of course, was a stiff increase in taxes on consumption to offset the steady erosion of control over consumption, but how can one call for higher consumption taxes when there is excess capacity in the consumption-goods industries? This is the kind of trap into which the industrialization strategy followed by Pakistan (albeit inadvertently) naturally leads.

No doubt there are other important reasons why industrialization in Pakistan has failed to raise the saving rate or even to begin to correct the agriculture/industry disequilibrium. I believe, however, that the foregoing explains a good part of it. Any explanation would be incomplete, however, without at least a brief comment on the question of disparity between East and West Pakistan and how this relates to what has been said. This is undertaken in the next section which is then followed by a brief conclusion.

EAST-WEST DISPARITY

Unfortunately we do not yet have national income data broken down for the two provinces. Consequently, we cannot simply read off the various growth indicators and compare them. So what I propose to do instead is to fit the East-West relationship into an ordinary simple growth model in order to see what might be implied by the few bits and pieces of information we do have.

Consider the case of an overwhelmingly agricultural economy in which population is growing rapidly, land is very scarce, average labour productivity in agriculture is lower than in nonagriculture and marginal labour productivity in agriculture is considerably below average (perhaps even zero), so that a rapid shift in labour allocation away from agriculture is essential to prevent a decline in per-capita income there. This is, I think, one way of describing East Pakistan. While industrialization, if successful, will eventually alter the dependence on agriculture, the success of industrialization itself depends in the first instance on the existence of a surplus in agriculture and the appropriation of a part of that surplus for investment in industry.

The appropriation may take place in a variety of ways, but for the present analysis I would like to focus on just two. Assume that a significant part of agricultural output is exported. Assume further that the nation's currency is overvalued and that industrialization is being encouraged behind the protection of import duties or import licensing or both. It might be said that under these circumstances agriculture is being exploited to the benefit of industry. For, the foreign exchange it earns in exports cannot be used to buy

inexpensive manufactured goods in world markets, but instead must be converted into home currency to buy the expensive products of protected domestic industry.

This would be quite misleading, however, for the alternative to developing (even inefficient) domestic industries is to permit the growing labour force to pile up in agriculture, steadily reducing average living conditions there. The appropriation should be thought of rather as a means by which the agricultural population equips (perhaps involuntarily) its surplus for employment elsewhere in its own interest. Note, however, in line with the analysis set out earlier, that the industrial development could be so inefficient that it fails to generate an industrial take-off *via* a rising saving rate.

The other means of transfer of saving from agriculture is simply a balance-of-trade surplus with nonagriculture and the rest of the world combined. That is, to the extent that agriculture does not use its foreign-exchange earnings to buy from nonagriculture (assuming that it is prohibited from buying in world markets), there is a capital outflow which can be appropriated by nonagriculture to run a deficit with the rest of the world. Again, however, this could (though it need not) be the means of improving agriculture *via* industrialization.

Suppose, however, that the transfer occurs without the accompanying movement of labour into nonagricultural employment. In this case the saving transfer does not have the rationale suggested above, and it is difficult to find any justification for it. Yet it is something like this that has happened in East Pakistan.

Over 14 years, from 1948 to 1961, East Pakistan's total balance-of-trade surplus was about Rs. 1,500 million, a capital outflow which, together with foreign capital of about Rs. 3,900 million, financed West Pakistan's cumulative deficit of Rs. 5,400 million¹⁹. In addition, East Pakistan had a deficit of about Rs. 3,500 million with West. If we assume that on the average Pakistan products are priced 40 per cent above their equivalents in world markets, there is implied an additional transfer from East to West of about Rs. 1,000 million. This gives a total transfer of about Rs. 2,500 million for 14 years, or about Rs. 180 million per year. This is more than two per cent of East Pakistan's average annual income for the period as best we can estimate it. In addition, if we assume that East Pakistan's share of the foreign capital inflow into West was in proportion to its population, the transfer would be almost doubled.

¹⁹Sources for the data in this paragraph are: i) the CSO and, ii) M. Akhlaqur Rahman, *Partition, Integration, Economic Growth, and Interregional Trade*. (Karachi: Institute of Development Economics, 1963). I am indebted to A.R. Khan for compiling the data.

What would we expect the result to be of a transfer of this magnitude, unmatched by any significant labour migration? Unless East Pakistan had an enormous saving capacity, we would expect lagging industrial development, rapidly rising unemployment, and possibly a decline in per-capita income. And while it is difficult to document this result, unofficial estimates seem to confirm it.

Again, it is possible to justify the temporary worsening of the position of a particular region (as well as of a particular sector) if this results in such substantial gains elsewhere that a reverse transfer can occur at an early date. It would be nothing less than a tragedy, however, if the result is no better than stagnation for the whole economy.

CONCLUSIONS

My conclusions can be summarized very briefly:

i) The doubling of the percentage share contributed by manufacturing to national income since 1948/49 represents an impressive rate of industrialization, taking the form principally of replacement of imported consumption goods. It has not resulted so far, however, in any appreciable progress in the direction of correcting the three disequilibria defined above. There is as yet no sign of an incipient take-off in Pakistan.

ii) To achieve a pace of industrialization that will propel the whole economy toward self-sustaining growth requires, first of all, a rise in the saving rate. This has not yet occurred. Moreover, it requires the extension of import substitution to intermediate- and capital-goods production, or the rapid expansion of exports, or both. These will not occur automatically and, in fact, are inhibited by present tax and exchange-rate policies.

iii) Per-capita income has not risen significantly and agricultural per-capita income has probably fallen. Moreover, it has undoubtedly fallen most in East Pakistan. A strategy of industrialization which, in the short run, leads to a deterioration in living conditions in the agricultural sector and in the East Pakistan region could be justified only if the acceleration of industrial progress were so great that the industrial sector would in the near future begin to absorb the whole of the increase in the labour force plus a portion of the rural underemployed. This seems out of sight, however, in the light of recent experience.

iv) This means, I think, that far more attention should be given to measures that will provide for an early improvement in agricultural productivity. Substantial increases of per-acre yields of agricultural output are possible

with relatively inexpensive additional inputs. These would ameliorate the situation in agriculture even if they would do nothing to correct unemployment. In addition, however, a much larger rural public works programme must be rapidly implemented—especially in East Pakistan. Without substantial increases in agricultural production, any attempt to accelerate industrialization is likely to be frustrated by shortages of food and raw materials. In any case, however, living conditions in East Pakistan agriculture cannot improve significantly (in the absence of large-scale emigration) until a far greater proportion of industrial investment is allocated to that province.

v) At the same time steps must be taken to encourage rapid expansion of exports and production of intermediate and capital goods. The system of overvaluation of the currency plus licensing plus exports bonus scheme discriminates against both. Foreign exchange is valued more highly in substituting for imports of final consumption goods than in producing equipment and supplies or goods for export. Until this is corrected, little progress can be expected on this front.

vi) Finally, talk of reducing dependence on foreign aid would appear to be premature. Until economic growth has attained real momentum, Pakistan must continue to rely heavily on external financing of its development effort. There is no great virtue in self financed stagnation. What is required to make aid effective, however, is a much more strenuous effort to mobilize domestic resources for development. A rapidly rising rate of domestic saving would eventually bring dependence on foreign aid to a natural end.

This, in turn, implies sacrificing consumption gains for a considerable time to come. The above analysis suggests that, in any case, what gains in income have occurred have been limited to a small urban minority. It is the propensity to consume of this small minority that must, first of all, be curbed *via* tax or other measures. This is strong medicine, but the alternative might be continuing stagnation with rising external indebtedness.