



CEYLON YEAR BOOK

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
COLOMBO, CEYLON

1957

V. Mahadevan (3)

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1957

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

COLOMBO, CEYLON

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PREFACE

THE Ceylon Year Book, 1957, which is the ninth in a series which began after the termination of the Annual General Report in 1947, contains in a compact form factual and statistical data compiled from official authoritative sources, relating to the Dominion of Ceylon. The Book does not attempt to give exhaustive accounts of the topics covered, but presents salient facts relating to the Dominion—its history and geography, the condition of its people, its resources, its constitution and government and the activity of the Government Administration in the economic, social and other allied fields for furthering the progress of the country.

A special feature of this issue is the inclusion of coloured transparencies of wild flowers of Ceylon. As purchasers of the booklet usually want complete information, a large amount of repetition from year to year is unavoidable.

The Department is indebted to various persons and sources for the material supplied for the Year Book, in particular to the various Heads of Departments who have readily placed at its disposal accounts of the activities of their respective Departments.

Owing to the varied nature of the subject matter covered in the Year Book, it is inevitable that a number of errors and omissions may have escaped notice. The Department will be grateful for any information which may lead to the elimination of such errors and for suggestions which may help enlarge the scope and usefulness of this publication.

N. MANICKA IDAIKKADAR,
Director of Census and Statistics.

Department of Census and Statistics,
P. O. Box 563, Colombo,
January 18, 1958.

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also mentions the scope of the study and the limitations. The second part of the paper discusses the methodology used in the study. It mentions the data sources and the statistical methods used. The third part of the paper discusses the results of the study. It mentions the findings and the conclusions. The fourth part of the paper discusses the implications of the study. It mentions the policy implications and the future research. The fifth part of the paper discusses the conclusion. It mentions the main findings and the recommendations.

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INTRODUCTION

I—IMPORTANT EVENTS

1956

THE most significant event of the year was the defeat at the General Election, in April, of the United National Party, which had governed the country since Independence.

The voters by so registering their disapproval of the former Government, elected to power the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, which was a coalition of progressive forces in the country pledged to a socialist programme of work.

The Leader of this coalition, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, assumed office as Prime Minister on 12th April.

The third post-Independence Parliament of Ceylon was opened by H. E. the Governor-General on 20th April.

Ceylon celebrated in the latter part of May the Sambuddha Jayanthi commemorating 2,500 years of Buddhism in the Island. The celebrations were held on an elaborate scale and Government participation in them was considerable.

The Parliament passed in mid-June the Official Language Bill declaring Sinhalese as the one official language of the country.

The Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, attended the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference in London during the last week of June. At this conference the Prime Minister announced his Government's decision to declare Ceylon a Republic and to remain within the Commonwealth. This announcement was welcomed by the U. K. Premier and the other Prime Ministers attending the conference.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, presented in Parliament in early July the first budget of the new Government.

Their Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Mikasa of Japan, visited the Island in the latter part of August in connection with the Esala Buddha Jayanthi celebrations. They were in the Island for twelve days.

In early September the Government announced its decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Government of the U. S. S. R.

Parliament passed in early September a Bill to set up a National Planning Council with the Prime Minister as Chairman and the Finance Minister as Deputy Chairman.

In mid September the Government announced its decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

Towards the end of October, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited Ceylon on his way to the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

In early November the Prime Minister attended the Colombo Powers Conference held in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister left for New York in mid November to lead Ceylon's delegation to the U. N. General Assembly. In his address at the U. N., the Prime Minister said that the events in Egypt and Hungary had provided on the one hand a crucial test for the United Nations and on the other a great opportunity. "I should like to say", he declared, "that it is my opinion that the U. N. has emerged from these crises with its reputation and prestige enhanced".

On his way back to Ceylon in early December, the Prime Minister led Ceylon's delegation to the conference in U. K. over the handing over of British bases to the Ceylon Government.

II—ECONOMIC REVIEW

Ceylon experienced near-boom conditions in 1954 and 1955. However, the year 1956 was characterised by many adverse features in Ceylon's trade structure. The total value of exports dropped by Rs. 205 million to nearly Rs. 1,735 million. Expenditure on imports was Rs. 1,629 million, a rise of Rs. 170 million over the previous year. These changes reduced the trade surplus from Rs. 480 million in 1955 to Rs. 185 million in 1956. Compared with the Rs. 260 million increase in the external assets in 1955, external assets rose by only Rs. 25 million in 1956. The national income for 1956 is estimated at Rs. 4,910 million as compared with Rs. 5,281 million in 1955. The decline is mainly due to lower production of tea and coconuts, lower prices for tea and rubber and the fall in paddy output due to drought.

Wages and Employment

The Colombo Consumers' Price Index in 1956 was 100·2, 0·5 per cent. lower than the average for 1955. The domestic group of this index showed a small rise of 1·7 per cent. and the export group rose nearly 13 per cent. The import group was 3·9 per cent. lower in 1956 than in 1955. The money wages of tea and rubber estate workers were 1 per cent. higher in 1956. In trades other than agriculture there was a 1·4 per cent. rise. Real wages also tended to move with money wages during this period. The number of registrants at the employment exchanges was 85,952 in December, 1956, compared with 71,010 at the end of the previous year. The figures include those seeking better employment.

Industry

Government has given high priority to industrial development. While the State will own and control the basic industries, private enterprise is to be given every encouragement to play its part in the development process. Industries for this purpose have been grouped under 3 categories. In the first, industries like cement, salt and ilmenite will be owned and operated solely by the Government. In the second, in industries like sugar and textiles, there will be joint participation by the State and private enterprise. The third category of light consumer industries is left entirely to investment by private capital, local and foreign.

Agriculture

2,148 acres were newly planted with tea during 1956 on permits issued by the Tea Controller. Under the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme a total of 24,580 acres were replanted during 1956, of which 7,008 acres on permits issued earlier under the Subsidy Scheme.

35,233 acres were alienated by the Land Commissioner's Department during the year to 22,223 families.

Transport

The preliminary steps towards nationalisation of Omnibus transport in Ceylon have been taken with the setting up of the Ceylon Transport Board.

During 1956, further progress was made on the Port Development Scheme. The "Queen Elizabeth Quay", "Delft Quay" and "Oil Dock South Quay" were completed and put into use.

Housing

The policy in regard to Housing loans was revised with the change of Government in April, 1956. The maximum loan that can be granted now is Rs. 25,000.

53 working class houses were completed at Kiribathgoda and 49 at Gongitota. 240 houses were also under construction at Gongitota at the end of 1956. Construction of Basic Flats has commenced at 3 sites providing 710 units of accommodation for the working class population.

24 Middle Class houses were completed at Nawala in 1956. 63 houses are under construction.

Houses were also under construction in a number of other towns.

CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL SKETCH

LITTLE is known regarding the pre-historic and proto-historic ages in Ceylon. Traces of prehistoric man have recently been discovered and the scientific elucidation of the data is eagerly awaited. However, more definite information is available regarding the later periods specially owing to the written record preserved in the Pali chronicle, the *Mahavamsa*.

According to the *Mahavamsa* an Indian Prince named Vijaya, with his band of 700 men, colonized the Island of Ceylon in about 543 B.C. The present day Veddas are the survivors of the legendary tribes of *Yakkas* and *Nagas* who inhabited Ceylon then. Travellers from the West have also made certain references in their writings to ancient Ceylon. These too help to obtain more information regarding the ancient period. The Sinhalese royal line consisting of 180 rulers held sway in unbroken succession for nearly 2,300 years.

King Pandukabhaya who founded the City of Anuradhapura, stands out as the most important ruler of the ancient period. It was this city which later became the political capital of the Island for nearly a thousand years. Anuradhapura has been the spiritual home of the Buddhists for well nigh 2,300 years.

In the 3rd century B.C. there occurred an event which changed the whole complexion of the Island and the faith of its people. King Asoka, Emperor of India, sent to his friend King Devanampiyatissa of Ceylon, the Message of the Buddha through his own son, Thera Mahinda. The Island embraced Buddhism. Quick progress followed and art and architecture developed. These were used to subserve the needs of the new religious movement. Another unique event, which occurred at this time, was the arrival of the Bodhi Tree from India. It has survived to this day and is said to be the oldest tree in the world.

South Indian contacts disturbed the peace of the Island from about the 1st century B.C. The northern part of the Island was held by King Elara but after a time he was vanquished in battle by Prince Dutugemunu from Ruhuna. The establishment of peace under one sovereign ruler was the direct result. There followed a period of prosperity leading to the spread of learning, development of art and architecture, and foundation of temples.

Irrigation engineering had attained a unique position in ancient Ceylon as is evidenced by the large tanks. These ensured a proper food supply to the population. In the sphere of learning and arts the Indian influences have been considerable, particularly the Gupta influence is noticeable in the monuments of the 6th century. The fortress at Sigiriya was converted to the living palace of Kasyapa where the well-known frescoes are still preserved. Somewhat later in the 7th century the Pallava influence was also felt in the Island. The monuments at Isurumuniya bear witness to this tradition.

The 9th century is a dark period in Ceylon history. Little recorded evidence, either as rock inscriptions or in any other tangible form, is yet available. This may be due to religious differences or political disputes which troubled the land.

During the mediaeval period Ceylon suffered again at the hands of Cholas and Pandians who from time to time over-ran the capital, burnt the buildings and looted the wealth. Anuradhapura had to be abandoned. Finally the scattered Sinhalese forces rallied together under Prince Kitti who later defeated the enemy and brought complete victory to the Island and ruled at Polonnaruwa as Vijaya Bahu I. To him, more than to any other ruler, the Sinhalese owe an eternal debt for preserving their race. The results of his victory were realised during later times.

King Parakramabahu the Great used his mighty influence to further the good of the Island. The revival of learning, restoration of monuments and the construction of buildings were organized on a scale that was not to be surpassed since. Some of these monuments stand to this day as worthy records of the spirit of greatness of a great ruler. He also developed irrigation and constructed new tanks with the sole object of attaining economic self-sufficiency in food.

After his reign there followed a period of stress and struggle. The capital shifted to other sites, such as Ruhuna, Dambadeniya, Yapahuwa, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Gampola, Dedigama, Rayigama, Kotte, Sitawaka and Kandy. The Kings contended with each other as well as with outsiders at times to preserve freedom, peace and prosperity. It was with considerable sacrifice through centuries that the nation preserved its spirit and recovered from intermittent feuds.

During the 15th century the capital was at Kotte. It was during this period that the first European contact was felt. This was the beginning of a crucial change which was to lead to further complications and difficulties. It was also the beginning of the eventual loss of freedom. The Portuguese arrived in 1505 A.D. and conquered parts of the Island. They were the first to introduce Christianity. The Portuguese were ousted by the Dutch who ruled over their possessions in the Island from 1640 A.D. They established trade and ruled the maritime provinces through a Governor. In 1796 A.D. the Dutch, too, yielded to the English and in 1815 A.D. the Sinhalese surrendered their country to the British. New changes took place. The country was ruled by a Governor appointed from England. New laws were introduced and European ways and beliefs influenced the people.

However, the Island regained its Independence in 1948 and today is ruled by the elected representatives of the people themselves under a democratic Constitution based on the British model. Nevertheless, Ceylon continues to be a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.*

*For further detailed information the following references are suggested :—

- (1) The Mahavamsa—Wilhelm Geiger (English translation).
- (2) Short History of Ceylon—H. W. Codrington.
- (3) Ceylon and the Hollanders—Paul E. Pieris.
- (4) History of Ceylon (I and II) Father S. G. Perera.
- (5) Early History of Ceylon and
- (6) Ceylon under the British

Dr. G. C. Mendis.

CHAPTER II

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

I—GENERAL

AREA and Location—Ceylon has an area of 25,332 sq. miles as compared with the United Kingdom (93,053 sq. miles), Canada (3,845,774 sq. miles) Australia (2,974,581 sq. miles), India and Pakistan (1,686,695 sq. miles), Union of South Africa (790,275 sq. miles), New Zealand (105,072 sq. miles) and Eire (26,631 sq. miles).

The Island is situated between 5° 55' and 9° 50' N. latitude, and between 79° 42' and 81° 52' E. longitude. It is separated from the Indian sub-continent by a narrow strip of shallow water, the Palk Strait.

Next to India the nearest neighbours of Ceylon are the Maldiv Islands to its west, the Nicobar and Andaman Islands to its east and north-east respectively.

The Island has a compact land area except for Mannar Island in the north west, the Jaffna Peninsula in the north and its satellite islands, the largest of which are Kayts and Delft. The greatest length of the Island north to South is 270 miles, from Point Palmyrah in the north to Dondra Head in the south. The greatest breadth is 140 miles, from Colombo in the West to Sagamankande on the east coast.

Ceylon's position in the Indian Ocean has proved favourable and today Colombo forms an important port of call (passenger, bunkering, repairs, &c.) for all steamships that cross the Indian Ocean from East to West and *Vice Versa* via the Suez Canal. The following table showing distances from the respective ports reveals its favoured location :—

TABLE 2·1 DISTANCES FROM COLOMBO TO VARIOUS PORTS OF THE WORLD

Colombo to—	Nautical miles	Approximate Journey (days)
(a) London :		
Aden	2,100	5
Suez	3,407	10
Port Said	3,494	11
Gibraltar (<i>via</i> Marseilles)	5,690	20
London (by sea <i>via</i> Marseilles)	7,005	20
London (by sea direct)	6,725	18
London (overland)	5,868	16
(b) India, &c. :		
Calcutta (touching at Madras)	1,260	7
Bombay	875	2½
Rangoon	1,249	4½
Singapore	1,567	5
Hong Kong (touching at Singapore)	3,113	12
(c) Australia :		
Fremantle	3,121	8
Adelaide (touching at Fremantle)	4,479	11
Sydney (touching at Fremantle, Adelaide and Melbourne)	5,556	17
(d) South Africa :		
Durban (touching at African Ports)	3,680	20
Cape Town (touching at South African ports)	4,362	21-30

With the development of air travel the Colombo Air Port situated at Ratmalana about 8 miles south of the city of Colombo has become a busy centre where the chief airways of the world call regularly.

II—RELIEF OF THE LAND

Generally speaking, the relief of the Island may be said to comprise a mountainous area about the central part or more correctly the south-central part, averaging in elevation from about 3,000 to 7,000 feet which is again surrounded by an upland belt of about 1,000 to 3,000 feet, while the coastal plain occupies the rest of the Island and is narrower on the west, east and south but broadens out to a vast tract in the north.

The Coastal Plain continues for some distance out to sea as the Continental Shelf. The 100 fathoms line is close to the coast, except about the north-west where it opens out to include a large area continuous with the Indian continental Shelf. A coral reef lies close to the coast, which though for the most part submerged can be discerned by the breaking of the waves at a short distance from the coast line. The following table shows the relative heights of various peaks :—

TABLE 2·2 CHIEF MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF CEYLON

<i>Mountain Peak</i>	<i>Height (in feet)</i>
Pidurutalagala	8,291
Kirigalpotta	7,856
Totapola	7,741
Adam's Peak	7,360
Namunukula	6,679
Knuckles	6,112
Haycock	2,167

The essential frame work of the Hill Country over 5,000 feet appears in the form of an inverted "T" or anchor, with the Central Ridge forming the shank on which are some of the highest peaks in Ceylon—Pidurutalagala (8,291 feet), Kirigalpotta (7,856 feet), Totapola (7,741 feet) and also the high plains, such as Nuwara Eliya (over 6,000 feet), Elk Plains (6,000 feet), and Horton Plains (over 7,000 feet). At the base of the shank is Kirigalpotta from where one arm of the anchor extends westwards to terminate at Adam's Peak (7,360 feet) while the eastern arm extends through Haputale and continues north-east to form the Namunukula which is part of the north-south aligned Lunugala ridge. To the north-east of the shank are the Matala hills, with Knuckles (6,112) feet forming the highest point. On either side of this central mountainous anchor-shank are two plateaus—the Hatton Plateau to the west and the Uva Basin (or the Welimada Plateau) to the east—each averaging 4,000 feet. The east-west arm of the "anchor" is termed the Southern Mountain Wall, because here it presents a sheer drop of over 4,000 feet to the southern platform lying at its foot. Forming a detached portion from the massif to its south-west lies the Rakwana Hill Country and the Bulutota massif averaging 3,000 feet; the intervening tract being occupied by the upper tributaries of the Kalu and Walawe rivers. Monadnocks or "relict mountains" composed of resistant rock like granite, stand out to break the monotony of the level stretches. The Jaffna Peninsula and the Island of Mannar are entirely featureless plains.

Rivers and Waterways

The hydrographic pattern is a function essentially of relief and structure, and in Ceylon with its central hilly mass the radial pattern is clearly revealed—the rivers flowing to the west, east and south being shorter than those flowing to the north, north-west and north-east. The most important and longest river is the Mahaveli-ganga, which rises on the western side of the "shank" of the anchor.

TABLE 2.3 LENGTHS OF PRINCIPAL RIVERS

<i>River</i>	<i>Length in miles</i>	<i>River</i>	<i>Length in miles</i>
Mahaveli-ganga	206	Menik-ganga	81
Aruvi-arū	104	Maha-oya	78
Kala-oya	97	Kirindi-oya	73
Yan-oya	94	Kalu-ganga	70
Kelani-ganga	90	Gin-ganga	70
Deduru-oya	87	Kumbukkan-arū	70
Maduru-oya	86	Mi-oya	67
Walawe-ganga	83	Gal-oya	62

Waterfalls girdle the central mountain massif and offer some of the best scenic features in Ceylon, e.g., Dunhinda (Badulla), Diyaluma (Koslanda), Elgin (Hatton Plateau) and Perawella. They are found to occur especially to the west, south and east, and are perennial owing to the heavy rainfall on the central mountain mass, though the fluctuations in their volume occur as a result of changes in the seasonal rainfall.

III—CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY

Climate

Although, on account of its situation close to the equator within the latitudes of 6° to 10° N, the mean temperature is high (ranging from 80° F to 82° F in the low-country), the oceanic effect, due to the fact that the maximum breadth of the Island is only 140 miles, helps to reduce the temperature in the plains. The hills in the central regions enhance this effect.

Temperature

Variation with altitude—In the hill-country the temperature falls off at a steady rate of about 1° F for each 300 feet rise. Thus at Kandy, 1,600 feet above sea level, it is 77° F, at Diyatalawa 4,100 feet, it is 68° F, and at Nuwara Eliya, the chief hill station in the Island, 6,200 feet, it is 60° F.

Seasonal Variation

A noteworthy feature in many parts of Ceylon is the small variation in the mean monthly temperatures throughout the year. The mean temperature at Colombo during the coolest months, November to February, is 79° F— 3° cooler than that during the warmest months, April and May. At the other stations the mean annual range of temperature does not vary very much, though in the North and East it is slightly higher.

Highest Temperatures

Highest temperatures are experienced in the districts to north or north-west of the hills and in the eastern and north-eastern low-country.

Diurnal Variation

The diurnal variation of temperature, the rise to a maximum early in the afternoon and the fall to a minimum shortly before dawn, is well marked in Ceylon. Its magnitude depends on the direction of the prevailing wind. There is a gradual increase in the range, with altitude as well as with distance from the sea.

Humidity

The relative humidity varies generally from about 70 per cent. during the day to about 90 per cent. at night, rising as the temperature falls. In the dry zone, however, these values are lower by about

5 per cent., while in the driest areas in the north-west and south-east, the day humidity goes down to about 60 per cent. In the south-western parts, the absolute humidity is rather high on account of the high mean temperature.

Rainfall

Rainfall is of three types—monsoonal, convectional and depressional. Monsoon rain occurs during the two monsoons, south-west and north-east, and is responsible for a major part of the annual precipitation. Convectional rain occurs during inter-monsoon periods, mainly in the afternoon or evening, and is likely to be experienced anywhere over the Island. Depressional rain also occurs mainly during the inter-monsoon periods.

The annual average rainfall varies from below 40 inches in the driest zones in the north-west and south-east of the Island to over 200 inches at certain places on the south-western slopes of the hills.

There are roughly four rainfall seasons during the year, the periods being as follows :—

- (i) the south-west monsoon period, May to September ;
- (ii) the inter-monsoon period, following the south-west monsoon, October and November ;
- (iii) the north-east monsoon period, December to February ; and
- (iv) the inter-monsoon period, following the north-east monsoon, March and April.

South-West Monsoon

The rainfall is mostly confined to the south-western parts. But as winds strengthen, it spreads gradually to the interior, with considerably heavy rain in the hill-country from June to August. South-west monsoon rainfall is considerably heavy in the south-western hill-country, where some stations receive over 100 inches of rain for the whole period. During periods of active monsoon weather, these stations aggregate monthly totals of 50 to 60 inches.

North-East Monsoon

The rainfall is mainly confined to the north-eastern parts. Most of the rain occurs in December and January, February being normally a dry month. The heaviest rain is experienced on the north-eastern slopes of the hills, where some stations receive about 50 inches for the two months. There have been occasions when over 100 inches of rain were recorded at some of the hill-stations in December or January.

Inter-Monsoon Periods

During inter-monsoon periods winds are generally light, except for the sea breeze which develops from about noon and results in evening thundershowers. These showers may occur anywhere over Ceylon. Another source of rain during these periods is depressional activity. A depression in the Bay of Bengal will cause rainfall in the eastern parts of the Island, while one in the Arabian Sea will cause rainfall in the western parts. If the depression is of great extent, however, the rainfall will be heavy and widespread.

These depressions are most frequent in October and November, and are responsible for a good part of the precipitation during these two months. Rainfall during the first inter-monsoon period is therefore widespread and exceeds 20 inches at many stations. Taking the Island as a whole, this is the rainiest period of the year.

Conditions are similar during the second inter-monsoon period, March and April, but the rainfall received is less, mainly because of less depressional activity.

Hail

During intense thunderstorms, hail is occasionally experienced. It occurs mainly in the hill-country but reports have been received of the occurrence of hail in low-country stations too.

TABLE 2.4 ANNUAL RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT NINE PRINCIPAL STATIONS DURING 1955 AND 1956

Stations	Annual Rainfall (Inches)		Mean Annual Temperature (Degrees Fahrenheit)		Mean Annual Relative Humidity (Per cent.)			
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955		1956	
					Day	Night	Day	Night
Colombo	96.01	78.93	79.7	79.9	75	87	76	91
Jaffna	36.70	41.41	81.4	81.2	74	85	72	83
Trincomalee	59.84	56.59	82.3	82.9	70	82	65	79
Hambantota	37.52	27.88	80.4	80.5	78	89	77	88
Ratnapura	171.66	139.85	80.7	80.7	75	93	72	91
Anuradhapura	61.14	29.34	80.2	81.7	73	94	66	92
Kandy	91.69	59.01	75.2	76.6	70	88	66	85
Diyatalawa	80.18	57.82	68.3	68.2	74	89	70	88
Nuwara Eliya	92.20	77.75	60.1	59.7	79	87	78	87

Meteorology

Climatic data have been collected in Ceylon since 1880 and today there are altogether 18 main Meteorological Observatories which make daily records of temperature, rainfall, wind, pressure and humidity.

The Colombo Observatory, which for over 40 years was a branch of the Survey Department, was established as an independent department, with effect from October, 1948, and functions now as the Department of Meteorology. In addition to climatological and weather forecasting work, services performed by this Department include seismological work and determination and distribution of correct time.

IV—GEOLOGY

The Island of Ceylon forms part of the "old massifs" of the world, and is to a great extent composed of some of the oldest rocks of the earth's crust. These rocks belong to the "Archaean" or Precambrian era. The basement upon which the geological structure of the Island lies, termed the Fundamental Gneissic terrain, is of a very complex character and exhibits "foliation" as a result of metamorphism. The striking resemblance of the Ceylon Archaean Gneissic basement to that of the Canadian Shield has been recognised.

Resting on the fundamental Gneissic basement are the Khondalite group of rocks which are of somewhat later geological age than the Gneisses. Being metamorphosed sedimentaries, they exhibit differences in their original sediments. The following are the principal types of rock belonging to this group :—

- (a) Quartzite
- (b) Crystalline limestone
- (c) Granulite
- (d) Leptynite
- (e) Type Khondalite

These rocks occupy a belt of the Island extending from the south-west to the north-east coast (about Trincomalee). They are folded into a "Synclinorium" with a general axial trend, or strike running north-north-west to south-south-east, veering to north-south in the centre and north-north-east to south-south-west in the north-east.

While the Archaean rocks are fairly well represented, the rocks of the Palaeozoic era are strangely enough completely absent from the Island's surface. This is fair evidence that the Island must have remained above sea level throughout the pre-Mesozoic era. The Mesozoic era is represented only by two small pockets of Jurassic deposits at Tabbowa and Andigama.

Rocks of the Cainozoic or Tertiary era are represented by a large tract of clearly distinct limestone of the Miocene period. This area underlies the whole of the Jaffna Peninsula and continues south-westwards as a coastal belt to the north of Puttalam and Kalpitiya Peninsula.

Structure

Structurally the Island represents a major Syncline with minor contortions within this central downwarp and is termed a "Synclinorium". The rocks are seen to dip towards the centre so that the rocks on the west dip to the east and those on the east dip to the west. As referred to above the Archaean Gneissic terrain forms the basement upon which the Island evolved. Thus while in the centre the Surface rocks are Khondalites, Fundamental Gneiss outcrops on either side in the west and east.

Important References :

- (1) Geography of Ceylon—E. K. Cook.
- (2) Geography of Ceylon—S. F. de Silva.
- (3) Geology of Ceylon—Adams (Canadian Journal of Science).
- (4) Annual Report of the Colombo Observatory.
- (5) The Face of Ceylon—K. Kularatnam (Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science : Presidential Address to Section D, 1953).

CHAPTER III

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

I—THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON

CEYLON at present possesses a broad-based democratic government after the British pattern. Her position is that of an independent nation within the British Commonwealth enjoying the same status as the other Dominions.

Law of the Constitution

The fundamental law embodying the constitution is contained in an Act of Parliament and a number of Orders-in-Council which have been referred to in the earlier issues of the Ceylon Year Book.

The Parliament of Ceylon

The Parliament of Ceylon consists of (a) The QUEEN (Represented by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL) and (b) Two Houses, namely The SENATE and the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The QUEEN is represented by the Governor-General—The GOVERNOR-GENERAL is appointed by the QUEEN on the advice of the Prime Minister. The constitution lays down that all powers exercisable by the QUEEN or the GOVERNOR-GENERAL shall be exercised as far as shall be in accordance with the constitutional conventions applicable to the exercise of similar powers, authorities and conventions in the United Kingdom by HER MAJESTY.

The first GOVERNOR-GENERAL was Sir Henry Moore who was succeeded by Lord Soulbury on July 8, 1949. Sir Oliver Goonetilleke G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., K.B.E. succeeded Lord (later Viscount) Soulbury as the first Ceylonese Governor-General on July 17, 1954.

The Senate consists of 30 members, half appointed by the Governor-General and half elected by the House of Representatives, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Senators serve for a period of six years, one third retiring after every two years.

The Senators appointed by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL are chosen on the advice of the Prime Minister. It is however laid down that the "GOVERNOR-GENERAL shall endeavour to appoint persons who, he is satisfied, have rendered distinguished public services or are persons of eminence in professional, commercial, industrial or agricultural life including education, law, medicine, science, engineering and banking."

The President of the SENATE is Senator the Hon. Sir Cyril de Zoysa and Lady Molamure, C.B.E., is the Deputy President.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES consists of 101 members, 95 of whom are elected and six are appointed. The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is elected on a wide franchise, every adult citizen of Ceylon being entitled to the vote. The representation has been arranged as to enable every community and interest to have its voice heard in Parliament. The first delimitation of the constituencies under the new constitution was carried out by a Commission. Each Province of the Island was divided into electoral districts, the total number of which is specified in the Order in Council and the aggregate of which totals ninety-five for the whole Island. The electoral districts have been demarcated so as to render possible representation of minorities united by the tie of race, religion or by any other tie. Where after any general election the Governor-General is satisfied that any important interest in the Island is not represented, he may appoint any persons, not exceeding six in number, to be members of the House of Representatives. Provision has been made for four more members to be elected during a specified period by an Indian and Pakistani Electoral

District, after a date which will be specified in a notice published by the Governor-General. The duration of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is five years unless parliament is dissolved earlier.

The Fourth Session of the second Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor-General on 7th June, 1955.

The Cabinet

The Executive consists of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet chosen from the Party which has the majority in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Prime Minister is the Head of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister is also in charge of the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs in addition to such other matters as he may decide to retain in his charge. Every other Minister shall be charged with the administration of such subjects and functions as may be assigned to him by the Prime Minister. Not less than two Ministers one of whom shall be the Minister of Justice must be appointed from the SENATE.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the largest party or group in the House of Representatives and he is appointed by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL. The other Ministers are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister. The number of Ministers is not fixed and in the present Cabinet there are fourteen including the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and External Affairs.

The Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed from the SENATE and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL on the advice of the Prime Minister, to assist the Ministers in the exercise of their parliamentary and departmental duties.

The following is a list of the Ministers and Parliamentary Officials of the present administration :—

THE HON. MR. H. S. ISMAIL, M.B.E.	Speaker
MR. P. TENNAKON	Deputy Speaker
MR. R. S. PELPOLA	Deputy Chairman of Committees
THE HON. MR. S. W. R. D. BANDARANAIKE	Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and External Affairs
THE HON. MR. W. DAHANAYAKE	Minister of Education
THE HON. MR. C. P. DE SILVA	Minister of Lands and Land Development
SENATOR THE HON. MR. M. W. H. DE SILVA, Q.C.	Minister of Justice
THE HON. MR. P. H. WILLIAM DE SILVA	Minister of Industries and Fisheries
THE HON. MR. STANLEY DE ZOYSA	Minister of Finance
THE HON. MR. PHILIP GUNAWARDENA	Minister of Agriculture and Food
THE HON. MR. T. B. ILANGARATNE	Minister of Labour, Housing and Social Services
SENATOR THE HON. MR. A. P. JAYASURIYA	Minister of Home Affairs
THE HON. MR. JAYAWEERA KURUPPU	Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs
THE HON. MR. C. A. S. MARIKKAR	Minister of Posts, Broadcasting and Information
THE HON. MR. MAITHRIPALA SENANAYAKE	Minister of Transport and Works
THE HON. MRS. VIMALA WIJewardena	Minister of Health
THE HON. MR. R. G. SENANAYAKE	Minister of Commerce and Trade

Each Minister is assisted in his work by a Parliamentary Secretary. The following are the names of the Parliamentary Secretaries to the various Ministers :—

MR. T. B. SUBASINGHE	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence and External Affairs
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MR. P. B. A. WEERAKOON	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education
MR. D. A. RAJAPAKSE	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Land Development
MR. MAHANAMA SAMARAWEEERA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice
MR. W. J. C. MUNASINGHE	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industries and Fisheries
SENATOR C. WIJESINHA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance
MR. M. P. DE ZOYSA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, Housing and Social Services
MR. I. M. R. A. IRIYAGOLLA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs
MR. C. R. BELIGAMMANA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs
MR. HENRY ABEY Wickrema	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and Works
MR. P. B. G. KALUGALLA	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health
MR. LAKSHMAN RAJAPAKSE	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Trade

II—PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

At the last General Election held in 1956, there were 95 elected Members in the House of Representatives. These Members represent 89 electoral districts.

Qualification of Electors—Parliamentary

No person shall be qualified to have his name entered or retained in any register of electors if such person—

- (a) is not a citizen of Ceylon ;
- (b) was less than 21 years of age ; on the first day of June in the year of the preparation of the register ;
- (c) has not for a continuous period of six months in the 18 months immediately prior to the first day of June in the year of the preparation of the register, resided in the electoral district to which the register relates ;
- (d) is serving a sentence of imprisonment for an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding 12 months, or is under sentence of death, or is serving a sentence of imprisonment awarded in lieu of execution of any such sentence of death ;
- (e) is under any law in force in the Island, found or declared to be of unsound mind ;
- (f) is incapable of being registered as an elector by reason of his conviction of a corrupt or illegal practice, or by reason of the report of an election judge in accordance with the Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in Council, 1946, or by reason of his conviction of an offence under Section 52 or Section 53, or of the operation of Section 4A of the Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in Council, 1946.

Every person, who is not disqualified by any one of the above circumstances shall be qualified to have his name registered as an elector.

No person shall be entitled to have his name entered in more than one register, notwithstanding that he may be qualified to have his name entered in two or more registers.

Qualifications of Voters—Local Authorities

Every person—

- (a) whose name is entered in any parliamentary register for the time being in operation for any electoral district ; and
- (b) who was on the date of the commencement of the preparation or revision of that parliamentary register resident in any ward which is situated wholly or partly within the electoral district, shall be entitled to have his name entered in the electoral list of that ward. Provided, however, that no person shall, at any time, be qualified to vote at any election of a member of a Village Committee if such person at that time—

is a labourer, or kangany in charge of labourers, employed on any plantation and in occupation of any building on the plantation provided by the employer for the accommodation of any such labourer or kangany, or is the spouse or a child or a dependent of any such labourer or kangany and is living with him in any such building on any such plantation.

III—THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

While the Cabinet assisted by the Parliamentary Secretaries are responsible for the formulation of Governmental Policy the day to day administration of the Island is carried on by the public service comprising officers of various grades and services.

For purposes of administration several departments of Government are grouped under the various ministries. Each Minister is assisted by a Permanent Secretary who is entrusted with the control and direction of the departments under each Ministry. The functions of the various Ministries and the chief departments under their control are given below.

Functions of Ministers and Departments of Government

A Permanent Secretary, subject to the general direction and control of his Minister supervises the Department or Departments of Government in charge of his Minister. When a decision has been taken it is his business to see that it is carried out with all possible energy and skill. The Minister takes responsibility for his department's acts. He submits to the Cabinet any decision which may have political implications.

DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Departments concerned with Defence and External Affairs are in the special charge of the Prime Minister. The Ministry supervises the work of the Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Ministers, Trade Commissioners and Consuls abroad.

This Ministry is in charge of the Foreign and Commonwealth realtions, Foreign Government Representatives in Ceylon and Ceylon Government Representatives abroad, International Agreement and Treaties, Protocol, Immigration, Emigration, Repatriation and Aliens, Passports, Citizenship and Nationality and Administration of the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act. It is also in charge of the Police, Army, Navy and Air Force, Public Security and Anti-Bribery measures. The implementation of the Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956, is also one of its responsibilities.

The Departments under this Ministry are :—

Police Department,
 Department of Defence,
 Department of External Affairs,
 Department of Ceylon Government Representatives abroad,
 Department of Immigration and Emigration,
 Department for Registration of Indian and Pakistani Residents,
 Official Language Department.

FINANCE

The Ministry of Finance generally manages the finance of the country. It scrutinises the draft estimates of the Annual Appropriation Bill, collects taxes, pays bills and debts of the Government, supervises public expenditure and safeguards the currency through financial institutions under its control. In financial policy it has the advice of the Central Bank which also raises loans on behalf of the Government.

The Ministry of Finance, under which the Treasury functions is also responsible for establishments and salary scales of Government servants. The Departments under the Ministry are :—

Treasury,
Department of Income Tax, Estate Duty and Stamps,
Customs Department,
Department of Census and Statistics,
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Office,
National Savings Department.
Loan Board,
Government Stores,
Government Press.

JUSTICE

The subjects and functions of the Ministry of Justice, include the administration of courts of justice (other than the Supreme Court), criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings on behalf of the Government, drafting of legislation and legal advice to public departments. The Departments under the Ministry of Justice are :—

Department of the Attorney-General,
Department of the Legal Draftsman,
Department of the Public Trustee,
Department of the Custodian of Enemy Property,
Fiscals' Departments of the Provinces of the Island,
District Courts,
Magistrates' Courts,
Courts of Requests,
Rural Courts,
Department of the Headquarters Officers Rural Courts,
Debt Conciliation Board.

HOME AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Home Affairs is in charge of district administration, prisons and probation services, excise, land registration, registration of births and marriages, parliamentary elections, public ceremonials, rural development, cottage industries and promotion of arts and crafts. It has the following Departments under it :—

Government Agencies (Kachcheries)	Department of Registrar-General
Excise Department	Rural Development and Cottage Industries
Department of the Government Analyst	Department of Probation and Child Welfare
Department of Elections	Services
Prisons Department	Zoological Gardens

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Ministry generally supervises the Local Bodies including Municipal Councils, Urban Councils, Town Councils and Village Committees and is also in charge of Cultural Affairs. The Departments under the Ministry are :—

Department of Local Government	Department of National Museums
Department of the Local Government Service Commission	Archæological Department
Department of Cultural Affairs	Government College of Fine Arts
Department of the Government Archivist	Department of Town and Country Planning

POSTS, BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION

The principal function of the Ministry of Posts, Broadcasting and Information is to maintain inexpensive and efficient public means of communication through the Postal and Telecommunication services. It is also responsible for the maintenance of broadcasting services, weather forecasting and distribution of official news. The departments under the Ministry are :—

Post and Telecommunications Department	Department of Broadcasting
Department of Meteorology	Department of Information

TRANSPORT AND WORKS

The Ministry has among its subjects and functions, public works, Government roads, buildings, air ports and water works, inland waterways, inland transport, ports, civil aviation, Government railways, electrical undertakings and basic technical training. The departments under the Ministry are :—

Public Works Department	Department of Electrical Undertakings
Port Commission	Department of Motor Traffic
Railway Department	Basic Technical Training Institute
Civil Aviation Department	

COMMERCE AND TRADE

The duties of the Ministry are promoting and developing the Island's trade and commerce. It is concerned with tourism, trade exhibitions, copyright, patents, trade marks, business names, weights and measures, merchant shipping, control of imports and exports of commodities and commercial matters relating to the tea industry. The Departments under the Ministry are :—

Commerce Department	Rubber Commissioner's Department
Department of Control of Imports and Exports	Department of the Registrar of Companies
Government Tourist Bureau	Tea Control Department

EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education is primarily responsible for the implementation of Government's policy on educational matters and has under its jurisdiction schools, training colleges and conducts public examinations. The Departments under this Ministry are :—

Education Department	UNESCO Secretariat for Ceylon
Department of Examinations	Educational Publications Board
Ceylon Technical College	

LABOUR HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Ministry of Labour, Housing and Social Services concerns itself with conditions, wages and hours of work of labour, employment, industrial welfare and disputes ; assistance and advice for housing development, public assistance and social insurance. The departments under its control are:

Department of Labour	Department of Social Services
Department of National Housing	

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food concerns food production and other forms of Agriculture, animal husbandry and veterinary services, control, distribution and rationing of food, co-operative development, and development of marketing. The Ministry has the following Departments under it :—

Agriculture	Rubber Control
Food Production	Marketing
Department of the Food Commissioner (Supply and Control)	Department of Co-operative Development
Tea Control	Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Department of Coconut Rehabilitation

LANDS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry has under its charge the custody of Crown Lands colonization and land settlement, the development and maintenance of irrigation works, flood protection, development and exploitation of forests, the protection of fauna and flora, game sanctuaries, elephant kraals, valuation on behalf of Government, and surveying. The Departments under the Ministry are :—

Department of the Land Commissioner	Valuation Department
Land Settlement Department	Department of Wild Life
Survey Department	Agricultural Corps
Forest Department	Land Development Department (excluding Food Production Division)
Irrigation Department	

HEALTH

The Ministry of Health is responsible for the public health services and control of hospitals and other medical institutions, medical education and research, medical inspection of schools and promotion of health education. The Departments under the Ministry are :—

Department of Health	Department of Indigenous Medicine
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INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES

The Ministry of Industries and Fisheries has among its other functions, the development and control of industries, and fisheries. The departments under the Ministry are :—

Industries Department	Department of Fisheries
Department of Mineralogy	Department of Salt

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

For administrative purposes, Ceylon has been divided into twenty Administrative Districts which are in charge of officers appointed by the Central Government. These officers, known as Government Agents are experienced members of the Civil Service. They also hold a number of subsidiary appointments. They are subject to the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs but perform agency functions for other Ministries which have no regional organisations for their purposes.

Their offices known as Kachcheries are situated in District Capitals. District Administration goes down right to the village through Divisional Revenue Officers who are in charge of Divisions, each comprising a number of headmen's areas. There are today 107 such divisions. Each D. R. O. has a number of officers under him known as Village Headmen, who are in charge of a group of villages.

IV—LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Historical

There is evidence that in Ceylon there existed in ancient times (in the 4th century B.C.) institutions which exercised functions which by modern concepts could be considered as those generally performed by local governing bodies.

The systems of Local Government in ancient Ceylon were of a patriarchal type, in which the affairs of every village were directed and controlled by its natural leaders, whose decisions were accepted and obeyed by the community in general. The village elders met from time to time at a convenient spot, where surrounded by those who cared to hear and see and criticize their proceedings, they deliberated on affairs of common interest, adjusted civil disputes, and awarded punishments to ordinary offenders against person and property. Cases of serious crime were reserved for the consideration of the King himself. These Village Councils of Ancient Ceylon, which were known as "Gansabhas", were not controlled or directed by the King or any central authority. It is not certain whether there were formal rules of procedure laid down, but matters of common interest were fully discussed by the Village Councils and the decisions of the majority were accepted and acted upon by the community without dissent. There were too in time, larger Councils known as "Rata Sabhas", which dealt with matters affecting a whole District, or Province. The fundamental ideas of Democracy seem to have been in active operation in these institutions.

With the occupation of Ceylon successively by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British the ancient systems of Local Government began to disappear. The British administrators, however, realised the value of a system of government which had taken deep root in the life of the rural population and began to revive the ancient system. When first revived and given statutory recognition in 1871, the Village Community was given limited powers and responsibilities which were mainly in regard to village cultivation and irrigation. Successive legislation enlarged the powers of Village Committees.

This period marked the beginning of modern Local Government in Ceylon. The structure of Local Government as found to-day began to be built up gradually from this period onwards, and other local governing institutions, based however, after the British Model began to be established. The first Ordinance establishing Municipalities was enacted in 1865 and the first Local Board of Health and Improvement, which may be regarded the precursor of the Urban Council, was established in 1876. The Twentieth century saw the creation of Urban Councils and Town Councils.

Modern Local Authorities

There are today 4 types of local authorities, viz., Village Committees in rural areas, Town Councils in rural towns, Urban Councils in Urban Towns and Municipalities in very highly developed Urban areas. Village Committees control a vast area of the country. The total area of Ceylon is 25,331 7/8 square miles out of which approximately 192 square miles are administered by either Municipal, Urban or Town Councils. The rest of the area, except the undeveloped area controlled by the Gal Oya Development Board, is under Village Committee Administration.

There are at present 403 Village Committees, 38 Town Councils, 36 Urban Councils and 7 Municipal Councils.

Village Committees, although the least developed type of local authority form the broad base on which the whole structure of local government has been built. These Committees are constituted for areas consisting of one or more villages. Town Councils have been established in small rural towns which by their development are urban in character. This type of local authority was established as recently as 1947 to fill the wide gap which existed between Village Committees and Urban Councils. They have powers and duties substantially similar to those of Urban Councils. The main difference being, however, that Town Councils cannot impose and levy a rate of more than nine per centum. Further there must be not less than three nor more than eight members for each Town Council.

URBAN COUNCILS

Urban Councils have been established in important urban towns. They have powers and duties similar to Town Councils but the control exercised by Government over this type of local authority is less than over the Town Council. The distribution of Urban Councils in particular gives an indication of the Urbanisation of the Country. Colombo District, apart from the Municipality of Colombo, has the largest number of Urban Councils.

At the very apex of the structure of local government is the Municipal Council. This type of local authority is the most developed. The degree of control exercised by the Central Government over those authorities is small and they are therefore virtually autonomous. Colombo, the Capital City of the Country, is a Municipality. The other Municipalities are Kandy, Galle, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Nuwara Eliya and Negombo, the last four of which were formerly Urban Councils.

Functions and Powers of Local Authorities

Local Authorities are independent statutory Corporations and their constitutions, powers and duties as well as their areas of Authority are provided for in the respective Ordinances which apply to them. The functions of these local authorities are broadly the same, viz., generally to promote the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people and to develop amenities in the fields of public health, public utility services and public thoroughfares. These functions take the form of the provision of water supply schemes, electricity schemes, street lighting, housing schemes, construction and maintenance of roads other than trunk roads, provision of market, conservancy and scavenging services, sewage disposal schemes, maternity and child welfare clinics, milk schemes, cemeteries, public baths and bathing places, free dispensaries, recreation grounds, parks, resthouses, libraries, fire brigades, &c.

For carrying out these functions and duties, the inhabitants of each city, town or village elect their own representatives every three years. The franchise is almost an universal one, the qualifications of a voter being the same as those applicable to voters for Parliamentary Elections. Representation is on the basis of wards and voters elect representatives for their wards. The elections to the wards are conducted by the Commissioner of Elections.

The Mayor in the case of Municipal Councils, or the Chairman in the case of the other local authorities are the Chief Executive Officers of the respective local authorities and it is their function to see that the resolutions of the Council are speedily and efficiently carried out through the staff of the Council.

The Employees of Local Authorities

The staff employed fall into two categories.

- (i) those recruited by the Local Government Service Commission (about 7,700 in all) on terms and conditions fixed by it, and appointed to posts in local authorities who pay their salaries, &c.)
- (ii) those recruited direct by the local authorities totalling about 7,000.

The Local Government Service Commission was established in 1946 to deal centrally with appointments, transfers, disciplinary control of the majority of local authority staffs. Uniformity in the services was thus established and better trained and experienced officials were made available to local authorities.

Finance of Local Authorities

The financing of local authority is done by several means :—

- (1) By local taxation,
- (2) By grants from Central Government,
- (3) Loans from the Central Government obtained through the Local Loans and Development Fund

Services of Local Authorities

Central Government assistance to Local Authorities has been considerably increased in the recent past since it has been accepted that schemes such as water supplies, electricity, housing, drainage, village wells, village roads and works, cannot be handled alone by local authorities.

Commission on Local Government

A recent landmark in the development of Local Government was the Commission appointed in 1953 to report on Local Government. This Report—The Choksy Report, Sessional Paper No. XXXIII of 1955—is under consideration. Some of its main recommendations are in regard

to the establishment of Regional Committees, a Central Water and Drainage Board, the reconstitution of the Local Government Service Commission and a revision of the local government financial structure. Greater powers have been recommended to Local Authorities and scope for increasing their finances considerably enlarged.

V—DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

External Affairs

In its foreign relations the Government has adopted an unequivocal policy of friendship toward all nations and non-alignment with any power blocs. In pursuance of this policy, diplomatic relations have been established with the Governments of the Soviet Union and China and new missions are being set up in these countries as well as in Canada and in the Netherlands. The Government of the Republic of Czechoslovakia has set up a Trade Office in Ceylon and diplomatic missions of the U. S. S. R. and China are to be established here in the near future.

This policy of independence and non-alignment has earned for Ceylon greater prestige in World Councils and among other nations. The stand taken by Ceylon on various international issues, and in particular throughout the Suez Canal episode was widely appreciated and well received all over the world. In the United Nations, Ceylon has secured in the short period during which she had been a member, a position of honour and respect by the manner in which she has exercised her rights and discharged her obligations under the Charter.

Ceylon's Representation Abroad

At present Ceylon has Missions only in the following countries:—

<i>Country</i>	<i>Name of Representative</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Australia	His Excellency Mr. P. R. Gunasekera	High Commissioner
Burma		Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Canada	His Excellency Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardena	High Commissioner
China (Peoples' Republic of)	His Excellency Mr. Wilmot A. Perera	Ambassador
Egypt	Mr. Youssef Abdallah	Honorary Trade Commissioner
France	His Excellency Sir G. Claude S. Corea, K.B.E.	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in U. K.)
Germany	His Excellency Mr. S. P. Wickramasingha	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
India	His Excellency Sir Richard Aluvihare, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	High Commissioner
Indonesia	His Excellency Mr. M. Saravananuttu	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Italy	His Excellency Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, M.V.O.	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Japan	His Excellency Sir Deepal Susanta de Fonseka, Kt.	Ambassador
Netherlands	His Excellency Sir G. Claude S. Corea, K.B.E.	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in U.K.)
New Zealand	His Excellency Mr. P. R. Gunasekera	High Commissioner (Resident in Canberra)
Pakistan	His Excellency Mr. M. M. Maharoof	High Commissioner

<i>Country</i>	<i>Name of Representative</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Singapore and the Federation of Malaya	Mr. M. Saravanamuttu	Commissioner (Resident in Djakarta)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	His Excellency Sir G. Claude S. Corea, K.B.E.	High Commissioner
United States of America	Mr. B. F. Perera, C.M.G., O.B.E.	Deputy High Commissioner
	His Excellency Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardena	Ambassador
United Nations New York	His Excellency Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardena	Permanent Representative (Resident in Washington)
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	His Excellency Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, O.B.E.	Ambassador

Foreign Representatives in Ceylon

DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Australia	His Excellency Mr. A. J. Eastman	High Commissioner
Austria	His Excellency Dr. Albin Lennkh	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in New Delhi)
Belgium	Baron Fernand de Kerchove D'Exaerde Borluut	Charge d'Affaires en pied
Burma	His Excellency Maha Thray Sithu U Ba Lwin	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Canada	His Excellency Mr. J. J. Hurley, O.B.E., E.D.	High Commissioner
Peoples' Republic of China	His Excellency Mr. Chang Tsan Ming	Ambassador
Denmark	His Excellency Mr. Viggo Theis-Nielson	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in New Delhi)
Finland	Vacant	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in New Delhi)
	Monsieur E. Hedmanson	Charge d'Affaires ad interim (Resident in New Delhi)
France	His Excellency Monsieur Lucien Colin	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Germany	His Excellency Dr. T. M. Auer	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
India	His Excellency Shri Y. D. Gundevia	High Commissioner
Indonesia	His Excellency Mr. R. M. Soerianata Djoemena	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Italy	His Excellency Dr. P. Solari	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Japan	His Excellency Mr. Akira Matsui	Ambassador
Netherlands	His Excellency Dr. K. E. Van de Mandele	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
Norway	His Excellency Monsieur Knut Lykke	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in New Delhi)
Pakistan	His Excellency Mr. S. Ali Khan	High Commissioner

<i>Country</i>	<i>Name of Representative</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Portugal	His Excellency Dr. Alvaro Brilhante Laborinho	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in Karachi)
Spain	Dr. Fernando de M. Cruz His Excellency Senor Don Manuel Galan	Charge d'Affaires ad interim Ambassador (Resident in Karachi)
Sweden	Her Excellency Madame Alva Myrdal	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in New Delhi)
Switzerland	His Excellency Dr. C. Rezzonico	Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Resident in New Delhi)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Dr. Hans Keller His Excellency Sir Cecil Syers, K.C.M.G., C.V.O.	Charge D'Affaires ad interim High Commissioner
United States of America	His Excellency Mr. Maxwell H. Gluck	Ambassador
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	His Excellency Mr. Vladimir G. Yokovlev	Ambassador

CONSULAR CORPS

The following countries are represented by Consular Corps :—

Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Liberia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

Other Representation

Other Representation in Ceylon includes Maldiv Islands, Phillipines a Trade Mission of Czechoslovakia, United Nations Technical Assistance Board and Colombo Plan Council for Technical co-operation in South and South-East Asia.

VI—JUSTICE

Activities of the Ministry of Justice

Four Commissioners of Assize functioned in the various Assize Courts in the Island during 1956. This helped not only to keep the volume of criminal cases under control but also to enable more Supreme Court Judges to concentrate on hearing appeals.

Provision was made for the appointment of additional judicial officers to function in stations—Batticaloa, Galle, Gampaha and Panadura where it was found necessary to have additional supernumerary District Judges or additional Magistrates appointed for a good part of the year in order to cope with the volume of institutions.

Several proposals were made for additional courts by various bodies. It has been decided to establish a District Court at Gampola and a Court of Requests at Colombo South while the other applications are still receiving consideration by the Minister.

The year 1956 saw the opening of a modern type of Rural Court in the new town of Amparai. This is the best equipped Rural Court in the Island and is eminently suited to the fast developing new city. New Rural Courts have also been established at Adampan, Nanaddan, Metigahatenna and Bakamuna during this year. The construction of several other Rural Courts was also commenced.

Legislation

No appreciable volume of new enactments was initiated by the Ministry of Justice during the year. The revised edition of the Legislative Enactments, however, has seen considerable progress and the first three of the six volumes have been sent to the Government Printer by the Commissioner for the Revised Edition of the Legislative Enactments. The other volumes too are in course of preparation. Amendments to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance to enable reciprocal enforcement of Maintenance Orders between Ceylon and certain countries to which the orders were so far not applicable and to Section 9 (1) of the Law Society Incorporation Ordinance, No. 33 of 1947, by which the number of members on the panel appointed for holding disciplinary inquiries was increased from 7 to 14, were introduced.

The Legal Aid Commission

The Legal Aid Commission which was appointed by the Governor-General in 1955 continued its sittings in various places in the Island during the year. As the Chairman of the Commission has been functioning as a Commissioner of Assize and the other members too are busy lawyers their sittings have been held only at irregular intervals. They are expected to conclude their sittings and submit their report in the course of the ensuing year.

Consequent on the passing the Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956, declaring Sinhala Language to be the one official language of Ceylon the Minister of Justice appointed, in October 1956, a committee with Mr. D. S. Jayawickrema, Q.C., as Chairman and four other lawyers—

- (1) to inquire into and report on the difficulties in the way of using Sinhala for the purpose of conducting the proceedings and other business and keeping the records of the courts of law and other tribunals exercising judicial functions ; and
- (2) to recommend the steps that should be taken for the progressive use of Sinhala in the Courts of Law and other tribunals exercising judicial functions.

This Committee started sittings very soon after their appointment and a questionnaire has been issued to various institutions and individuals in order to obtain their views on the introduction of Sinhala Language in courts of law and other tribunals. A report is expected by the Minister in the course of 1957.

VII—DEFENCE

The Army

The Ceylon Army Act, No. 17 of 1949, which came into operation on 10th October, 1949, provides for the Army in Ceylon. The army is composed of the main elements of a modern conventional Army and is still in the process of formation. The Army consists of the Regular Force, the Volunteer Force and the Cadet Corps. Service is entirely voluntary, there being no form of conscription.

The Royal Ceylon Navy

The Navy Act, No. 34 of 1950, which came into operation on 9th December, 1950, provides for the Navy in Ceylon. The Royal Ceylon Navy was inaugurated in December, 1950, from a nucleus of officers and men of the Ceylon Naval Volunteer Reserve, who were retained in Service at the end of World War II. The Navy mans the Fleet Minesweeper, H.M.Cy.S. Vijaya, the Seaward Defence Boat H.M.Cy.S. Kotiya and Patrol Boats H.M.Cy.S. Hansaya, Lihiniya, Seruwa, Diyakawa, Tarawa Korawakka. In addition there is a Shore Establishment in Colombo, H.M.Cy.S. Gemunu I ; H.M.Cy.S. Gemunu II at Kochchikadde comprises the Boom Defence Depot, the Workshops and Boat Yard ; the training establishment at Diyatalawa, H.M.Cy.S. Rangalla and the Patrol Craft Base at Karainagar, H.M.Cy.S. Elara, H.M.Cy.S. Lanka is the Headquarters of the Volunteer Naval Force.

The Navy is now actively engaged in operations to combat illicit landings on the Northern Coast of Ceylon.

The Royal Ceylon Air Force

The Air Force Act, No. 41 of 1949, was promulgated on 10th October, 1949, but the Air Force was established as a fighting service on 2nd March, 1951, when the first Commander of the Air Force was appointed.

The Air Force is responsible for the provision of Air Patrols to combat illicit immigration, medium range Air/Sea Rescue operations, Army co-operation duties and Air Survey work.

CHAPTER IV

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

I—POPULATION CENSUS, 1953

THE last Census of Population was conducted on March 20, 1953. The total number of persons enumerated was 8,097,895, consisting of 4,268,730 males and 3,829,165 females. Immediately after the Census a Post Enumeration Survey was conducted to check the accuracy of the enumeration. The Survey revealed that for Ceylon there was a net under enumeration of 54,559 persons or that 7 persons in every 1,000 persons were probably omitted; reasonably safe limits being however 4 and 9.

The General Report on the Census of 1953 is now with the Government Printer and should be out shortly. The Report contains a number of important Statistical tables on the Growth of Population, Age, Conjugal Condition, Race, Literacy, Religion and Estate Population. The issue of the General Report will be followed by the Statistical volumes containing all the projected table of the 1953 Census.

A few important tables on the Census of 1953 are reproduced below.

Distribution of Population

The population of Ceylon as at March 20, 1953, was 8,097,895.

The table 4-1 shows the distribution of Population according to various revenue districts of the Island (inclusive of municipal and urban population).

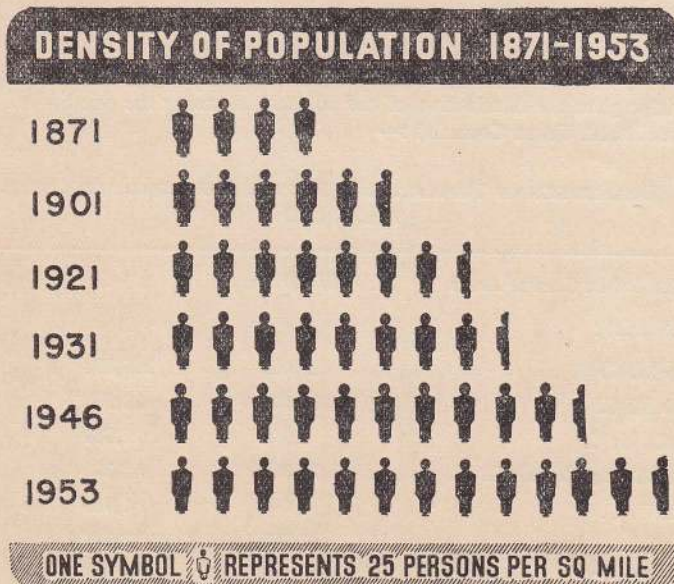


TABLE 4-1 POPULATION OF CEYLON BY SEX AND REVENUE DISTRICT, 1953

<i>Revenue Districts</i>	<i>All Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
CEYLON	8,097,895	4,268,730	3,829,165
Colombo	1,708,726	924,475	784,251
Kalutara	523,550	268,111	255,439
Kandy	840,382	437,761	402,621
Matale	201,049	107,692	93,357
Nuwara Eliya	325,254	170,226	155,028
Galle	524,369	257,691	266,678
Matara	413,431	208,431	205,000
Hambantota	191,508	99,974	91,534
Jaffna	491,849	246,377	245,472
Mannar	43,689	25,866	17,823
Vavuniya	35,112	20,260	14,852
Batticaloa	270,493	144,242	126,251
Trincomalee	83,917	49,584	34,333
Kurunegala	626,336	334,664	291,672
Puttalam	58,820	32,974	25,846
Chilaw	170,072	89,979	80,093
Anuradhapura	229,282	131,863	97,419
Badulla	466,896	246,772	220,124
Ratnapura	421,555	225,302	196,253
Kegalla	471,605	246,486	225,119

Urban Population

The following table gives the distribution of the population among the principal cities and towns (Municipal Councils and Urban Councils) :—

TABLE 4-2 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY SEX FOR MUNICIPAL AND URBAN COUNCIL AREAS, 1953

<i>Municipal and Urban Council Areas</i>	<i>All Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Colombo District :			
Colombo M. C.	426,127	258,878	167,249
Negombo M. C.	38,628	20,502	18,126
Avissawella U. C.	3,205	1,869	1,336
Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia U. C.	78,213	42,290	35,923
Gampaha U. C.	7,496	4,055	3,441
Ja-ela U. C.	3,777	2,137	1,640
Kolonnawa U. C.	21,384	11,588	9,796

TABLE 4-2—(contd.)

<i>Municipal and Urban Council Areas</i>	<i>All Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Kotte U. C.	54,381	29,152	25,229
Moratuwa	60,215	31,053	29,162
Wattala	15,996	8,756	7,240
Kalutara District :			
Beruwala U. C.	12,498	6,117	6,381
Horana U. C.	4,827	2,640	2,187
Kalutara U. C.	20,323	10,605	9,718
Panadura U. C.	20,395	10,875	9,520
Kandy District :			
Kandy M. C.	57,200	32,924	24,276
Gampola U. C.	10,773	5,977	4,796
Hatton-Dickoya U. C.	10,242	6,232	4,010
Kadugannawa U. C.	1,168	754	414
Nawalapitiya U. C.	9,862	5,834	4,028
Wattegama U. C.	1,162	804	358
Matale District :			
Matale U. C.	17,244	9,679	7,565
Nuwara Eliya District :			
Nuwara Eliya M. C.	14,405	8,599	5,806
Talawakelle-Lindula U. C.	3,444	2,319	1,125
Galle District :			
Galle M. C.	55,848	28,871	26,977
Ambalangoda U. C.	10,554	5,169	5,385
Matara District :			
Matara U. C.	27,641	14,034	13,607
Weligama U. C.	12,834	6,022	6,812
Hambantota District :			
Hambantota U. C.	4,299	2,327	1,972
Tangalla	6,823	3,528	3,295

TABLE 4-2—(contd.)

<i>Municipal and Urban Council Areas</i>	<i>All Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
<i>Jaffna District :</i>			
Jaffna M. C.	77,181	41,278	35,903
<i>Batticaloa District :</i>			
Batticaloa U. C.	17,439	9,628	7,811
<i>Trincomalee District :</i>			
Trincomalee U. C.	26,356	15,491	10,865
<i>Kurunegala District :</i>			
Kurunegala M. C.	17,505	10,817	6,688
Kuliyapitiya U. C.	3,002	1,945	1,057
<i>Puttalam District :</i>			
Puttalam U. C.	10,237	5,684	4,553
<i>Chilaw District :</i>			
Chilaw U. C.	11,392	6,237	5,155
<i>Anuradhapura District :</i>			
Anuradhapura U. C.	18,390	11,066	7,324
<i>Badulla District :</i>			
Badulla U. C.	17,043	9,624	7,419
Haputale U. C.	1,732	1,118	614
Bandarawela U. C.	3,307	2,112	1,195
<i>Ratnapura District :</i>			
Balangoda U. C.	2,477	1,532	945
Ratnapura U. C.	16,598	9,595	7,003
<i>Kegalla District :</i>			
Kegalla U. C.	5,510	3,073	2,437

Race

The distribution of the population in Ceylon by Race is given in table 4-3.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY RACE 1953 CENSUS

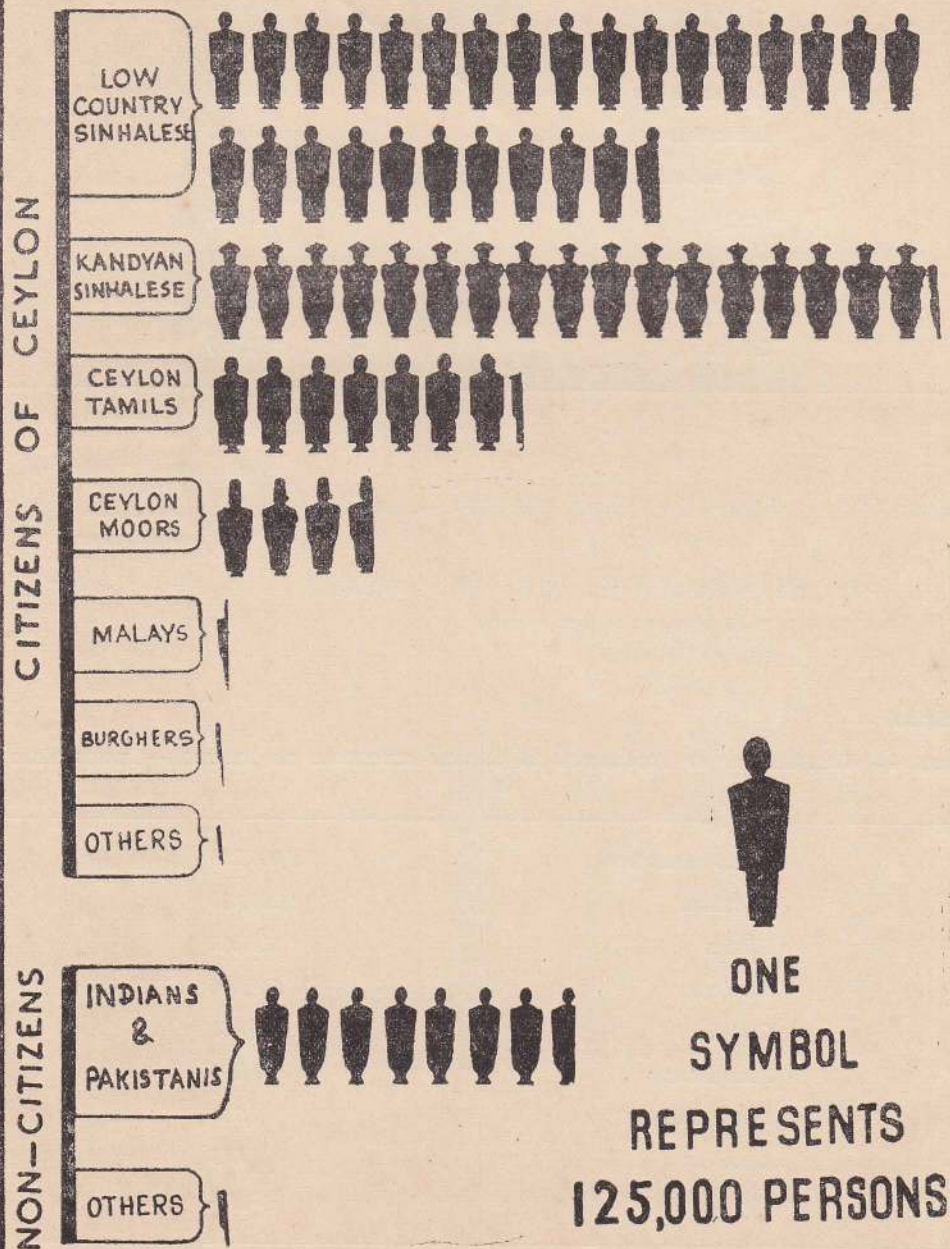


TABLE 4.3 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN CEYLON ACCORDING TO RACE—CENSUS YEAR 1953

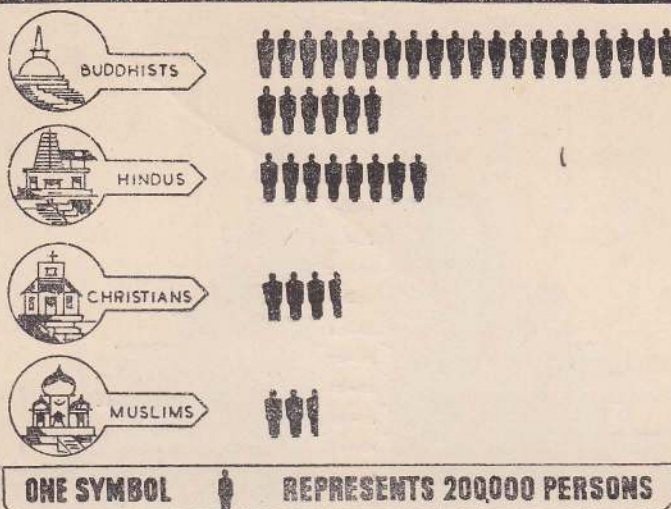
ALL RACES	8,097,895
Low-country Sinhalese	3,469,512
Kandyan Sinhalese	2,147,193
Ceylon Tamils	884,703
Indian Tamils	974,098
Ceylon Moors	463,963
Indian Moors	47,462
Burghers and Eurasians	45,950
Malays	25,464
Veddahs	803
Europeans	6,508
Others	32,239

Religion

TABLE 4.4 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN CEYLON ACCORDING TO RELIGION—CENSUS YEAR 1953

ALL RELIGIONS	8,097,895
Buddhists	5,209,439
Hindus	1,610,561
Muslims	541,506
Christians	724,461
Zoroastrians	1,295
Free Thinkers	1,750
Agnostics	865
Others	8,018

NUMBER OF ADHERENTS OF THE PRINCIPAL RELIGIONS 1953 CENSUS



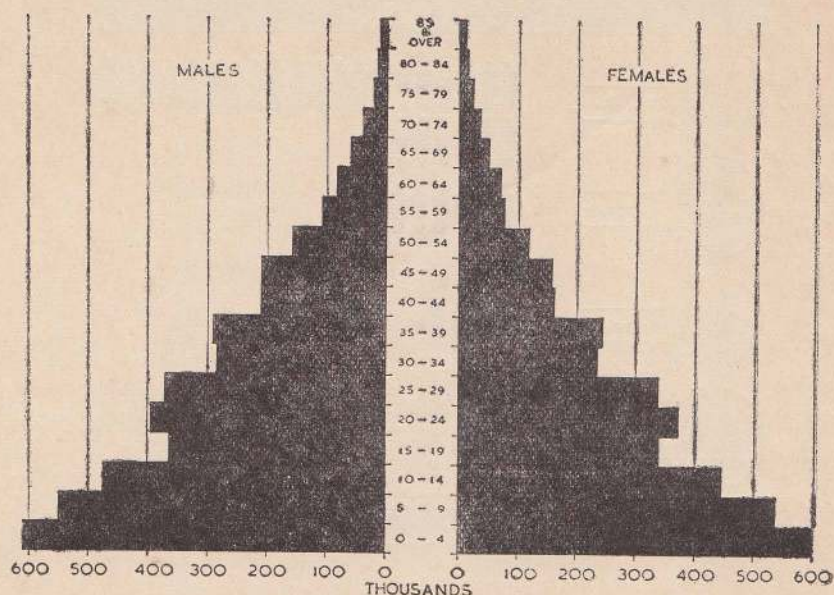
Distribution by Age Groups

The following table shows the distribution of population according to Age and Sex at the Censuses of 1946 and 1953 :—

TABLE 4-5 POPULATION CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND SELECTED AGE GROUPS 1946 AND 1953

Age Groups	Population (Thousands)			
	1946		1953	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0- 4 Years	437.4	424.0	609.0	599.8
5- 9 "	411.8	399.5	550.0	535.9
10-14 "	414.6	391.0	474.7	445.4
15-19 "	364.5	316.1	364.4	339.4
20-24 "	327.8	313.7	395.2	372.3
25-29 "	307.3	270.3	371.2	337.7
30-34 "	246.5	203.4	285.3	235.4
35-39 "	261.0	207.2	292.1	243.5
40-44 "	182.4	139.9	210.6	161.5
45-49 "	183.4	136.1	211.4	159.0
50-54 "	104.8	91.3	159.7	118.5
55-59 "	94.7	68.5	108.9	79.7
60-64 "	71.2	59.3	84.0	69.5
65 years and over	124.8	104.7	152.2	131.6
Total	3,532.2	3,125.0	4,268.7	3,829.2

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION OF POPULATION, 1953



Literacy

For Census purposes a "literate" person is one who can both read *and* write a language.

There has been a continuous improvement in literacy since 1881 as shown by the following table.

TABLE 4-6 PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN CEYLON RELATIVE TO POPULATION AGED FIVE YEARS AND OVER 1881-1953

<i>Population (Aged 5 years and over</i>	<i>Persons Per cent.</i>	<i>Males Per cent.</i>	<i>Females Per cent.</i>
Aged 5 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0
1881	17.4	29.8	3.1
1891	21.7	36.1	5.3
1901	26.4	42.0	8.5
1911	31.0	47.2	12.5
1921	39.9	56.4	21.2
1946	57.8	70.1	43.8
1953	65.4	75.9	53.6

It is manifest that remarkable progress has been made in female literacy in the recent past.

II—THE GROWTH OF POPULATION

The first decennial Census of Ceylon was undertaken in 1871. The Census of that year numbered the population at 2,400,380 a figure which was to rise to 8,097,895 at the Census of 1953. In eighty-two years, therefore, the population of Ceylon has increased by 5,697,515 or by 237.4 per cent. The mean rate of increase has been 14.6 per cent. per decennium.

The following table indicates the population of Ceylon at the Censuses held in 1871 and thereafter, the amount of increase and percentage increase :—

TABLE 4.7 POPULATION OF CEYLON AT CENSUSES 1871 TO 1953

<i>Census Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Amount of increase</i>	<i>Per cent. of increase</i>
1871	2,400,380	—	—
1881	2,759,738	359,358	15.0
1891	3,007,789	248,051	9.0
1901	3,565,954	558,165	18.6
1911	4,106,350	540,396	15.2
1921	4,498,605	392,255	9.6
1931	5,306,871	808,266	18.0
1946	6,657,339	1,350,468	25.4
1953	8,097,895	1,440,556	21.6

The growth of the Island's population has been occasioned by two factors. First, by the natural increase—"excess of births over deaths"—and secondly by the increase in migration.

The following table shows these two factors in operation and also gives the total intercensal increase :—

TABLE 4.8 THE NATURAL INCREASE, MIGRATION INCREASE AND INTERCENSAL INCREASE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Natural Increase</i>	<i>Migration Increase</i>	<i>Intercensal Increase</i>
1871-1881	119,792	239,566	359,358
1881-1891	144,260	103,791	248,051
1891-1901	225,406	332,759	558,165
1901-1911	356,147	184,249	540,396
1911-1921	319,410	72,845	392,255
1921-1931	656,990	151,276	808,266
1931-1946	1,280,916	69,552	1,350,468
1946-1953	1,363,175	77,381	1,440,556

Births and Deaths

The increase in population in recent years has been due in a very large measure to the excess of births over deaths. The following table gives figures in respect of births, deaths, birth rate and death rate for the period 1947-1956 :—

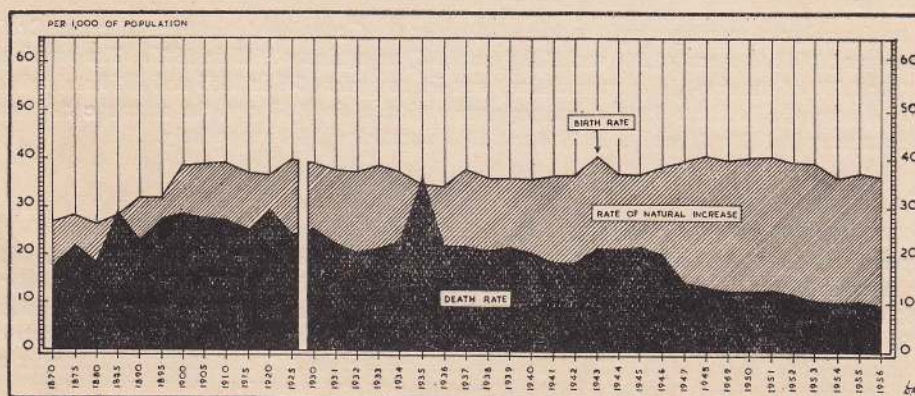


TABLE 4.9 BIRTHS AND DEATHS 1947-1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Birth Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000</i>
1947	271,191	39.3	98,544	14.3
1948	287,695	40.5	93,711	13.2
1949	291,191	39.8	91,889	12.6
1950	304,635	40.4	95,142	12.6
1951	313,662	40.5	100,072	12.9
1952	313,532	39.5	95,298	12.0
1953	321,217	38.7	89,003	10.7
1954	303,894	35.7	86,794	10.2
1955	325,538	37.3	94,368	10.8
1956	325,067	36.4	87,561	9.8
Total	3,057,622	Mean 38.8	Total 932,382	Mean 11.9

During the fifteen year period 1931-45 the mean crude birth rate fell to 36.8 from 39.8 which was the mean for the decade immediately preceding it. The death rate declined from 26.5 in the period 1921-30 to 22.2 in the period 1931-45. During the following intercensal period 1946-53, although the mean crude birth rate rose slightly to 39.7 the death rate declined rapidly to 13.6. In 1953 the death rate was 10.7 with 89,003 deaths. In 1956 the death rate was 9.8 the lowest on record.

III—VITAL STATISTICS OF CEYLON, 1956

The main features of the Vital Statistics for 1956 are summarised below :—

Population

The estimated population of Ceylon at Mid-year 1956 was 8,929,000 and at the end of the year 9,040,000. There has been an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the Island's population during the year—the same as in the previous year. The excess of births over deaths (natural increase) was 237,506 and of emigrants over immigrants was 17,928.

The population estimates have been corrected for under-enumeration of children under 5 years of age at the last census of 1953, unlike those published in previous years. The child under-enumeration is estimated at 134,700. For purposes of comparison the corrected rates for 1953 and 1954 based on the corrected population are also given wherever relevant.

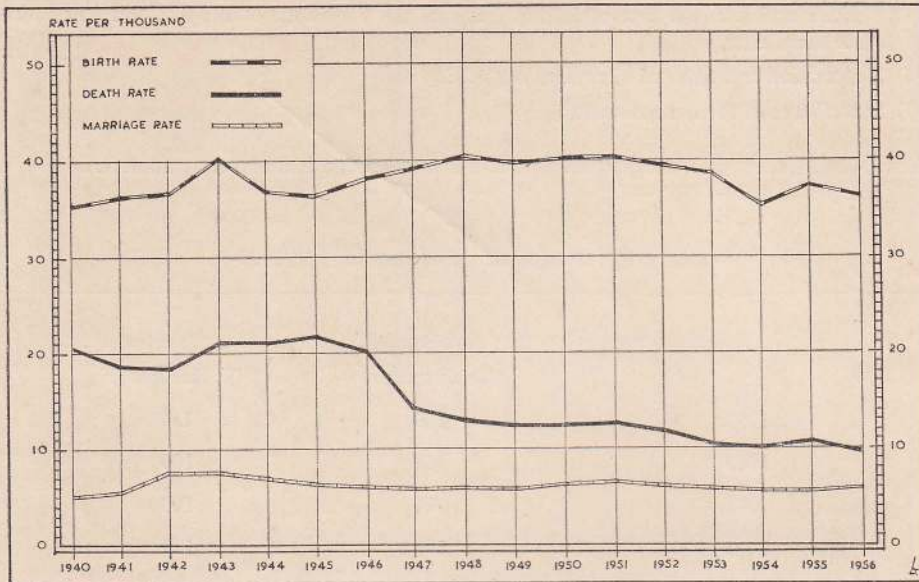
Marriages

The total number of marriages registered in 1956 under the General and Kandyan Marriage Ordinances was 50,848 (General 42,301 and Kandyan 8,547) as against 47,683 in 1955. The marriage rate (per 1,000 of the non-Muslim population) was 6.1 as against 5.8 in 1955 and 1954 and 6.0 in 1953. Among the Muslims 5,111 marriages were registered in 1956 and the marriage rate was 8.6 the same as in 1955. The rates in 1954 and 1953 were 8.5 and 9.4 respectively.

Births

325,067 births (165,485 of males and 159,582 of females) were registered in 1956, a decrease of 471 compared with the total registered in 1955. The sex ratio was 1,037 males to 1,000 females. The birth rate was 36.4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 37.3 in 1955, 35.7 in 1954 and 38.7 in 1953. The total number of births registered in Colombo Town in 1956 was 28,042 as against 28,754 in 1955. The birth rate for the resident population of Colombo was 29.3 while the corresponding rate for 1955 was 31.4. The rates were 29.7 and 34.5 in 1954 and 1953. The number of births on estates registered in 1956 was 33,263 as against 36,038 in 1955.

REPORTED BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE RATES, 1940-56

**Deaths**

87,561 (45,002 of males and 42,559 of females) were registered in 1956 as against 94,368 in 1955. The death rate of 9.8 recorded in 1956 is the lowest ever recorded in this country. The rate was 10.8 in 1955, 10.2 in 1954 and 10.7 in 1953. In Colombo Town, a total of 7,976 deaths were registered in 1956 compared with 8,298 in 1955. The death rate among the residents of that Town was 9.0 per 1,000 of the population as against 9.8 in 1955. In 1954 and 1953 the rate was 9.9 and 9.8 respectively. The deaths on estates registered in 1956 amounted to 10,809 in 1956 compared with 12,390 in 1955.

Infant Deaths

There were 21,617 deaths of infants in 1956 as against 23,260 in 1955. The infant death rate was 67 per 1,000 live births as against 71 in 1955. The 1956 rate was the lowest so far recorded for Ceylon. The infant death rate for the residents of Colombo Town was 70 as compared with 72 in 1955. The rate on estates was 108 as against 115 in 1955.

Maternal Deaths

The number of deaths from causes pertaining to pregnancy and child bearing in 1956 was 1,224 compared with 1,319 in 1955. The maternal death rate of 3.8 per 1,000 live births in 1956 is the lowest on record. The rate among residents of Colombo Town in 1956 was 3.3 while the rate on estates was 3.5.

IV—MIGRATION

The Department of Immigration and Emigration was set up under statutory provisions of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, No. 20 of 1948, on November 1, 1949. By Act, No. 16 of 1955, certain provisions of the Ordinance were amended.

The following are among the activities and functions of the Department :—

- (1) Issue of Residence, Visit and Transit Visas.
- (2) Issue of Ceylon travel documents.

- (3) Issue of visas on behalf of governments of certain other countries.
- (4) Prevention of illicit immigration.
- (5) Punitive action in the case of infringements of the provisions of the Act and Regulations made thereunder.
- (6) Deportation and removal of persons out of Ceylon.
- (7) Surveillance of foreign nationals.

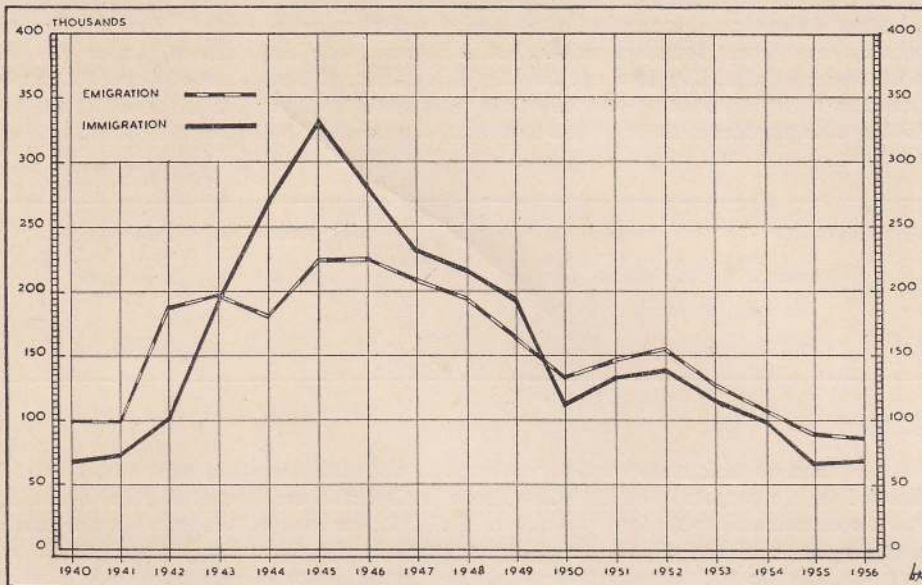
The following table gives comparative statistics of immigration into and emigration out of Ceylon during the period 1939-1956 :—

TABLE 4-10 IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1939-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>Immigration (In thousands)</i>	<i>Emigration (In thousands)</i>
1939	130	156
1940	68	100
1941	74	100
1942	102	189
1943	194	198
1944	270	182
1945	333	225
1946	283	226
1947	233	210
1948	217	196
1949	195	165
1950	114	134
1951	134	148
1952	140	156
1953	116	129
1954	100	108
1955	67	90
1956	70	88

The Controller of Immigration and Emigration in Ceylon and Consular representatives of the Government of Ceylon in the various countries abroad are passport and visa issuing authorities on behalf of the Government of Ceylon. In countries where Ceylon is yet to establish Consular representation, Her Majesty's Consular representatives or passport officers of the Commonwealth Government concerned, as the case may be, act on behalf of the Government of Ceylon in this respect.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1940-56



The replacement of Temporary Residence Permits by Residence Visas and withdrawal of the statutory entitlement to residence permits as of right by British subjects who claim five years residence between 1944 and 1949, and the provision for the Hon. Minister to make removal orders in respect of persons who stay in Ceylon beyond their authorized periods of sojourn, have contributed to the successful implementation of a Repatriation Scheme, whereby non-Ceylonese in fields of employment, into which Ceylonese replacements are available, have been refused further residence facilities for continuance in such fields of employment and their departure from Ceylon ensured.

During the year 1956, as many as 13,766 non-nationals in the country have been compelled to retire from Ceylon on orders issued by the Controller and 8,760 have been urged to leave on their own in the face of the Scheme of Repatriation.

Ceylon Passports

Ceylon passports, and a cheaper form of travel document known as Emergency Certificate are issued by the Department of Immigration and Emigration to citizens of Ceylon. Citizens of Ceylon who have an entitlement to receive Ceylon passports or Emergency Certificates are either those who, under the citizenship laws, are deemed citizens by descent or those who have acquired citizenship by registration. Statistics of the issue of Ceylon travel documents reflect a growing trend on the part of citizens of Ceylon to travel abroad more widely than in the past. Comparative figures for the last three years are as follows :—

	1954	1955	1956
Ceylon passports	2,447	2,803	3,756
Ceylon Emergency Certificates	7,365	6,404	10,174
Identity Certificates	471	1,178	1,426

Visit Visas

A Visit Visa is official authority issued to a non-Ceylonese to visit the Island for a short period not in excess of 6 months. It is required of all foreign nationals proceeding to Ceylon, for purposes other than employment, for short periods, but is dispensed with in the case of persons who are nationals of the United Kingdom and Colonies, of Pakistan, of Canada and of Eire, who can be classified as *bona fide* tourists by virtue of their circumstances and personal antecedents. The following table provides statistics of non-Ceylonese who travelled to Ceylon in 1955 and 1956 on Visit Visas :—

	1955	1956
Indians and Pakistanis	10,467	12,245
Other British subjects	6,725	7,261
Aliens	7,470	9,508

Residence Visas

Residence Visas, as their name implies, are issued to non-nationals whose entry into Ceylon is authorised for the purpose of continued residence in Ceylon in the pursuit of some avocation. Under the amendments to the law by Act, No. 16 of 1955, the issue of Residence Visas became a subject for the exercise of discretionary powers vested in the Controller of Immigration and Emigration. By the judicious grant of Residence Visas, a policy of progressive Ceylonization in all fields of employment is pursued.

The following are statistics of Residence Visas issued during the last three years 1954-56 :—

	1954	1955	1956
Indians and Pakistanis	8,304	13,897	11,905
Other British subjects	947	1,483	1,245
Aliens	440	364	553
	<u>9,665</u>	<u>15,744</u>	<u>13,703</u>

Emigration

The Government of Canada and the U. S. A. are, under an agreement with the Government of Ceylon, permitting an annual quota of 50 and 100 Ceylon nationals respectively, to settle in the two countries. The Government of Australia continues to accept nationals of this country who satisfy certain requirements also for permanent settlement. Comparative statistics reveal that more and more Ceylonese have utilized the facilities for emigration to these countries, more particularly to Australia.

The figures are as follows :—

	1955	1956
Emigrants to Australia	133	189
Emigrants to Canada	49	46
Emigrants to U. S. A.	3	14

Indian Immigrant Estate Labour

Under the provisions of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, No. 20 of 1948, certain travel concessions were granted to Indian estate labour, who were exempted from the requirement to obtain valid national passports and residence permits controlling their stay in Ceylon and restricting their periods of stay abroad on journeys undertaken by them. Estate labour no longer enjoy this concession but now travel strictly within the provisions of the law under proper travel documentation. Figures of the balance of migration among estate and non-estate Indian immigrants provide interesting study and the following table contains statistics during the period 1940 to 1956 :—

TABLE 4·11 MIGRATION—EXCESS OF ARRIVALS OVER DEPARTURES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estate</i>	<i>Non-Estate</i>
1940	— 14,820	— 21,263
1941	— 16,069	— 11,371
1942	— 31,767	— 55,024
1943	— 16,192	+ 12,156
1944	— 8,591	+ 95,865
1945	+ 446	+ 107,009
1946	+ 2,654	+ 47,835
1947	— 4,035	+ 21,821
1948	+ 3,282	+ 14,987
1949	— 2,415	+ 8,274
1950	+ 628	— 18,334
1951	— 3,870	— 17,062
1952	— 1,154	— 13,549
1953	— 4,421	— 9,263
1954	+ 1,761	— 9,764
1955	—	— 20,153
1956	—	— 14,158

New Immigrants

New Immigrants for purposes of stay in Ceylon and for the pursuit of remunerative employment comprise the numerically smallest category of those who secured residence visas within the framework of Immigration Control. A large number of these persons belonged to grades of skilled workers, technicians, engineers &c. among whose ranks there is a dearth of suitably qualified indigenous personnel. Some of the new immigrants were full-time religious workers who came into replace others in the same field who have operated in the country from the inception of Control.

The following figures provide under various nationality groups the new immigrants who were admitted during the year 1956 :—

United Kingdom nationals	179
Canadians	30
Australians	9
Americans	37
Other Europeans	168
Indians and Pakistanis	32
Asians other than Indians and Pakistanis	50
	505

These figures include officials of various international organisations with temporary assignments in this country and wives and dependent children of those new immigrants referred to above.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE

I—GENERAL

THE entire economy of the Island depends upon her export trade in the three main agricultural industries, tea, rubber and coconut. The money obtained by selling these three main products as well as other exports helps to pay for Ceylon's imports of essential commodities. Ninety-five per cent. of her exports consists of tea, rubber and coconuts.

Tea, rubber, coconut and paddy together account for approximately over three million acres of the total cultivated area. The estimated figures are as follows :—

	<i>Acres</i>
Tea	569,460
Rubber	659,247
Coconut	1,070,942
Paddy	1,071,540*

II—TEA CULTIVATION

The tea plant grows at elevations up to 6,000 ft. above mean sea level. The better quality of tea is grown at higher elevations. A tea land is said to produce " High Grown " tea if its mean elevation is 4,000 ft. or more above mean sea level, it is said to produce " Medium Grown " tea if its elevation is between 2,000 and 4,000 ft. and to produce " Low Grown " tea if its elevation is below 2,000 ft. The tea plant requires an evenly distributed rainfall of 80 to 120 inches per year. The plant, in addition, requires a good drainage of soil and, therefore, mostly thrives on hill slopes.

The tea bushes are periodically pruned to obtain plentiful " flushes " or young tender shoots. The buds at the tip of the new shoots including two or three tender leaves are plucked by hand. The green leaf is withered and then processed in rolling machines. After breaking and sifting it is allowed to ferment. The tea is dried or fired after fermentation, graded and packed for export.

In the preparation of green tea there is no fermentation and the withering process is substituted by steaming. No green tea is manufactured in Ceylon at present.

In Ceylon, immigrant labourers from South India have supplied the labour necessary for the tea estates. Most of the plucking is done by women and children ; the men are engaged in pruning the trees and clearing the land of weeds. An estate requires on an average about one labourer per acre.

Acreage under Tea

The total area under tea in Ceylon on December 31, 1956, was 569,460 acres as compared with 566,109 acres at the end of 1955. The increase was due to the fact that 3,482 acres of newly planted tea were registered during the year while only 131 acres of old tea were uprooted and replanted with other crops.

Under the Tea Control Act, the Tea Control Department maintains a register of all tea estates and tea small-holdings in the Island. An estate is defined as an area of land 10 acres or more in extent which is planted with tea, and a small-holding as an area of land under 10 acres in extent which

* Asweddumised area.

is planted with tea. The following table shows the distribution of the total area between small-holdings and estates of different sizes :—

TABLE 5-1 TEA ACREAGE BY SIZE OF HOLDING 1956

<i>Size of holding Acres</i>	<i>No. of holdings</i>	<i>Wholly planted Acres</i>	<i>Inter- planted Acres</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>
Below 10 (small-holdings)	89,124	53,230	19,350	72,580
10 and below 100	1,736	490,853	6,027	48,170
100 and below 500	568			159,423
500 and above	339			289,287
	91,767	544,083	25,377	569,460

The following statement shows the distribution of the Island's tea acreage between different types of owners :—

<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Percentage to Total</i>
Sterling Companies (shares held wholly by non-nationals)	172,709	30
Rupee Companies (shares held partly by Ceylon Nationals and partly by non-nationals)	82,742	15
Non-Ceylonese individuals	87,530	16
Individual Ceylonese	153,899	27
Small-holdings owned by individual Ceylonese	72,580	12
	569,460	100

Production

There were 980 registered tea manufacturers at the end of 1956. The total quantity of tea manufactured in 1956 was 375,577,654 lb. as compared with 380,012,747 lb. in 1955. The following table shows the production of tea for each month of 1955 and 1956 :—

TABLE 5-2 MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF TEA—1955 AND 1956

<i>Month</i>	<i>Production lb.</i>	
	1955	1956
January	29,106,851	26,790,686
February	31,351,421	25,226,844
March	43,056,338	32,405,222
April	44,381,918	49,818,609
May	35,215,380	41,224,394
June	23,984,868	27,780,962
July	19,952,655	25,105,155
August	31,981,389	23,381,394
September	25,605,718	21,620,961
October	34,010,978	27,721,656
November	30,018,923	38,491,797
December	31,346,308	36,009,974
Total	380,012,747	375,577,654

The overall average yield of tea lands in Ceylon in 1956 was 659 lb. per acre compared with 671 lb. per acre in 1955.

The domestic consumption of tea in Ceylon during 1956 is estimated at 14.5 million lb. The total quantity of tea exported from Ceylon in 1956 was 357,779,803 lb. as compared with 360,857,919 lb. exported in 1955.

Export of Tea Planting Material

Under section 10 of the Tea Control Act the export of tea seed and other tea planting material is prohibited, except to India, Pakistan and Indonesia and that too on the authority of a licence issued by the Tea Control Department. No tea seed or other planting material was exported from Ceylon during the year.

New Planting and Replanting

The planting of new areas in tea is prohibited except on the authority of a license issued by the Tea Controller. 2,148 acres were newly planted with tea during 1956 on permits issued by the Tea Controller. The Small-holdings Advisory Service of the Tea Research Institute advise and assist small-holders in up-to-date methods of planting tea, soil conservation, &c.

Much of Ceylon's tea is now 70 or 80 years old and in need of replanting. The Tea Research Institute has recently developed strains of vegetatively propagated Tea yielding 2,000 lb. per acre or more and the benefits of replanting worn out tea areas with these high yielding strains will be great. However, no replanting is now being undertaken by tea estates in Ceylon in view of the very high cost involved.

Licences covering an area of 78 acres were issued during 1956 for the establishment of tea nurseries. Blister-Blight which loomed as a serious threat to the Island's tea industry a few years ago has now been brought well under control by regular copper spraying and dusting. The excessive use of copper fungicides may however, adversely affect the quality and flavour of tea, and even make it injurious to the health of those drinking it; but the Tea Control Department by the regular analysis of samples of tea obtained from different planting districts ensures that the copper content of Ceylon tea is well below the maximum limits prescribed by consumer countries.

Tea Small-holders Co-operative Scheme

Tea small-holders are granted financial assistance for the improvement of their small-holdings through a net-work of Tea Producers' Co-operative Societies—23 such societies were functioning at the end of 1956 and a sum of Rs. 300,774 was distributed as financial assistance for the purchase of fertilizer, for soil conservation measures and other purposes.

Legislation

The Tea Control Act, No. 28 of 1949, and the Tea Thefts Prevention Act, No. 45 of 1953, which are administered by the Tea Control Department have been amended on a number of occasions and further amendments have been found to be necessary in their actual operation. It has therefore been decided to repeal these two Acts and to replace them by a single new Tea Control Act which would set out the law relating to the tea industry in a simple and consolidated form.

III—RUBBER CULTIVATION

Acreage Under Rubber

The total area under rubber in Ceylon on December 31, 1956, was 659,247 acres as compared with 660,985 acres at the end of 1955. The decrease was due to the fact that while only 1,138 acres of newly-planted rubber were registered during the year 2,876 acres of old rubber were uprooted and replanted with other crops.

The Rubber Control Department is required by the Rubber Control Act to maintain a Register of all rubber estates and small-holdings in the Island. An "Estate" is defined in the Act as an area of land not less than 10 acres in extent which is planted with rubber and a "Small-Holding" as an area of land less than 10 acres in extent which is planted with rubber. The following table shows the distribution of rubber area of 659,247 acres between Small-holdings and Estates of different sizes :—

TABLE 5.3 RUBBER ACREAGES BY SIZE OF HOLDING—1955 AND 1956

Size of Holding	No. of Holdings Registered		Total Extent (Acres)	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
Small-holdings (below 10 acres)	130,369	131,439	181,312	182,855
Estates 10 acres and above but below 100 acres	5,719	5,772	145,420	153,407
Estates 100 acres and above but below 500 acres	673	671	159,349	158,973
Estates 500 acres and above	189	188	174,904	164,012
Total	136,950	138,070	660,985	659,247

The acreage distributed between Ceylonese and alien owners in 1955 and 1956 was as follows :—

	1955		1956	
	Acres	Per cent.	Acres	Per cent.
Ceylonese	427,018	64.6	429,315	65.2
Europeans	216,281	32.7	212,257	32.2
Others	17,686	2.7	17,675	2.6
Total	660,985	100.0	659,247	100.0

Of Ceylon's total rubber area, 466,723 acres have been planted with ordinary seedling rubber while the balance 192,524 acres has been planted with high-yielding material (clonal seedlings or budded stumps). The acreage reported as planted with high-yielding material includes an area of about 40,000 acres planted during the war years (1939-45). Most of these new rubber plantations have deteriorated through neglect and they can no longer be classed as high-yielding units. The true acreage of high-yielding rubber in the Island may be reckoned a little over 150,000 acres.

Production of Rubber

The total production of rubber in Ceylon is estimated at 95,389 tons as compared with 93,830 tons in 1955. The estimated production during each month of the years 1955 and 1956 is shown below :—

TABLE 5.4 MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF RUBBER—1955 AND 1956

<i>Month</i>	<i>Production in tons</i>	
	1955	1956
January	9,614	9,015
February	4,485	4,578
March	4,892	5,179
April	7,049	6,678
May	5,440	7,156
June	5,835	6,537
July	8,457	10,503
August	9,698	9,101
September	7,797	7,600
October	9,307	7,885
November	9,602	9,717
December	11,654	11,440
	93,830	95,389

It is estimated that out of the total rubber area of 659,247 acres, the actual area in production during 1956 (after excluding areas which had not yet reached tappable age and areas left untapped) was 568,970 acres.

On this basis, the average overall yield per acre during 1956 was 375 lb. as compared with 361 lb. per acre in 1955. The higher yield per acre was principally due to the higher price for rubber which prevailed during 1956.

Local Consumption of Rubber

A total of 321 tons of rubber had been consumed locally in 1956 as compared with 267 tons in 1955.

Rubber is consumed locally in the retreading of motor tyres and in the manufacture of rubber goods, such as foam rubber cushions, rubber mats, surgical gloves, rubber-soled shoes and slippers, and rubber toys including toy balloons.

The consumption figures given below indicate that the quantity consumed locally continues to increase slowly :—

TABLE 5.5 LOCAL CONSUMPTION OF RUBBER

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1947	72	1952	222
1948	101	1953	235
1949	139	1954	259
1950	156	1955	267
1951	218	1956	321

Exports

The total quantity of all types of rubber exported during 1956 was 86,792 tons as against 97,393 tons exported in 1955.

Replanting

A permit under Section 7 of the Rubber Control Act is necessary for the replanting of rubber.

During 1956 permits were issued to replant 22,631 acres under the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme. Of this area, the replanting of 17,572 acres has been completed. In addition, an area of 7,008 acres were replanted in 1956 on replanting permits issued earlier under the Subsidy Scheme. Permits were also issued in 1956 to replant an area of 24 acres outside the Subsidy Scheme. The entire area replanted in 1956 was replanted with approved varieties of high-yielding planting material.

Rubber New Planting

Planting of new areas in rubber can only be undertaken on the authority of permits issued under the Rubber Control Act. All areas authorised for planting under this Act must be planted with high-yielding varieties of rubber. Permission is, however, given to plant areas with ordinary rubber provided such areas are budded within a specified period.

During 1956, 4,741 new-planting permits covering an extent of 7,807 acres were issued. The corresponding figure for 1955 was 3,670 permits covering an area of 5,914 acres.

Nurseries

1,883 permits were issued in 1956 for the opening of new rubber nurseries covering an extent of 1,113 acres as compared with 647 permits covering an extent of 218 acres issued in 1955.

In addition to these private nurseries, a number of Government Nurseries have been established to supply high-grade planting material to small-holders participating in the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme. The two largest of these Nurseries are situated at Egaloya and Hedigalla, both in the Kalutara District. The Egaloya Nursery which covers 90 acres is being extended to cover about 125 acres, while the Hedigalla Nursery covers an area of nearly 60 acres. A total of 536,307 budded stumps and clonal seedlings was issued from these nurseries to small-holders participating in the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme in 1956.

Oidium

Most large rubber estates (particularly those containing blocks of high-yielding rubber) have carried out regular sulphur-dusting programmes as a protection against oidium during the last four years. As a result, oidium is now well under control on most large estates.

The position on most small-holdings is less satisfactory. Small-holders cannot afford to purchase the expensive dusting machines which are required for effective oidium-control.

A Government-sponsored experimental scheme for the co-operative sulphur-dusting of small-holdings and small estates was carried out during the 1955-56 dusting season. Owners of small-holdings and small estates who wished to have their holdings dusted were required to form themselves into Co-operative Dusting Groups. The members of each Group had to purchase the necessary Sulphur and supply the labour necessary for carrying out the dusting operations supervised by Rubber Instructors from the Small-holdings Division of the Rubber Research Institute. 16 Dusting Groups were formed. 313 holdings, comprising a total of 1,632 acres, were dusted under this scheme. It is now proposed to put this Scheme, which has hitherto been carried out on an experimental basis, on a permanent footing, and to extend it to all the rubber-growing districts of the Island.

Rubber Study Group

There were no meetings of the International Rubber Study Group in 1956.

New Rubber Legislation

At the beginning of 1956 there were four principal Ordinances dealing with rubber, with the administration of which the Rubber Control Department was concerned. These Ordinances were—

- (i) The Rubber Control Ordinance, No. 63 of 1938.
- (ii) The Rubber (New Planting) Ordinance, No. 38 of 1938.
- (iii) The Rubber (New Planting) (Special Provisions) Ordinance, No. 59 of 1946.
- (iv) The Rubber Theft Ordinance, No. 21 of 1908.

These four Ordinances which had been repeatedly revised and amended since they were first enacted were repealed and replaced by a single new Rubber Control Act which sets out the law relating to the rubber industry in a simple and compact form. This new Act (No. 11 of 1956) came into force on May 1, 1956. The Regulations framed under the new Act were published in the *Government Gazette* on July 20, 1956.

IV—COCONUT CULTIVATION

During the Census of 1946 an effort was made to collect more accurate statistics of the acreage under coconut in Ceylon. Consequently, it was revealed that the extent under coconut estates and holdings in Ceylon was 920,942 acres. This figure does not include coconut growing in towns and village gardens of one acre or less usually forming the compound of a dwelling house. The total of these holdings is 309,391 acres of which extent 150,000 acres are estimated to be exclusively under coconut. Thus the total area under coconuts in Ceylon is over one million acres.

Ploughing and disc-harrowing are usually carried out on estates. It is estimated that only 25,000 acres of coconut land are regularly manured with artificial fertilizers. On small properties cultivation is manual for the most part, some form of cattle manuring is common, usually by tethering cattle round the palms. In 1956 with the inauguration of the Government subsidised Manure Scheme 267,896 acres from estates and 106,532 acres from small-holdings totalling 374,428 acres have been manured.

Normally about 60 trees are planted to an acre under this crop. In such fertile areas as Madampe and Rajakadaluwa and Marawila, first-class properties give annual yields of 4,000 nuts per acre or more. 3,000 nuts per annum is a reasonable estate average. But the general average of all coconut land in Ceylon is only about 2,100 nuts over a period of 5 years. Crop fluctuations occur because a serious drought in one particular year can reduce yields in the year following. In general, crops are improving through improved cultivation. On the basis of exports and domestic consumption, the production in 1955 has been estimated to be 2,582 million nuts a year, which is equivalent to 2,400 nuts per acre. The estimated 1956 production has shown a decrease of 3 per cent. over 1955 production.

V—OTHER COMMERCIAL CROPS

Cacao

The acreage under cacao has shown a steady increase in recent years. It is estimated that there are over 50,000 acres presently under this crop, of which about 25,000 acres are in full bearing. The quantity of cured cacao exported from Ceylon is about 50,000 cwt. per year valued at over ten million rupees. Government offers a subsidy of Rs. 450 per acre for underplanting rubber in cacao, and Rs. 600 per acre for planting cacao after uprooting or poisoning the rubber and establishing shade.

Soil and Climate

Cacao makes the best growth on deep alluvial soils which are well drained and rich in humus. The total rainfall should be well distributed and not less than 60 inches per annum. Excessive rainfall

of over 100 inches is likely to favour the incidence of diseases such as *Phytophthora*, pod rot and canker. Prolonged drought depresses yields and causes die back. Light overhead shade is essential and in areas subject to heavy blowing wind breaks have to be provided.

Manuring

Cacao responds to heavy dressings of well rotted cattle manure or compost. Two pounds per tree of fertilizer mixture containing 100 parts of sulphate of ammonia, 200 parts phosphate and 125 parts muriate of potash is recommended for application immediately after pruning on chocolate red loams derived from dolomitic lime. On acid grey brown soils the potash is reduced to 50 parts.

Pruning

Cacao requires regular pruning once a year for satisfactory cropping. The trees are pruned at the end of the major cropping season in February or March.

Harvesting

Seedlings come into bearing 5 to 6 years after planting but rooted cuttings and budgrafts bear earlier. The main crop is in season from October to February and the smaller spring crop from May to July.

Curing

The beans are fermented in large wooden sweat boxes for about 36 hours. The fermented beans are then washed in running water to remove the disintegrated pulp and spread in the sun on barbecues provided with coir matting. In wet weather they are spread in drying lofts over which hot air is blown from flues. Drying is carried out in stages over a period of 5 to 6 days ; the beans being put out to dry for only a few hours on the first day and for longer periods in subsequent days. The slight fermentation which takes place when the beans are heaped indoors favour the development of flavour and quality in the bean. A well cured bean is fairly plump, brick red in colour and free from purplish discolouration when cut. The dry cured bean is about 33 to 36 per cent. of the wet weight.

Yields

The number of pods per tree varies considerably from about 10 to 350. The average yield per tree is about 1 lb. of cured cacao per annum and the average yield per acre under local conditions is about 2 cwt. but some estates produce as much as 5 to 6 cwt. per acre.

Pests and Diseases

The most serious pest is the *Helopeltis* bug which attacks the young flush and pods causing die back and favouring the incidence of *Phytophthora* pod rot. Mealy buds have been found to transmit a mild strain of virus in some areas. A nutritional disorder known as Sick leaf disease is common in the Dumbara Valley ; but *Phytophthora* which causes pod rot and canker is the more serious disease in the cacao producing areas with higher rainfall.

Citronella

Mahapangiri and *Lenabatu* (or *Heen pangiri*) are the two citronella types cultivated in Ceylon. *Lenabatu* covers about three-fourths of the total extent in citronella and is considered more suitable than *Mahapangiri* for the poor lateritic soils on which citronella is usually grown. *Lenabatu* outyields *Mahapangiri* in weight of grass ; this difference, however, is usually less than ten per cent. Grass of *Mahapangiri* has a higher oil content than that of *Lenabatu*, but with advancing age this difference is found to even out. In geraniol content, oil of *Mahapangiri* was strikingly superior to *Lenabatu*. *Mahapangiri* is the more profitable variety to grow, where good cultivation is maintained with the use of fertilizers. Different clones of *Mahapangiri* are under test in a yield trial. Two Indonesian clones of citronella are also under observation.

Manuring with a complete artificial fertilizer mixture of nitrogen, phosphate and potash is the most effective method of increasing yields. Nitrogen alone does not increase yields ; phosphate and potash are particularly important in the manuring of citronella. With a complete fertilizer mixture, grass yields increased three times and oil yields four times over those of unmanured plots.

Harvests at intervals of four months are found better than three-monthly harvests, particularly in the lower rainfall areas.

Cotton

The entire acreage under cotton in 1956 was planted in the variety *BP 79*, seed of which was distributed free by the Department of Agriculture.

Breeding work in this crop was actively pursued, and as a result a new variety *HC 101* has been evolved. This variety is characterized by its higher yield, greater staple length, higher ginning out-turn, better spinning qualities and few neps than *BP 79*. The variety *HC 101* is in the first stage of seed multiplication and it is expected to completely replace *BP 79* throughout the Island in 1958.

Tobacco

With the co-operation of the manufacturing companies the cultivation of cigarette tobacco in the Island has been expanded to about 5,000 acres in 1956. Special measures have been taken to replace Malayalam Chewing tobacco, which is fast loosing its market in Travancore to cigarette tobacco. The extent under this crop in the Jaffna Peninsula is about 360 acres. The Department of Agriculture has provided under the long-term development programme financial assistance to Cigarette Tobacco Growers with a view of making Ceylon self-sufficient in its requirement of this commodity within 4 years.

The services of a state paid curer will be available for three years to each Cigarette Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Society. The following acreages were under cultivation in the year 1956 :—

Under Malayalam Chewing Tobacco	1,200
Under Cherrot and Local Chewing	2,000
Under Dumbara	5,000
Under Beedy	50

It is estimated that 10,000 to 12,000 acres of cigarette tobacco are required to make Ceylon self-sufficient. Cultivation of Beedy tobacco is being carried out on a experimental basis and it is proposed within the next 2 years to bring under beedy tobacco an extent of about 4,000 acres to meet the full requirements of this commodity.

VI—PADDY AND OTHER FOOD CROPS

Rice—Research

Rice is Ceylon's staple cereal and the development of this crop has been the chief interest of the Department of Agriculture. In recent years, research on this crop included testing of a large number of introductions, hybridization, selection within local varieties, fertilizer experiments and cultural investigations. The introduction *Ptb-16* has continued to perform well and cover wide acreages. The suitability of the American variety—*Zenith* (which is completely non-shedding and non-lodging) for mechanized cultivation has been demonstrated. High-yielding hybrid selections have been released for general cultivation in some parts of Ceylon, and many more in age classes ranging from 3 to 6 months will be released in the course of 1957. Selection for yield and resistance to grain-shedding, floods, salinity, blast and conditions associated with poor drainage continues in crosses of local lines with introductions. Line selection in local varieties showed some promise. Various selections within the local variety *Murungakayan* have proved to be strikingly successful throughout the Island.

The existence of high fertilizer response varieties within the *indica* group has been demonstrated. The grouping of the departmental purelines into low response, moderate response and high response varieties has been initiated. Studies on the manurial value of blue green algae in rice fields are in progress. Cultural experiments on various methods of planting are being investigated. The benefits of row seeding under favourable weather conditions have been demonstrated.

The following are the acreages and yields of paddy in the different provinces in Maha 1955-56.

TABLE 5-6 PADDY ACREAGES AND AVERAGE YIELDS BY DISTRICTS, MAHA 1955-56

District	Extent sown (Gross acreage)*				Average yield per nett acre harvested (Bushels)†
	Major Schemes	Minor Schemes	Rainfed	Total	
CEYLON	210,708	203,973	408,769	823,450	30.85
<i>Western Province</i>					
Colombo	3,766	2,033	46,818	52,616	30.98
Kalutara	—	2,807	35,280	38,087	23.20
<i>Central Province</i>					
Kandy	4,880	17,456	18,784	41,121	50.78
Matale	1,017	9,628	6,331	16,976	38.25
Nuwara Eliya	1,672	14,070	563	16,305	—
<i>Southern Province</i>					
Galle	496	2,698	37,631	40,824	22.60
Matara	6,972	3,474	31,319	41,765	22.68
Hambantota	28,698	2,539	3,189	34,426	33.98
<i>Northern Province</i>					
Jaffna	14,080	840	40,097	55,018	24.38
Mannar	17,784	3,766	2,909	24,460	44.65
Vavuniya	3,237	14,273	7,142	24,653	21.30
<i>Eastern Province</i>					
Batticaloa	47,443	3,190	53,162	103,795	25.80
Trincomalee	10,613	2,400	11,470	24,482	25.55
<i>North-Western Province</i>					
Kurunegala	11,260	52,419	70,123	133,802	27.85
Puttalam-Chilaw	2,923	13,269	5,814	22,007	32.58
<i>North-Central Province</i>					
Anuradhapura	24,324	34,124	315	58,763	22.95
Polonnaruwa	25,764	379	292	26,435	51.55
<i>Province of Uva</i>					
Badulla	4,440	7,439	1,533	13,412	36.78
<i>Province of Sabaragamuwa</i>					
Ratnapura	1,337	13,099	12,555	26,991	34.95
Kegalla	—	4,070	23,440	27,510	47.05

* Figures furnished by Revenue Officers.

† The nett acreage harvested is estimated to be 615,594 acres and the estimated production is 19,000,000 bushels.

Highland Crops (Research)

The maize breeding programme, which consisted of inbreeding and production of single and double crosses and testing of the double crosses, was continued in order to test the feasibility of producing hybrid seed and assess its value as a commercial undertaking in Ceylon. The most promising line of approach for the improvement of the maize crop in this country at present, appears to be selection among the open-pollinated varieties. Promising open-pollinated varieties have been introduced recently. Varietal, manurial and cultural investigations on potato have been commenced in upper Uva and other parts of Ceylon. Varieties imported from all over the world will be tested under local conditions.

Fertilizer experiments with vegetables have revealed a very striking response to nitrogen in bandakka, capsicum and snakegourd. Testing of introduction of all types of vegetables was continued.

Chilli strains which exhibit partial resistance to the leaf curl complex under field conditions have been isolated and are under further tests.

VII—FOOD PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

Paddy

The aim of the Department of Food Production is to increase paddy production in the country not by extending the area under cultivation but by raising the average yield on the lands that are already under cultivation. The intensive methods of cultivation promoted by the Department with the object of raising the average yield were—

(a) *Use of model ploughs as an improved method of preparing the paddy fields.*—In 1956, 10,523 demonstrations in the use of the model plough were held. These demonstrations which were carried out by the field officers of the department in all parts of the country maintained the interest of the cultivators in this method of tilling their paddy fields. A total of 333,756 acres were ploughed with these model ploughs.

(b) *Use of pureline seed paddy.*—Cultivators were encouraged to use pureline seed paddy. Where recommended pureline selections exist they are multiplied in private seed farms. In Maha, 1955–56, 61,695 bushels of pureline seed paddy were issued and 199,899 acres were cultivated with pureline while with the 20,603 bushels of pureline seed paddy issued in Yala 1956 only 36,311 acres were cultivated as many acres of land sown with this paddy were affected by the drought.

(c) *Fertilizers.*—Demonstration plots were maintained by officers of this department to show cultivators the benefits that paddy plants derive from the judicious use of fertilizers. Fertilizers were made available by the department, free of charge, up to a maximum of ten tons per district per season for this purpose. The demonstrations are creating an increased demand for paddy fertilizers which is met through the agency of the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies. Paddy mixtures recommended by the Department of Agriculture are issued to members of these Societies, one-third the cost of such fertilizers being subsidized by this department.

(d) *Transplanting, harrowing and weeding.*—The field staff carried out propaganda to make these cultural practices popular. Demonstrations of transplanting as carried out in Ceylon were held on 5,230 occasions and the acreage transplanted during the two cultivation seasons was 82,962. The Japanese method of transplanting was demonstrated on 4,876 occasions. 11,423 acres were transplanted during the year according to this method. 8,243 demonstrations in harrowing and 7,417 demonstrations in weeding were carried out. The acreage harrowed was 52,737 and the acreage weeded was 234,511.

The intensive methods of cultivation to which the conservative farmer is slowly adapting himself are gradually increasing the average yield as indicated in the statement below —

<i>Year</i>	<i>Acreage sown</i>	<i>Acreage harvested (nett)</i>	<i>Yield in bushels</i>	<i>Average yield per acre harvested in bushels</i>
1952	1,161,869	936,000	28,900,000	30.77
1953*	1,048,228	809,000	21,900,000	27.17
1954	1,262,542	1,030,015	31,200,000	30.29
1955	1,343,551	1,092,000	35,700,000	32.69
1956†	1,174,022	899,084	28,000,000	31.14

Issue of Seed Paddy Free and on Loan

Seed paddy is given free to indigent cultivators who have suffered successive crop failures ; in other cases seed paddy is issued on loan.

The sums spent in 1955-56 in supplying seed paddy were as follows :—

	<i>Rs.</i>
Free issues (through Government Agents)	172,610
Loan issues—	
(a) through Government Agents	62,445
(b) through C. A. P. & S. Societies	1,774,365

Minor Irrigation Works

Irrigation is one of the most important factors affecting paddy cultivation. It is so not in the Dry Zone alone where rain water has to be stored up during a good part of the year, but it is of equal importance in the Wet Zone where not only irrigation channels to feed fields have to be provided but often drainage facilities have also to be arranged to make cultivable some of the land that would otherwise remain water-logged. Construction and improvement of irrigation works that are beyond the capacity of the cultivators or owners to undertake on their own resources are done by the State. The extent of land estimated to have benefited from these minor irrigation works is 92,434 acres in 1955-56. The total expenditure on this account during the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 2,667,350.

Subsidiary Food Crops

In pursuance of the policy of encouraging the cultivation of subsidiary food crops the Food Production department continues to subsidise the construction of wells in areas which can be brought under crops only by obtaining water from wells. During 1956, 812 wells were constructed and another 134 wells were under construction at the end of the year. A sum of Rs. 318,401 was paid during the year as subsidy for the construction of wells.

The department issues seed onions and other planting materials on loan to cultivators through the Government Agents. Seed material is also issued free to bona-fide cultivators according to programmes approved by the relevant sub-committee of the District Agricultural Committees. Special issues of seed materials free of charge are also made in times of crop failure. The guaranteed price scheme operated by the Commissioner for the Development of Marketing is beneficial to the cultivators of those crops to which that scheme applies.

* 1952-53 Maha was a failure due to partial failure of the North-East Monsoon.

† 1956 Yala was a partial failure due to inadequate rainfall.

Yams

Yams are now a fairly stable substitute food. Some varieties of the sweet potato are now used in place of the potato. The rural population has always used yams as a food. The acreage and production of yams were as follows :—

		<i>Manioc</i>		<i>Sweet Potato</i>	
		<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Production cwt.</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Production cwt.</i>
Maha	1954-55	104,744	2,499,059	21,354	533,681
Yala	1955	62,044	2,431,773	19,528	534,625
Maha	1955-56	153,599	2,386,847	15,799	662,293

Onions

The import of red onions has been banned since 1954 but small quantities are, however, imported by Government to tide over periods of scarcity. Scarcity of the local product is caused by shortfalls in production due to adverse climatic conditions. The Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sale Societies help their members to market the onions grown by them. The acreage cultivated and quantity of red onions produced were—

		<i>Extent acres</i>	<i>Production cwt.</i>
Maha	1953-54	5,693	270,228
Yala		5,356	182,703
Maha	1954-55	10,144	541,103
Yala		7,612	363,003
Maha	1955-56	9,186	327,895

Chillies

Chillie seedlings raised on Government farms or by Rural Development Societies and other Voluntary Organisations are sold to cultivators but if they cannot pay for them the seedlings are issued free of charge.

The extent cultivated and the quantity of chillies grown were—

		<i>Extent (acres)</i>	<i>Quantity (cwt.)</i>
Maha	1953-54	16,923	226,317
Yala	1954	13,946	119,995
Maha	1954-55	18,148	229,275
Yala	1955	14,857	128,109
Maha	1955-56	15,557	186,328

Other Subsidiary Food Crops

The acreage and production of other subsidiary food crops were as follows :—

	Maha 1954-55		Yala 1955		Maha 1955-56	
	Extent in acres	Production in bushels	Extent in acres	Production in bushels	Extent in acres	Production in bushels
Maize	22,966	191,838	14,108	94,933	17,933	86,747
Kurakkan	82,331	506,197	28,158	230,163	60,340	229,778
Sorghum	1,612	29,655	2,328	11,677	1,536	9,293

Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies

The number of these Societies, which are the main sources of agricultural credit to farmers, increased steadily from 830 in 1955 to 930 in 1956. The Co-operative Department is responsible for the working of the individual C. A. P. & S. Societies and the direction and control of their affairs. The Food Production Department is responsible for the financing of the approved activities of these Societies. The total loans granted to Societies in 1955-56 was Rs. 18,370,746.08 as compared with Rs. 14,674,325.08 granted in 1954-55.

Guaranteed Price Scheme

Under the Guaranteed Price Scheme the cultivator is offered guaranteed prices for certain items of agricultural produce and thereby a steady market for the produce is assured so as to encourage increased production. The stimulus given for the production of food crops consumed by the country would ultimately result in replacing food imports by locally produced food. Government has offered guaranteed prices for the following commodities :—

(a) For a 5-year period ending December 31, 1957—

Commodity	Price
	Rs. c.
1. Paddy	12 0 per bushel
2. Maize, Grade I	14 50 per cwt.
Maize, Grade II	10 50 do.
3. Kurakkan, Grade I	15 0 do.
Kurakkan, Grade II	11 50 do.
4. Sorghum, Grade I	15 50 do.
Sorghum, Grade II	14 50 do.

(b) For a period of one year commencing from January 1, 1957—

	Rs. c.
5. Red Onions, Grade I	24 64 per cwt.
Red Onions, Grade II	22 40 do.

(c) For a period of one year commencing from October 1, 1956—

Commodity	Price
	Rs. c.
6. Mustard	60 0 per cwt.
7. Gingelly	38 0 do.
8. Chillies, Grade I	134 40 do.
Chillies, Grade II	119 34 do.
Chillies, Grade III	105 28 do.
9. Green Gram, Grade I	38 8 do.
Green Gram, Grade II	35 84 do.
10. Tamarind	19 40 do.
11. Black Pepper	100 80 do.
12. Cow Pea	24 0 do.
13. Groundnut	31 36 do.
14. Turmeric	83 0 do.

Guaranteed Price commodities are collected through a network of Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies functioning in all the major producing areas. These Societies purchase produce offered by cultivators at the guaranteed prices and deliver the produce so collected at the nearest departmental store. A commission and transport allowances are paid to these Societies for the services rendered.

VIII—ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The widespread drought which prevailed during the greater part of the year brought on considerable hardship and an increase in mortality among livestock, chiefly cattle and buffaloes. Animals in the Dry Zone were the worst affected.

The Livestock Farms of the Department of Agriculture, however, were prepared to meet such a situation and by adopting efficient methods of pasture management and fodder conservation were able to maintain stock in good health and production. The pasture grass *Brachiaria brizantha* which is now widely established in most farms provided that little green feed which is essential to keep animals in a fit condition to produce.

The production of 510,000 gallons of milk in major Livestock Farms was the highest ever recorded, the biggest increase in production being on farms in the up-country. This increase in production has been achieved by providing better pastures and improved feeding in general and by the replacement of old and worn out cows with younger animals of high production bred on the farms. At Bopatalawa a new record was set up by a young farm bred Friesian cow which produced some 1,500 gallons in 305 days, the highest yield being 8 gallons in one day. The total milk production from all Government Farms during 1956 was 610,483 gallons, an increase of 35,483 gallons over the previous year.

The increasing interest in the Livestock Industry is reflected in the continued demand for superior breeding stock from Government Farms. There is no longer the difficulty which existed in previous years of disposing of surplus stock and the Departmental Farms are now not able to cope up with the demands made by the public, particularly of cattle of the milch breeds.

The Bull Calf Exchange Scheme which was becoming very popular had to be curtailed as a large number of calves have to be retained for issue as stud bulls to various breeding tracts organised by District Animal Husbandry Standing Committees. It was also felt undesirable to issue improved stock to villagers on account of the widespread drought which prevailed for a considerable length of time.

Karandagolla Poultry Station near Kundasale functions as the Agriculture Department's main centre for the supply of poultry breeding material. As this station alone could not meet the demand from the whole Island, one more hatchery was started at Welisara near Colombo, using eggs produced at the main centre. This sub-centre now caters for the demand from Western, North-Western and Sabaragamuwa Divisions.

The poultry nutrition trials initiated two years ago have now been completed and the results analysed. Poultry rations based on these findings are now used in Government Farms and recommended for use by poultry keepers who find it uneconomical to use mixtures offered for sale by forage merchants.

At Karagoda-Uyangoda, the first batch of Jersey $\times$ Sinhala cross-bred heifers calved down and have given indication already of their superiority over their native dams. Although they are not very much bigger in size, their conformation is very much akin to dairy type while their average daily production is a tremendous improvement on their native dams' performances.

The unprecedented increase in the price of coconut poonac and other coconut meals have had very adverse effects on the Livestock Industry as a whole and on the Dairy business in particular. Rice Bran, the other commonly used item of cattle food was in short supply on account of the paddy crop failure caused by drought and was of poor quality and expensive when it was available. The cost of production of milk in these circumstances was inordinately high and some dairymen were even contemplating giving up their trade.

Food Production (Estates) Act

The exemption granted under the Act has induced a large number of Estates to take up to livestock keeping thus accelerating the production of better stock. There is already evidence to show that the Estates can in this way contribute very considerably towards increased Food Production.

The National Milk Board

The National Milk Board is expanding rapidly and will in the near future provide marketing facilities for a large section of the country. The Milk Collection Schemes operated by the National Milk Board and the opening of a factory for meat processing have largely facilitated the marketing of the Animal Husbandry Extension Service among the public.

Livestock Breeders Associations were formed in several districts in the course of the year and it is proposed to form such Associations in every District where conditions favour the development of Animal Husbandry. The inclusion of the Divisional Agricultural Officer as one of the Vice-Presidents and the Veterinary Surgeon, as the Secretary and all Agricultural Instructors and Veterinary Surgeons of the District as honorary members, has proved very satisfactory and more useful work can now be done by these Associations than the mere holding of Cattle Shows once a year.

Veterinary Services

Three Mobile Veterinary Clinics which recently arrived as a gift of the Canadian Government were formally handed over in September, 1956. These three Mobile Veterinary Clinics are equipped with laboratory and surgical instruments, vaccine, drugs and propaganda materials. They are manned by a Veterinary Surgeon, Veterinary Field Demonstrator and Driver. These Clinics are stationed at Matara, Vavuniya and Peradeniya respectively. They have become a boon to livestock owners, throughout the country especially to those who are unable to bring their sick animals to the Veterinary Dispensaries.

Haemorrhagic Septicaemia

During 1956 the disease broke out in some parts of Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Puttalam and Chilaw, Batticaloa and Badulla Districts. Steps taken to control the disease consisted of (a) prompt vaccination of all animals in areas where this disease broke out, (b) Prophylactic immunization of as many animals as possible thrice a year in all areas where the disease has occurred.

The number of cattle and buffaloes vaccinated against Haemorrhagic Septicaemia during the year amounted to 173,438. In addition to the locally produced vaccine, 70,000 c.c. of F. A. O. vaccine was used for vaccinating cattle.

During 1956 the activities of the Veterinary Research Laboratory were completely re-organised to meet the requirements of our expanding animal production and health extension service and provide a satisfactory service to the people who have taken to stock raising as a profitable venture.

The Veterinary Laboratory manufactured quantities of biologicals for use in the control of infectious diseases amongst livestock and 2,100 mice bred in the Laboratory were supplied to the Medical Research Institute, Colombo, for experimental purposes.

Artificial Insemination

The number of inseminations done during 1956 is 2,714 which is a slight increase over the previous year's figures. Except for the Jaffna area, no other centres showed any improvement in the number of inseminations carried out. This is attributed to the very unstable conditions which prevailed at these centres due to the outbreaks of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.

It has also been decided to start semen collecting centres at Jaffna, Colombo, Kegalla and Nuwara Eliya.

Veterinary Hospital

There was a marked increase in the total number of animals treated during the year particularly in the number of indoor cases. 732 indoor and 7,264 outdoor cases were treated during the year bringing a revenue of Rs. 12,396.96.

The Veterinary Hospital continues to provide clinical facilities for students of Veterinary Science of the University of Ceylon.

CHAPTER VI

INDUSTRY

I—GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS

UNDER the Government-Sponsored Corporations Act, provision was made for the establishment initially of seven Corporations to take over specified manufactories of the Government, with the Government remaining as the only share-holder. Later, on a decision by the Government to sell all or any part of its shares, the public would be entitled to participate, with proportionate rights of representation on the Board of Directors and a voice in the management of the Corporation. Ultimately, when the stage was reached when the Government share-holding was reduced to 20 per cent. or less, the Corporation so established was to be dissolved, and the assets transferred to a Joint Stock Company.

One of the first tasks of the Ministry of Industries under the new Government was to make an initial statement on Industrial Policy. None of the Corporations established under this Act were to be denationalised by the sale in whole or in part of the Government shares in these Corporations.

By the end of 1956, all the seven factories of the Government, previously run by the Department of Industries, were given corporate autonomy under the Government-Sponsored Corporations Act. The factories concerned were those in the process of erection or already established for the manufacture of Ceramic Ware, Vegetable Oils (including by-products like cattle food, glycerine and lauryl alcohol), D. D. T., Caustic Soda and Chlorine, Paper, Tanning and Leather Goods, Plywood and Cement.

With this transfer, the Government was now left to plan new schemes for a fuller development of the natural resources of the country. Detailed investigations at departmental level were carried out. The ultimate object was to set up similar Government-Sponsored Corporations. The Schemes which received attention during the year, include the following :—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A REFINERY FOR THE SEPARATION OF CONSTITUENTS OF THE MINERAL SANDS OF CEYLON

These mineral sands occur as beach deposits in some of the coastal belts of Ceylon and contain appreciable quantities of Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Garnet and Monazite.

The proposed rate of exploitation is to be 100,000 tons of sand per year.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COTTON SPINNING MILL

It is proposed to set up a Spinning Mill with a capacity of 12,000 spindles and an output of 2½ million pounds which aims at providing the market with the low and middle counts of yarns for the textile industry.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUGAR REFINERY

Varietal trials on suitable cane species have established that certain areas of Ceylon are ideal for the propagation of sugar cane to justify the establishment of an economical sugar refinery. The Department plans a factory to make 200,000 tons of white sugar per year. Concurrently with this, a vast agricultural scheme will be inaugurated to provide the requisite raw material for this factory.

(4) EXPANSION OF THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

The existing factory of the Government, now transferred to a separate Corporation, is only capable of an output of 80,000 tons of cement per annum. The market, however, is estimated at about 240,000 tons per annum. Limestone deposits are known to occur near the main markets, in

Puttalam and Galle Districts. To determine the suitability of these deposits, a team of Geologists from Czechoslovakia were engaged to survey these resources and to advise the Government on their suitability for the establishment of one or more Cement Factories to make the country self-sufficient in its cement requirements.

(5) EXPANSION OF THE SALT INDUSTRY

Salt is manufactured in Ceylon by the solar evaporation process. Natural brine is known to contain proportions of gypsum and potassium chloride. The gypsum itself is a raw material in the manufacture of cement, but it could also be used as a source for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate a fertilizer imported in fairly considerable quantities to Ceylon. Potassium chloride is another ingredient used in the fertilizer industry. Arrangements were made to obtain technical advice in the investigation of the salt industry so as to increase the salt harvest from 50,000 to 500,000 tons per annum, giving as a residue, 32,000 tons of gypsum and 12,000 tons of potassium chloride.

II—PRIVATE SECTOR

The claim of educated youth for employment compelled the Government to consider other schemes of equal importance. The Department of Industries had earlier prepared a list of small and medium scale industries which could conceivably be set up as economic units in partnership with private capital. Most of these schemes had their emphasis on labour employment. The necessary technical guidance and advice in the surveying of the schemes and assessment of their economic possibilities are being given by the Department of Industries to prospective capitalists.

There was a welcome change in the attitude of the public towards this new turn of industrial development which offers a possible field for investment of surplus capital. Among the schemes which have been examined during the year, a good number of which have passed the exploratory stage, are the following :—

(1) THE MANUFACTURE OF CONFECTIONERY

In association with foreign capital, it is proposed to set up a factory to make 1,500 tons of boiled sweets of appreciable varieties, which are not now made in Ceylon. A good part of this output will provide an exportable surplus for markets in the East and Far East, now supplied from European Zones.

(2) MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRIC BULBS

This scheme proposes to set up with foreign technical advice a factory to make $1\frac{1}{2}$ million bulbs per year which is about the annual market demand.

(3) MANUFACTURE OF DRY CELL BATTERIES

There is a substantial demand for batteries in Ceylon estimated at 18 million units. It is proposed to establish a factory, with Government participation to initially meet 75 per cent. of this demand.

(4) MANUFACTURE OF BICYCLES

Beginning with the assembly of bicycles it is proposed to progressively expand production for the complete manufacture of all components other than certain specialised parts like ball bearings. The output is to be initially 15,000 bicycles rising to 30,000 per year. The question of Government participation is under consideration.

(5) MANUFACTURE OF ACCUMULATORS

The market for accumulators is about 35,000 units per year. The scheme devised by the Government, plans to sponsor a Company to manufacture initially 10,000 accumulators rising to 35,000 units per year. A nominal investment by Government is also proposed.

Private industry however, on its own initiative was able to negotiate for foreign skill and aid in setting up another group of industries with Governmental approval. They include schemes for the manufacture of—

- (a) Razor blades, with a capacity of 18 millions a year ;
- (b) Paper clips, hair grips, pins, gas mantles as subsidiary activities of the Razor Blade industry.
- (c) Tubular furniture, as a subsidiary activity in the manufacture of bicycles.
- (d) Brown sugar, on a small scale, already established, which is expected to reach an output of 1,000 tons a year, with 750 tons of molasses as a by-product.

Meanwhile, private industry with Governmental assistance has been expanding and improving ; and showed significant increases in the manufacture of tiles, aluminium ware, machine parts and foundry products, beedies, tanning of cow hides and goat skins, banians, shirts, soap, rubber footwear, matches, sarongs, paints, french polish and varnish.

There are many industries, the development of which is hindered due to anomalies in the tariff structure. These cases came up for review before the Government and benefited from the consequent tariff adjustments.

On the whole, it could be said that the response from the public sector in the greater diversification of industry has been most encouraging. Although traditional skills and technical know-how are deplorably low in Ceylon, private capitalists are becoming increasingly reliant on Government sponsorship to obtain such knowledge and training of personnel to enable them to set up useful productive units which would eventually help the country to reduce unemployment and to conserve valuable capital which is now being spent on the importation of goods readily capable of manufacture in Ceylon.

III—PLANTATION INDUSTRIES

The industries forming the subject matter of the preceding sections of this chapter were of recent development. Till this new development took place the main industrial activity of the Island centered round the traditional Cottage Crafts (see section IV) and a considerable range of industries based on the principal commercial crops of the Island, namely, tea, rubber and coconut.

The manufacturing aspect of tea and rubber production is an inseparable part of the cultivation process and as such these industries were dealt with in Chapter V—Agriculture, which also deal with the cultivation of the coconut palm.

The coconut tree provides a number of products which are marketed after undergoing varying degrees of manufacturing processes.

Ceylon's total annual production of coconuts is now over 2,500 million nuts. Approximately fifty per cent. of this is exported in varying amounts in the form of copra, oil, desiccated coconut and fresh nuts.

The estimated coconut crop was 2,746 million nuts, the exports of coconut products in 1955 were the highest on record, being 320,252 tons. 1956 production has shown a drop of 3 per cent.

Copra

Copra is manufactured in Ceylon by sun-drying, artificial drying (using kilns) or a combination of both. Observations confirm that if copra is dried to 6–7 per cent. moisture content and stored in well-ventilated dry stores at an even temperature it will not seriously deteriorate.

No variations in oil content of Ceylon estate copra with the time of plucking, normal fertilizer treatments, or situation of the estates have been observed. About 68 per cent. of oil (dry weight) could be regarded as a representative average figure for the oil content of Ceylon Estate Copra.

The usual grades of copra recognised in Ceylon are Edible White, Estate No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and mixed (fms).

Desiccated Coconut

This is manufactured in Ceylon primarily for export. It is usually sent in plywood chests, holding about 130 lb. The chests are lined with grease proof paper (usually of the kraft type) and sometimes packed with light baling pressure. In the presence of more than a minimum amount of moisture (about 2 per cent.) desiccated coconut is very susceptible to the attack of moulds, and excessive moisture is the prime factor in its deterioration. By reason of its fat content (over 70 per cent.) desiccated coconut is also liable to rancidity on prolonged storage, or exposure to light.

Good desiccated coconut as exported from Ceylon is pure white in colour and crisp and has the fresh taste of the nut. It contains from 68–72 per cent. oil and the free fatty acid of the oil is usually below 0.1 per cent.

Exports in 1956 amounted to 63,695 tons and the principal importing countries were the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and Canada.

Coconut Oil

As ordinary prepared in Ceylon coconut oil is a colourless to pale brownish yellow oil, having (unless refined) a more or less pronounced odour of the coconut. This vegetable oil is characterised by the presence of a high percentage of lauric and myristic acids and notable proportions of the lower saturated fatty acids. This makes the oil eminently suitable as butter substitute in the manufacture, for example of margarine.

Coconut oil prepared from copra, or refined coconut oil, keeps well for a fair length of time.

The coconut oil milling industry of the Island is extensive and the bulk of the commercial oil is produced using screw expellers and hydraulic presses. The chekku mill is also employed but the oil pressed in this way is used mostly for domestic and culinary purposes and the process is much less efficient. Various grades of oil (depending mostly on the quality of copra used) are produced and are classed as "edible white commercial" and "mill" oils on the basis of their free fatty acid content and colour.

Besides the oil used for edible purposes, the local soap industry also makes use of a fair quantity of coconut oil. In terms of nuts the 1956 exports of oil represent approximately 48 per cent. of the total exports of the principal coconut products and amounted to 84,921 tons. The principal importing country was India.

Poonac

Before 1940, exports of coconut cake (poonac) averaged over 20,000 tons a year. There has been very little export since 1940 and the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture in Ceylon is definitely to discourage its export, in order to retain this essential feeding stuff for the Island's livestock. Exports in 1956 amounted to 2,668 cwt. The principal importing country was Belgium.

Fibre

Two kinds of coir fibre—bristle and mattress can be produced from the husk of the coconut. There are nearly three hundred fibre mills in the Island for which the husks are obtained from surrounding estates and small-holdings.

A few decorticating plants for the dry milling of fibre are also now in operation in certain parts of the Island. The chief advantage of these appears to be the elimination of the retting process, so that the resulting fibre is of a lighter colour.

Mattress fibre is used for making coir yarn, ropes and matting and for certain classes of upholstery. Bristle fibre is widely used for brush making.

Ceylon is the largest exporter of coir fibre and the total exports in 1956 amounted to 68,824 tons.

Coconut Shell Charcoal

The crude charcoal is made by burning coconut shells in pits with exclusion of air. Only a small quantity of coconut charcoal has been exported since 1940, although there is a moderate local consumption as fuel in laundries and bakeries, and for gas engines. Coconut charcoal is a useful absorbent for use in chemical industries and in gas masks.

Toddy

Toddy is mainly obtained from the coconut palm which thrives in the maritime provinces of Ceylon. When the flowering stalks or spadices, which contain a large quantity of saccharine juice supplied by the tree for the formation of coconuts, are tapped before they open out, a juicy liquid known as sweet toddy is obtained which by process of fermentation is converted into fermented toddy. Toddy is also similarly obtained from the palmyrah palm which grows in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and also from the *kitul* palm which grows in the hill country. Sale of toddy is controlled by Government licences and a considerable industry depends in the sale of toddy. The average price per gallon of toddy is Rs. 3 for coconut toddy and Rs. 2.40 for palmyrah or kitul toddy. Consumption during 1956 was 5,077,130 gallons as against 4,983,568 gallons in 1955. This figure excludes approximately 2,504,000 gallons of toddy consumed under the Tree Tax System in the Jaffna Peninsula. Under this system a person can tap trees up to a maximum of 20 trees on payment of Tree Tax at Rs. 2.50 per male palmyrah tree and Rs. 10 for a female palmyrah tree or coconut tree. Under this system toddy is sold at the foot of the tree. Sweet toddy drawn from coconut, palmyrah and kitul palms are converted into treacle and jaggery by boiling. No licence is necessary to tap a palmyrah or kitul palm for sweet toddy but a licence is necessary to tap a coconut palm.

Arrack Manufacture

Arrack and vinegar are products of toddy. The arrack industry is a Government monopoly, which earns the largest Excise revenue to Government. Arrack is produced by distillation of toddy in 9 large private distilleries in the Kalutara District under Government supervision and in the State-owned Distillery at Seeduwa. The quantities of arrack produced for the past 3 years are as follows:—

Year	Nine Private Distilleries (proof gallons)	State Distillery (proof gallons)
1954	766,909	160,861
1955	777,598	146,824
1956	697,487	119,660

The arrack distilled at the 9 private distilleries is purchased by Government at rates fixed by Government yearly under contracts with the distillers. The rate fixed for 1956 was 9.60 per proof gallon and it is stored in wooden vats along with the arrack produced at the State Distillery and allowed to mature for periods varying from 1 to 6 years, before reducing, blending, flavouring, colouring and bottling. The arrack is then issued to renters in bottles and in bulk at fixed wholesale prices for sale in the taverns at the fixed retail prices, which allowed the renter a profit of Rs. 6 per gallon of bulk arrack and Rs. 3.80 per gallon of bottled arrack. These taverns, like the Toddy and Foreign liquor taverns are sold annually and the highest bidder gets the exclusive privilege to sell arrack within the local area of the tavern. Consumption in 1956 was 1,349,419 gallons as against 1,568,637 gallons in 1955. The net profit for the year 1955-56 from the working of the arrack stock account is estimated at over Rs. 46,000,000 exclusive of income tax payable.

Vinegar Manufacture

Vinegar is produced by acetifying coconut toddy and it takes 10 to 14 weeks to complete the process. There were 10 licensees engaged in this industry and they marketed 128,525 gallons of vinegar in 1956. There is room for improvement of the quality of vinegar that is manufactured now.

Malt Liquor, &c.

Country liquors of Foreign liquor type are also manufactured in Ceylon. The Ceylon Brewery's Ltd., Nuwara Eliya, manufactured 924,519 gallons of beer in 1956 and Mestiya and Rockland Distilleries manufactured 3,470 and 7,735 gallons of gin respectively in 1956.

Messrs. Parfums Ltd. manufactures and sells Eau-de-Cologne under a licence and Rockland Distillery manufactures and sells rectified spirits in small quantities under a retail licence, besides selling rectified spirits to Government for use in Hospitals.

IV—COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

In the development of Cottage Industries special emphasis is laid on the three major Cottage Industries, Textiles, Coir and Pottery.

Textiles (Handloom Schemes)

Up to the end of 1955 the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries had established 73 centres in various parts of the Island. By June 1956 a further 180 centres had been opened and there were 33 places where buildings were fully completed. In addition there were 254 places where Government Agents had already approved of the establishment of centres and where building work was in progress.

The number of textile institutions at the end of 1955 and 1956 was as follows :—

	1955	1956
Government Centres	204	246
Assisted Centres	16	—
Government Schools	8	9
Assisted Schools	46	48
Workshops	6	1
Co-operative Societies	225	362
Total	535	666

Powerloom Project

Seventy looms installed in the previous year commenced manufacture of textiles. The textiles manufactured were grey sheeting, napkin cloth, sheeting, long cloth, drills, sarees and towels for the open market.

Pottery

During the year considerable attention was devoted to extending the work done at Waragoda to Village Centres. Six Pottery Demonstrators who had been trained at Waragoda in the production of glazed articles were posted to six selected centres and the products of these centres were prominent because of their superior quality.

Coir

The establishment of three large-scale Coir Factories in the Southern Province has been deferred. A scheme is being prepared to set up one factory with modern powerlooms, finishing plants, &c.,

and to link this factory with several small-scale workshops equipped with 10 to 15 hand-operated looms in important coir villages. This scheme has the support of the Dutch Expert on Coir Fibre Industries, Mr. W. M. C. Isarin, whose services have been extended to this Department by the ILO.

Carpentry

30 Carpentry Training Centres and 124 Co-operative Societies were in existence during 1956.

The services of an Australian Expert on Saw Mills and Woodwork Industry have been sought under the Colombo Plan to advise the Government on the mechanisation of the Industry.

Basket and Mat Weaving

Special research work has been organised at the Industrial Research Institute, Velona, for the production of fine quality ladies' handbags out of *Hevan Pung*, leather and hana twine. The experiments are being conducted under the direction of the Japanese Expert on Handicrafts, Mr. Masakatsu Moritomo, assisted by departmental officers. Demonstrators who possess special talent in respect of this industry are attached to this unit. Experiments are also being carried out for the production of good quality ladies' fancy handbags with *wetakeiya* and *indikola* in modern shapes and designs with attractive colour schemes.

Papier Mache Toys

Experiments are being carried out to make new types of models to cast Master Moulds. They will be sent to manufacturing units together with samples of finished products for production.

Marketing

The activities of the Sales Development Establishments of the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries have shown a considerable increase over the previous year. The total purchase under this account increased from Rs. 5,029,175.71 to Rs. 6,845,862.65 in 1955-56. The comparative figures over the two years in respect of the more important items are given below :—

TABLE 6.1 VALUE OF LOCALLY-PRODUCED ARTICLES PURCHASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES—1954-55 AND 1955-56

Financial Year	Textiles		Furniture		Coir Net Bags		Other Goods		Total	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1954-55	2,913,815	70	1,219,114	99	510,728	41	385,516	61	5,019,175	71
1955-56	4,288,748	35	1,345,871	19	529,389	27	681,853	84	6,845,862	65

The largest increase in purchases was in respect of textiles and comprised chiefly of handloom sarongs which were purchased at a guaranteed price for sale under the Industrial Products Regulating Act.

The Government purchased 505,465 sarongs valued at Rs. 4,316,193 in 1956. The corresponding figure for 1955 was 307,285 sarongs valued at Rs. 2,503,150.25.

The Industrial Products Act ration which stood at 5 imported sarongs to 1 local sarong had to be raised in April 1956 to 5 imported to 2 local, in order to accommodate this increase in production.

Government Purchase Preference

The total value of goods supplied to Government Departments under this Scheme during the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 3,098,154.82. The chief items supplied were textiles, furniture for

schools, hospitals and Government offices, coir net bags, coir ropes and string, coir mats and matting, brooms and brushes, *bata* tats, *pung* mats, basket-ware, brass locks and hinges and earthenware.

Sales Shops

The total sales recorded during the year are given below—

	Rs.	c.
Colombo Shop	193,749	1
Kandy Shop	14,279	52

Sales Agencies

Among the Sales Agents appointed by the Department for the sale of cottage industrial products on a commission basis, only Ceylon Handicrafts of Kollupitiya which is run by a Committee of voluntary lady workers showed promising results. The total sales for the year was Rs. 22,850·91.

Overseas Trade

The Government is making an effort to establish markets for Ceylon Handicrafts in foreign countries, particularly in the United States of America. As a result of the Government's participation in several Trade Fairs, trial orders to the value of Rs. 23,824·30 were executed during the year 1956. The bulk of these orders were from America. The chief items that were supplied are wood carvings and Kandyan brassware, particularly, brass trays.

Publicity and Propaganda

The Department participated in the Chicago Gift and Fancy Goods Show held in August, 1956. Among the items that were exhibited were wood carvings, Kandyan brassware, coir mats and mattings, handloom art textiles and basketware. The range of exhibits had necessarily to be limited as only those items which could be produced in bulk were sent out. Exhibits were also sent for display at the offices of the High Commissioners of Ceylon in London and Australia.

CHAPTER VII

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

I—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Tea Research Institute

THE Tea Research Institute was founded in 1925, and is maintained by the Tea Industry by the proceeds of a cess of fifty-five cents per 100 lb. of made tea exported from the Island.

The Institute maintains a fully equipped laboratory at St. Coombs Estate, Talawakelle, which is situated at an elevation of 4,500 feet in the heart of the main tea growing region. This 400 acre estate has its own factory which is equipped with modern commercial machinery and a small-scale experimental plant. The Institute maintains clonal proving stations at Passara in the Uva District, and at Neuchatel in the Kalutara District.

Chemistry

The soil survey, conducted over the whole of Ceylon's tea growing areas, was continued to make it more comprehensive and the laboratory analyses on the samples thus obtained are now laying emphasis on the maintenance of soil conditions under exposure.

The Institute has experimental areas under different replanting and rehabilitation methods in order to determine how soil, thus exposed to the elements, will react with regard to erosion and loss of organic matter.

The large and comprehensive field experiments to study the general effect of higher potash manuring under low-country conditions and eventually other relations between manuring and shot-hole borer incidence, types of plucking, pruning, &c., were well under way on two selected estates.

An analysis of sulphur contamination of tea in direct-fired heaters was carried out.

Copper contamination of tea has been studied in great detail, and much information obtained on the retention of copper by the tea bush from fungicidal sprays under all weather conditions.

Vegetative propagation

The demand for clonal cuttings from the Institute exceeded the capacity to supply them all, and in 1956, 150,000 cuttings were despatched to 185 estates.

The Clonal Proving Stations at Passara and Neuchatel are well established, and have more than 60 different clones in each nursery.

At St. Coombs the number of new clones under trial has increased rapidly.

Plant Physiology

Experiments to study the relation between rate of growth of flush shoots and the total yield of a given clone show that there is very little connection.

There was, however, a tendency for higher yielding clones to give a greater ratio of flush shoots to banji in the pluck.

The long-term field experiments, on manuring, cultivation, plucking, &c., have been continued with a modified system of recording yields which has allowed a number of new experiments to be included in the programme.

Pathology

Comprehensive field trials of various types and concentrations of copper fungicides have been done on St. Coombs during the south-west monsoon. The normal recommendation of 6 ounces per acre of a 50 per cent. copper fungicide still gives the best degree of control.

Wood-rot experiments have been increased over a wide range of elevation and soil conditions. The importance of damage caused by shot-hole borer, and by certain types of centering in young clearings, in allowing wood-rot to enter the frames is emphasised.

The effect of cultivation methods on the growth of soil and root fungi is under study.

Eelworm tolerant clones have been selected from many areas, and a few estates in different districts have joined with the Institute in establishing clonal proving sites.

Preliminary trials point to the possibility of a control of meadow eelworm in mature tea by the use of a chemical fumigant at specified rates, which does not appear likely to damage the tea bush.

A study of the methods of soil rehabilitation in those areas where meadow eelworm infests the soil is in progress.

Entomology

Certain insects showed an increased activity during the year, but fortunately most of these were confined to small areas, and with keen vigilance on the part of Superintendents the Tea Research Institute has been able to direct its attention to these outbreaks before they reached serious proportions.

Experimental work on the effective control of the *Calotermes*, which could prove disastrous to up-country tea, and the various *Mites* was carried out during the year.

St. Coombs Estate

The overall yield at St. Coombs Estate for 1956 was 921 lb. per acre. This yield is creditable and shows the ability of healthy tea to recover from the set-back caused by drought and frost.

Small-holdings Advisory Service

The work of the service has increased, so have requests for soil analysis of areas to be opened in tea. Interest has been shown in vegetative propagation.

Rubber Research Institute of Ceylon

The Rubber Research Institute of Ceylon, constituted under the Rubber Research Ordinance (Cap. 302), and financed by a cess of 55 cents per 100 lb. of rubber exported, has its headquarters at Dartonfield Estate, Agalawatta.

There are four technical departments, namely Botany, Plant Pathology, Agronomy and Chemistry, in addition to a Small-holdings Department, an Estate Department and an Administration Department and three experiment stations, namely Dartonfield (147 acres), Nivitigalakele (169 acres) and Hedigalla (693 acres) a total planted acreage of approximately 1,010 acres.

The Botany Department's advisory work is concerned mostly with choice of planting material and tapping problems.

Of the clones developed by this Department since 1938 twenty-five selected clones have given in small-scale trials yields of 20 lb. or more of dry rubber per tree per year and five of these clones have yielded 30 lb. or more per tree per year.

Budwood of these clones has been distributed to estates for trial under their own conditions before the clones are released for use on a commercial scale.

Budwood of a number of the eighty foreign clones introduced into Ceylon in 1954 from Malaya, Indonesia and Indo-China, in exchange for twenty Ceylon clones, will be available for distribution to estates in late 1957 for multiplication and use on an experimental scale.

Budwood of twenty-five Latin American clones, resistant to South American Leaf Blight and introduced into Ceylon in 1955-56, is being multiplied for use in the Institute's breeding programme.

Two of these clones are known to be highly resistant to *Phytophthora palmivora* in Costa Rica where this pathogen is present in its most virulent form all the year round.

The Plant Pathology Department is concerned chiefly with the prevention and treatment of diseases of the rubber plant.

Oidium leaf disease is now controlled most effectively by sulphur dusting but has indirectly led to an increased incidence of *Phytophthora* leaf fall and bark rot.

An effective control of *Phytophthora* is obtained by the use of copper-containing fungicides but copper, unfortunately, has a deleterious effect on rubber.

Dusting experiments will be carried out with chemicals of the dithio-carbamate type, some of which have been claimed to be effective against *Phytophthora* without the disadvantage of an adverse effect on the properties of the rubber.

An interesting observation made is the constant association of another leaf pathogen, *Gloeosporium alborubrum*, with *Oidium* and with *Phytophthora* on *Hevea* leaves.

Experiments have also been carried out on the control of *Fomes lignosus* (the fungus causing white root disease of rubber) under laboratory conditions.

The Agronomy Department has been mainly concerned with the fertiliser requirements of rubber plants and with the control of weeds in rubber areas.

Work has been continued on leaf analysis for the investigation of their mineral content and investigations of zinc content have not confirmed a suggestion from the R. R. I. of Malaya that zinc shortage may, under Ceylon conditions, be a pre-disposing factor for *Oidium* attack.

The Chemistry Department continued its investigations on manufacturing problems in estate factories and advice has been given on the correct operation of factory machinery and on the avoidance of blisters and of rust on smoked sheet. Work is in progress on the effect of relative humidity on drying time of smoked sheet, air-dried sheet and crepe, on the design of temporary smoke-houses and on modifications of existing types of permanent smoke-houses for specific purposes.

Advice has also been given on bale coatings and bale marking paints, on production methods of crepe using exalic acid in place of formic or acetic acid.

The effect of copper-containing fungicides and of certain organic fungicides, used for the control of *Phytophthora* leaf disease, on the properties of latex and rubber is being investigated.

The Small-holdings Department found a successful solution to the problem of a practical and economic sulphur dusting scheme for the control of *Oidium* on rubber small-holdings by the formation of co-operative groups in the various districts.

The scheme will be further enlarged in 1957 by the formation of 30 dusting groups.

The result of the successful trials carried out in 1955 and 1956 has made it possible to plan for a gradual extension of a sulphur dusting scheme for the control of *Oidium* on small-holdings to cover over a period of five years almost the entire extent of economic rubber small-holdings in the Island.

The work of the Small-holdings Department for the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme and for new rubber planting was continued with good results.

Demonstrations of sheet making, tapping, disease control and advisory visits to smoke-houses were made by Rubber Instructors in 1956.

Three simplified advisory leaflets in Sinhalese were issued by the Department during 1956.

The Estate Department controls over 1,000 acres of experimental planting on the three stations of the Group. It is also responsible for the supply of budwood of Institute's and imported clones to estates.

Of 139 acres of rubber nurseries opened up and planted for the Rubber Replanting Subsidy Scheme, 87 acres at Egaloya maintained up to the end of 1956 by the Estate Department have been handed over to the Rubber Control Department.

Coconut Research Institute

A scheme for research on coconuts was initiated in 1929 under Ordinance No. 29 of 1928 ; in 1951 it was finally established as the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon with Headquarters at Bandirippuwa Estate, Lunuwila, and a sub-station at Ratmalagara Estate, Madampe. In addition to research on the selection, breeding and improvement of coconut palms and on coconut soils, fertilizers, and manufactured coconut products this Institute is now studying the problem of animal husbandry in relation to coconut.

A scheme for rehabilitation of the coconut industry was initiated in 1949 and this work is gaining momentum. 17 large central nurseries for the production of high-grade seedlings have been established and it is estimated that about 36,000 acres have been planted or replanted since the inception of the replanting projects. The required rate of replacement is estimated to be 13,000 acres per annum and in addition 12,000 acres per annum of new areas are to be opened up. An isolated seed-garden—200 acres in extent is now being established in Ambakelle Forest to meet the future requirements of the whole of Ceylon for high-grade seed-nuts.

A manure subsidy scheme was commenced by Government in 1956.

An Advisory Service for small-holders has also been started and the officers appointed for this work operate in close collaboration with the numerous Coconut Producers' Co-operative Societies and Rural Development and Welfare Societies now in existence. The issue of Advisory Leaflets, bulletins in Sinhalese, Tamil and English and the publication of the "Ceylon Coconut Quarterly" are carried on by the Research Institute.

II—INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research

The C. I. S. I. R. is an autonomous corporate institution established by Parliamentary Act, No. 15 of 1955, and patterned in general after well-known non-profit applied research institutes in major industrial countries. It has its own Governing Board, administration, and full-time staff of 35 practical research engineers, scientists and assistants experienced in a wide variety of fields. At present the Institute operates two laboratories in Colombo, one in Kalutara and one in the Gal Oya Valley. The laboratory at Kalutara will soon cease to function as a separate unit of the C. I. S. I. R. as it is being transferred to the new central laboratories of the Institute in Colombo. The workshop is now in operation and promises to be one of the best equipped of its kind in the Island.

The Institutes' broad technical services are available equally and confidentially to individual private firms, producers' associations, financial institutions, government departments, specialised research institutions and others. The actual costs of work performed for individual account are reimbursed to the Institute by both private and government clients—in the latter case partly through a statutory government grant during the first five years. Additional support is received through the World Bank, United Nations, Colombo Plan, U. S. O. M., Asia Foundation, and other agencies and private donors interested in furthering Ceylon's economic development through this means.

The objects of the C. I. S. I. R. as set forth in its Act of Establishment, are—

- (a) to undertake testing, investigation and researches in such manner as the Institute may deem advisable with the object of improving the technical processes and methods used in industry, of discovering processes and methods which may promote the expansion of existing or the development of new industries or the better utilisation of waste products ;
- (b) to advice on questions of scientific and technological matters affecting the utilisation of the natural resources of Ceylon, the development of her industries, and the proper co-ordination and employment of scientific research to those ends ;
- (c) to foster the training of research workers ;
- (d) to foster the establishment of associations of persons engaged in industry for the purposes of carrying out scientific and industrial research ;
- (e) to undertake or to collaborate in the preparation, publication and dissemination of useful technical information ;
- (f) to co-operate with Departments of Government, Universities, Technical Colleges and other bodies in order to promote scientific and industrial research and the training of investigators in pure and applied science and of technical experts, craftsmen and artisans ; and
- (g) to assist otherwise in the advancement of scientific and industrial research and technical training.

A large part of the Institute's work consists of applied research on specific problems of Ceylon's industries, such as discovering how to improve a certain product, how to reduce a manufacturing cost without sacrificing quality, how to use a new raw material or a waste product profitably, or how to correct an annoying production difficulty.

During the year under review, the Institute had under way or completed 34 major long-term industrial research projects, of which eighteen were for government and the rest for private account. Five government agencies, sixty-seven local manufacturing concerns and two other research institutes engaged the C. I. S. I. R. for paid services during this period.

The Institute has set up a Palm Sugar Research Centre at Kakkapalliya. Investigations on the production of sugar from sweet toddy of the indigenous palms are being undertaken at this centre.

An integral part of the Institute's activities is the gathering and dissemination of technical information on varied aspects of industry. In the furtherance of this objective the institute besides maintaining an up-to-date library has obtained a librarian from abroad who has undertaken the training of local personnel to fit them into the positions of librarians of this and similar research institutes.

Five patent applications have been filed on developments made at the Institute. Two of these patents arose from investigations sponsored by private individuals, whilst two others are the result of investigations carried out on institute-initiated projects. A Government-Sponsored project provided the basis for the fifth patent.

In addition to the privately-sponsored research projects—many of which were of a confidential nature—at the time of publication, the Institute has undertaken amongst others, the following laboratory studies for Government account :—

- (a) New sources of commercial vegetable oils,
- (b) Improved desiccation of coconut,
- (c) Manufacture of hard board from coir dust,
- (d) Improved distillation of citronella oil,
- (e) Improved distillation of cinnamon oil,
- (f) Rubber compounding and testing for manufacturers,
- (g) Production of sugar from sweet toddy.

The Institute itself also initiates research studies which offer prospects for the creation of new Ceylon industries.

CHAPTER VIII

MINERAL RESOURCES

I—MINERALS

A number of minerals of economic importance exist in the Island. Of these the earliest to be exploited was plumbago or graphite. The Ceylon graphite deposits are the biggest and most productive deposits of this mineral in the world and for several decades the Island was the World's principal source of graphite. Even more famous than this mineral are the gems of Ceylon, principally the Sapphire and Ruby. But the gemming industry is un-systematic and highly speculative. Recent investigations have revealed the existence of a number of rare earth minerals such as thorinite, thorite, ilmenite and monazite. There are also large deposits of kaolin and quartz sand, the reserves being large enough to develop an export market. Limestone deposits are now being utilised for the manufacture of cement. Surface deposits of iron-ore are also found. The Island also produces a large quantity of salt obtained from the solar evaporation of sea water.

Graphite

The chief mineral industry of the Island is the mining of graphite. During the war years, there was unprecedented mining activity, and the peak year was 1942, when over 27,700 tons were exported. With the end of the war, however, the demand fell and production has declined.

TABLE 8-1 GRAPHITE STATISTICS, 1951-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of mines working at the end of the year</i>	<i>No. of men employed at the end of the year</i>	<i>Quantity* (long tons)</i>	<i>Value (Rs.)</i>	<i>Average price per ton (Rs.)</i>
1951	67	1,601	12,621	8,145,524	645
1952	58	1,223	7,659	6,199,606	809
1953	24	1,014	7,218	3,888,752	539
1954	38	910	7,755	4,257,891	550
1955	44	1,252	9,878	6,191,489	625
1956	34	1,258	9,207	6,210,510	675

Mica

Small deposits of phlogopite of good quality ("Amber mica" as it is popularly called) occur widely distributed in the hill country in close association with dolomitic limestones. They occur mainly in the Kandy, Matale and Badulla Districts. The deposits are irregular, the mica being found in pockets with much barren ground in between. Mining has been haphazard and un-systematic. No mica was exported during the year.

Precious and Semi-precious Stones

Precious and semi-precious stones are found principally in the gravels of the Ratnapura District and the south-west portion of the Island. The most important gem stones are sapphire and ruby (varieties of curundum), chrysoberyl (including cat's eyes and the rare stone alexandrite), beryl (Aquamarine) and semi-precious stones topaz, spinel, garnet, zircon, tourmaline, varieties of quartz (cainngorm, citrine, amethyst) and moonstone.

* Export figures.

The gem stones are all obtained from alluvial gravels with the solitary exception of moonstone, which is now mined from partly kaolinised (decomposed) pegmatites at Meetiagoda near Ambalan-goda. Most of the precious stones have been derived from pegmatites associated with the Khondalite series of rocks. According to the nature of the occurrence, the mining methods employed are (1) surface placer mining, (2) pits in old river alluvium and gravel, and (3) dredging of river beds. Very few pits use mechanical contrivances.

Rare Earth Minerals

Minerals belonging to the cerium, yttrium, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, thorium and uranium groups have been identified in the Ceylon rocks. Of these, thorianite is perhaps the most important from the scientific as well as from the economic point of view. The mineral was first detected in the heavy residues obtained from the washing of the stream gravels of the Bambarabotuwa area and subsequently in Meddegama in the Galle District. The deposits were however soon believed to be exhausted. Recent work has led to the "rediscovery" of thorianite in Bambarabotuwa and a few other areas where unworked deposits of the mineral have been discovered.

Heavy Mineral Sands

The minerals, ilmenite, rutile, monazite and zircon occur in large quantities on the beaches as natural concentrates of a high degree of purity. Where ilmenite predominates the sands are black in colour and are referred to as "black sands". The largest and best known "black sand" deposit is the one at Pulmoddai north of Trincomalee, which contains about 75 per cent. ilmenite, about 12 per cent. rutile and about 6 per cent. zircon, and the total quantity of "black sand" available in a well concentrated form is roughly of the order of four million tons. Monazite and zircon are invariable constituents of the west coast black sands, while garnet becomes conspicuous in the more southerly of these deposits. In general the proportion of monazite to ilmenite rarely rises over 2 per cent. but locally in patches and streaks, much higher concentrations of monazite occur, e.g., at Kaikawela, near Induruwa and Kudremalai.

Iron Ores

About six million tons of high grade iron-ore have been located in recent years distributed in more or less well-defined belts in the south-west sector of the Island. The deposits are secondary and the ores are essentially confined to the surface or a few feet below it. The ore consists of a mixture of hydrated oxides of iron, chiefly limonite and is of more or less uniform composition and structure, being a soft, cellular aggregate of the hydrated oxides and generally free from clayey matter and other impurities. The ore also shows an average content of about 50 per cent. metallic iron. There is no mining at present and the deposits are not being exploited.

Kaolin

Very large resources of kaolin or china-clay, lying a few feet below the surface, have been located in many parts of the Island. A deposit estimated at about ten million tons has been located at Boralesgamuwa a few miles from Colombo, and other deposits occur by the coast from Negombo to Galle. When refined these clays show excellent qualities in regard to chemical composition, burning properties, texture and plasticity.

Other clays found in the Island include brick and tile clays, suitable for the manufacture of bricks and tiles.

Quartz Sand

Several hundred million tons of high grade glass sands containing 98 per cent. silica occur as surface deposits on the west coast (Marawila, Kalpitiya) and in the north near Point Pedro.

Limestone

Miocene limestone of a high degree of purity, suitable for use in the manufacture of cement, is found in large quantities in the Jaffna Peninsula.

The coral deposits of the west coast and south coasts and the Archaen (largely dolomitic) crystalline limestones of the interior are extensively burnt for lime.

Magnesite

A few thousand tons of crystalline magnesite with a content of about 95 per cent. are known to occur in Randeniya.

Peat

Over fifty million tons of peat with 50–60 per cent. total combustible matter have within recent years been estimated to occur in the Muthurajawela swamp, south of Negombo Lake, as well as in the swampy ground on either side of the lower Kelani Valley.

II—ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALOGY

The Department of Mineralogy is responsible for the systematic geological survey of the Island and the supervision of the mining industry. The Geological Survey Branch of the Department undertakes geological mapping and specific mineral investigations, while the Mines Branch is concerned with the administration of the Mining Enactments of the Island.

Along-side the function of geological mapping, functions such as specific investigation of economic mineral deposits, engineering geology and water supply were undertaken and the Department continued to play a useful part in the planning and development of the Island's industrial projects.

Economic Geology

Thirty mineral inquiries were reported on during the year. A detailed survey of the kaolin field at Meetiyagoda by drilling was undertaken. The preliminary laboratory examination has proved that a good quality kaolin can be produced by suitably washing the clay. The clays, which burn white, would be suitable for the manufacture of china, electric insulators and other high grade ware.

The field investigation for brick and tile clays in the valley of the Pusweli Oya at Galagedera near Padukka was continued. The field investigation has proved an extensive clay field suitable as a source of clay for the brick and tile industry. The clays show a good deal of variation and some selection and blending will be necessary.

The pilot plant for the recovery of monazite was reopened in April, 1956. Over 800 tons of mineral sands with an average monazite content of 6·8 per cent. were collected from the Beruwala area. The production during the nine months of 1956 amounted to 60 tons of semi-refined monazite, assaying approximately 70 per cent. monazite.

Several water supply investigations were undertaken and reports were furnished to Government and other organisations and to members of the public.

As in the previous years, water supply investigations for the selection of well sites were carried out in the Colonization Schemes.

One of the most important engineering geology investigations carried out in recent years was in connection with Stages IIA and IIB of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. The report included a comprehensive account of the rock types, the geological structures, the depth and extent of weathering, the ground water conditions and the stability of the right bank of the Kehelgamuwa Valley between the Castlereagh dam, now under construction, and the head of the Norton Reservoir.

Drill cores from the site of the proposed 450-foot high Randenigala dam (West of Minipe) were examined and a report was furnished to the Irrigation Department.

Some of the subjects on which reports were furnished during the year to the respective authorities are the following :—

- (a) A 40-foot breach of the Irrigation Channel at Moragaspitiya, Elkaduwa.
- (b) Site conditions in a marshy area near Kotte for Radio masts.
- (c) Ginigathena land-slide.
- (d) Removal of sand and coral limestone from the south-west coast of the Island.

III—THE SALT INDUSTRY

Salt is manufactured by solar evaporation of seawater, which in earthen enclosures is allowed to evaporate under the natural action of sun and wind until it reaches a stage at which salt deposits of its own accord.

With the plentiful availability of flat, open clayey lands, with comparatively low annual rainfall, with strong, steady and persistent winds throughout half the year and with an excellent transport system, the dry zone coast of Ceylon presents many suitable areas for the manufacture of salt.

Prior to 1920, salt was manufactured and collected largely by private enterprise, subject to a system of licensing, and Government supervision for the collection of a variable excise ; but due to the inefficiency of the system resulting in fluctuating output, insufficient production and salt of poor quality, model salterns were established at Elephant Pass in the north and at Palavi in the north-western part of the Island by the Government in the early twenties. There are as many as fifteen salterns of widely-different productive capacities, lying along the dry, coastal areas of the Island, and there have been many more in the past.

The salt industry is a Government monopoly, and all salt produced by private enterprise is bought by Government for resale to consumers within Ceylon. All the salt so produced in the Puttalam and Trincomalee Districts, and at Chiviyateru in the Jaffna District, is now bought by Government at a fixed price of Re. 1 per cwt. The salt manufactured anywhere, whether in Government salterns or by private manufacturers, comes into Government Storage Platforms, and from there is sold to the trade at standard rates fixed with effect from June 8, 1956, at Rs. 4 per cwt. loose ex-platform and Rs. 5 per cwt. in bags, delivered free from rail. Roughly 70 per cent. of these amounts in profit.

In July, 1955, the Salt Department, which for five years past was only a Division of the Department of Industries, was recreated to face a rather critical situation. Large stocks of salt, accumulated in 1948, were fast running out and, at the beginning of 1956, stocks sufficient to last only a few months brought the country to the verge of a salt famine. Yala and Maha harvests had to be planned in 1956. Careful planning and fortunately, good weather, combined to enable in 1956 a record collection of salt, never before possible.

The quantity of salt consumed by man is remarkably uniform throughout the world, and in the tropics has been calculated to be about 13½ pounds per head per year. The actual sale of salt over the years has conformed to this estimated demand, although there are slight variations due to carry-forward stocks and, perhaps, some pilferage in remote areas. The production, consumption and price figures for the last ten years are given in the following table :—

TABLE 8·2 SALT STATISTICS, 1947-56

Year	Production (in tons)	Consumption (in tons)	Price (per ton) Rs. c.
1947	22,791	46,544	n.a.
1948	77,429	44,867	18 60
1949	28,220	48,025	26 00
1950	66,859	46,718	22 00
1951	25,834	48,283	56 00
1952	45,308	49,211	28 00
1953	57,026	51,981	32 65
1954	50,434	52,001	32 50
1955	38,905	47,305	34 60
1956	106,565	49,923	20 20

Over 3,000 tons of salt are issued in Ceylon at various concessionary rates, for various industries, notably the fishing industry, the soap industry, tanneries and coconut estates. Issue figures for the year under review are as follows :—

	<i>Tons</i>
Fish curing	2,549
Soap manufacture	406
Tanneries	371
Agriculture	102
Total	3,428

There are two major functions of the Salt Department. One is the protection of the petty trader and the consumer of salt against the trade monopolist. Second is the development of a very large industrial milieu based on the solar evaporation of sea water.

The sea is a rich storehouse of almost every element that occurs on this earth. The easiest to be obtained and the cheapest is common salt, for which there is a large world market, but real profits, lie in the processing of waste liquor at salterns (called bitters) to yield a series of valuable commodities of commerce, like gypsum, magnesia, potash, borax, bromine, &c., all of which find numerous uses.

By-products at present manufactured and marketed include Table Salt, Gypsum, Plaster of Paris and School Chalk. Table Salt was manufactured, packeted and marketed at the factory at Maradana from Vacuum-processed boiled salt obtained from Elephant Pass. Gypsum (hydrated calcium sulphate), a substance which forms in the condenser ponds at salterns just ahead of salt, is used for moderating the setting of Portland Cement. Recently, the Cement Factory at Kankesan-turai which ran short of foreign supplies, was saved from closing down for six weeks by the timely availability of saltern gypsum. The Cement Factory continues to be a ready buyer of whatever supplies of gypsum produced at salterns. The salterns will in the near future be ready to meet all the gypsum requirements of the Cement industry in Ceylon. Gypsum is a mineral which, when purified, roasted, ground and sieved, produces Plaster of Paris for surgical and ceramic purposes and also for the manufacture of School Chalk. The Government Factory at Palavi Saltern manufactures School Chalk in sufficient quantities to cover half the needs of Ceylon Schools.

It has long been recognised that all these are needed for the economic development of the Island and, therefore, all avenues of progress in the salt industry have been investigated and recommendations made years ago in Sessional Paper XIII of 1948. Government has now approved the Export Salt Development Scheme as one of the first four to be promoted in line with its industrial and economic policy. The first essential step is to obtain a hold on the world market and to make enough salt for it; the next, to extract from sea water chemicals and minerals more valuable than common salt. A National Salt Corporation will be set up under special legislation to handle the new Scheme, Stage I of which alone is estimated to cost Rs. 10 millions. The Scheme envisages the linking together of six of the largest Lewayas of the Hambantota District into a single composite productive unit, capable of giving half a million tons of salt annually, principally for an export trade.

Negotiations for a reasonable trade agreement with overseas markets have been taking place. Advice has also been sought from one of the foremost chemical consultants in the world. The Scheme for Hambantota promises fair to become a vast, industrial concern for salt and chemicals, creating much wealth and employment for the people of Ceylon.

References :

- (a) "Geology and Mineral Deposits of Ceylon" by L. J. D. Fernando.
- (b) Professional Paper No. 1, containing—
 - (i) Rare Earth Minerals of Ceylon,
 - (ii) Original of the Graphite Deposits of Ceylon.
 - (iii) The Three Superposed Peneplains of Ceylon.
 - (iv) Bibliography of Geology of Ceylon by D. N. Wadia.
- (c) Professional Paper No. 2 of 1944, containing—
 - Ilmenite, Monazite and Zircon ;
 - Gems and Semi-Precious Stones of Ceylon by D. N. Wadia and L. J. D. Fernando.

CHAPTER IX

FOREST AND WILD LIFE PROTECTION

I—FORESTS

THE new national Forest Policy continued to be in force. Its main features are—

- (a) To maintain, conserve and create forests for the preservation or amelioration of the local climatic conditions and the soil and water resources and for the protection of the local fauna and flora, when they are required for aesthetic, scientific, historical and economic reasons.
- (b) To ensure and increase, as far as possible, the supplies of smallwood for agricultural requirements and firewood for domestic consumption.
- (c) To maintain a sustained yield of timber and other forest produce for the housing, industrial, communications and other requirements of the country.
- (d) To work the forest to the highest possible economic advantage, as is consistent with the foregoing objectives.

In pursuance of this policy, the preparation of an inventory of the growing stock of the more accessible and more important forests in the Western and Sabaragamuwa Provinces has been undertaken. Aerial photo interpretation supplemented by field reconnaissances has been resorted to in the drawing up of the forest inventory and this system will be adopted hereafter, for the examination of all forests dedicated to forestry in the Island.

Each climato-geographical region of the Island has its distinctive type of forests.

The Wet Evergreen Forests fall within the south-western quarter of the Island and these have been worked strictly in accordance with the Working Plans Prescriptions, drawn for this group of forests. The major part of the tract falls within Selection Working Circle. According to prescriptions, trees are marked on lines which approach tree selection forestry, irrespective of consideration of their timber value. About 75 per cent. of the marked trees are actually utilized, at the different saw mills as well as at the Plywood Factory at Gintota. In addition, Hora—(*Dipterocarpus zeylanicus*) has been utilised for the conversion into sleepers. Fellings are followed, as far as possible by poison frill girdling of the residual marked trees as well as other inferior species for the improvement of the composition of the stock.

Dry Evergreen Forests

These occupy the northern and eastern sections of the Island and fall within the Northern, North-Central, Eastern, North-Western and Uva (Lower Region) Provinces. These forests still continue to make the biggest contribution to the Island's timber requirements. Selective fellings on a girth limit principle have been followed in these forests. The composition of these forests is mainly—*Wira* (*Hemacyclia sepiaria*)—*Palu* (*Manilkara hexandra*) and *Satin* (*Chloroxylon swietenia*). *Wira* is the principal species felled for fuel.

The commercial firewood scheme for the Jaffna Peninsula and Trincomalee town has made considerable headway. The Jaffna Peninsula is entirely dependent for its basic fuel and timber requirements on the Departmental Scheme of supplies.

The yields from the wet evergreen forests and dry evergreen forests including the other crown forests released for the implementation of major irrigation schemes and other development schemes are given below :—

TABLE 9-1 YIELDS FROM WET EVERGREEN FORESTS AND OTHER CROWN FORESTS IN 1956

	<i>Wet Evergreen Forests (Reserves and proposed reserves)</i>	<i>Dry Evergreen Forests and other Crown Forests</i>
Total extent in acres	23,259	443,409
Logs cu. ft.	566,875	112,077
Poles, Class I No.	3,199	2,199
Poles, Class II No.	5,975	5,940
Poles, Class III No.	14,802	14,802
Fence Posts No.	2,254	2,676
Firewood cu. yds.	5,320	5,076

Artificial Regeneration

In accordance with the present policy of the Government, the Forest Department has intensified its forestation programmes. The *taungya* system of raising plantations of Teak in the Dry Zone and Jak in the Intermediate Zone has been closely followed. The scheme of mechanised afforestation of the up-country patanas, organised with F. A. O. assistance in 1953 has been continued entirely under departmental control, since 1956. A total extent of 404 acres have been added during the year.

Co-operative (Taungya) Reafforestation with Teak and Jak

Teak.—Reafforestation with Teak has now been extended to all suitable forests in the Dry Zone. Although the taungya system worked satisfactorily, yet in some divisions, planting had to be resorted to, through Departmental Agency, due to the difficulty of getting suitable licencees who would agree to the exclusion of certain crops such as manioc (*Manihot utilissima*) wet paddy and kurakkan (*Eleusine coracane*) except under controlled conditions. Such control is difficult, if not impossible to achieve and consequently teak plants have been seriously inhibited in growth. 308 acres have been added to the existing extent.

Jak.—Two large-scale encroachments in Wegodapola Proposed Reserve and Kadawatte Proposed Reserve in the Intermediate Zone were reafforested by taungya system. The policy of allotting such areas to Co-operative Societies in preference to private individuals has been closely followed.

Tree Planting Campaign

The Tree Planting Campaign organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1954 was given the fullest support. The demand for planting material from schools and public bodies such as Rural Development Societies was very high and special nurseries had to be maintained to meet the demand.

155,895 plants of Teak—*Tectona grandis*, Mahogany—*Swietenia macrophylla*, Halmilla—*Berrya cordifolia*, Margosa—*Azadirachta indica*, Tamarind—*Tamarindus indica*, Nedun—*Pericopsis mooniana*, and other species were issued during the year through the Revenue Officers.

Research and Education

Monthly observations recorded by the territorial Range Officers in the phenological plots were examined at the Head Office of the Forest Department and observations checked in the field. Periodic height measurements of tree species were recorded to determine seasonal variation in growth.

The 8 Arboreta of exotics in the Up-Country Division and the North-Central Division and the 2 Natural Forests Arboreta in Kottawa and Sita Eliya were maintained in good order. The 12 Research Nurseries were maintained for the purpose of carrying out germination tests and raising planting stock for the routine garden trials and Arboreta. The large number of existing gardens were maintained for investigation of the best method of artificial regeneration and study of silvicultural characteristics of the species under control.

Timber Utilization Research

Polishing of end grain species of timber for hand lens studies and direct photography of structure from the solid polished surfaces have been continued. Microscope slides of sledge microtone sections stained differently have been prepared of fifteen species.

The saw mill was in continuous operation throughout the year and all timber coming off the mill were stacked for air-seasoning.

Routine bending tests on thin laminae were continued. Forty species were examined during the year. Halmilla and Etamba still remain the best species, being superior to *Panamora—Doona oblonga*, *Beraliya—Doona spp.* and *Eucalyptus Maculata*. The species giving the worst results were *Pini Beraliya—Doona ovalifolia* and *Ankenda—Acronychia pedunculata*.

Broad-gauge creosoted sleepers of *Eucalyptus pilularis E. microcorys* and *Tumpalai—Vatica obscura*, laid down in previous years continued to be under observation.

Utilization

Requirements of both the Public and the Government Departments were met through the Departmental contractors. Supplies of timber to Government Departments during 1955-56 were—

Logs	827,399 cu. ft.
Sawn timber	459,961 cu. ft.
Sleepers, No.	115,027
Firewood	168,354 cu. yds.
Outside slabs, No.	127,527
Poles, No.	415,652

The sales from the Central Timber Depot, Colombo, during the year amounted to Rs. 690,859-49.

With the gradual depletion of the forest capital due to increased demands as a result of the increasing population and improved standards of living, non-durable hardwoods are now being used for construction purposes. The Depot at Boossa has been equipped with modern preservative plant and an open preservative treatment tank has also been installed at Kurana Timber Depot.

Timber Imports

In keeping with the policy of Government to reduce the importation of timber of all kinds to a minimum, imports of teak has been considerably reduced. 593,790 tons of teak valued at Rs. 672,730 were imported during the year. Teak for furniture making for Government Departments was met from the local product. The original prejudice against the use of the locally grown teak is not so pronounced now. This is evident from the fact that there is a considerable demand for

even thinnings (small sized trees) from the plantations. Other species taking the place of previously imported teak and gaining in popularity are—*Halmilla*—*Berrya cordifolia* Hulanhik—*Chuckrassia tabularis* and *velutina*, locally grown *Mahogany*—*Swietenia macrophylla*, *Satin*—*Choloroxylon swietenia*; *Milla*—*Vitex pinnata* and *Ranai*—*Alseodaphne semecarpifolia*.

The Forest Department supplied 117,993 Broad Guage Sleepers from the Crown Forests. Of these 53,000 sleepers were of Hora treated with fifty-fifty mixture of Creosote and Furnace oil under the Bethel Process. The rest of the sleepers were of the durable hardwoods from the Dry Evergreen Forests.

II—BOTANIC GARDENS

There are three Botanic Gardens in Ceylon administered by the Department of Agriculture. They are supervised by a Superintendent of Gardens with Headquarters at Peradeniya.

These gardens are situated in the different climatic zones and enjoy the benefits of both monsoons.

(a) *Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya*.—The history of these gardens dates as far back as 1371, when King Wickrama Bahu III ascended the throne and kept court at Peradeniya. The gardens were established in 1821 for the purpose of accommodating exotic-plants and enjoy a world-wide reputation for its wealth of tropical vegetation. Situated 68 miles from Colombo, along the Colombo-Kandy Road at an elevation of 1,500 feet above sea level, these gardens have an equable climate and an average rainfall of over 80 inches a year.

Many species of tropical plants from various parts of the world are represented here. They are of much interest to Botanists, Horticulturists and students of Botany.

Exchange of plant material with Botanic Gardens and allied institutions in other parts of the world is being conducted on an appreciable scale.

Research is conducted in different aspects of botanical importance and foreign scientists continue to visit these gardens.

(b) *Botanic Gardens, Hakgala*.—This garden was established as Cinchona Experiment Station in 1861. It is situated more or less in a temperate climate, six miles from Nuwara Eliya, at an elevation of 5,581 feet above sea level. The vegetation here is sub-tropical and many temperate plants introduced from abroad thrive fairly satisfactorily.

(c) *Botanic Gardens, Henaragodda, Gampaha*.—This garden was opened up in 1876 to accommodate the original rubber seedlings that came east. It is situated 17 miles from Colombo at an elevation of 35 feet above sea level. The original rubber plantation is still in existence. The two patches of original jungle on either side of the entrance is of interest.

III—WILD LIFE PROTECTION

National reserves declared under the provisions of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, No. 2 of 1937, cover a total extent of 1,132.1 sq. miles and are distributed as follows :—

- (i) Four Strict Natural Reserves, 234.4 sq. miles in extent in which wild life is left entirely undisturbed and free from human interference. An area in which the survival of a plant or animal is in imminent danger also may be declared a strict natural reserve. Opportunities are, however, afforded to qualified persons to conduct scientific research in them.
- (ii) Two National Parks, Ruhuna and Wilpattu, covering an extent of 410.5 sq. miles into which admission is freely allowed, on permits, to all classes of persons for the purpose of observing and studying the Fauna and Flora.
- (iii) Intermediate Zones, 487.2 sq. miles in extent, in which controlled shooting is allowed on licences in the Open Season. Only filming is permitted in them during the Closed Season.
- (iv) Sanctuaries in which all forms of human activity except hunting are allowed. No permits are required to enter Sanctuaries.

The Yala and Wilpattu National Parks have been increasingly popular and attracted a record figure of 11,017 visitors from April, 1956, to December, 1956. To meet the popular demand increased accommodation is being provided.

Besides enforcement of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, the Department of Wild Life has the following functions :—

- (i) Control and Administration of the National Reserves ;
- (ii) Prevention and detection of offences under the Fauna and Flora Protection Act ; and
- (iii) Control of the killing and capturing of wild animals on licences.

The wild elephant population in Ceylon stands out around 800 animals. Their number continues to decline. The greatest casualties are from shooting in defence of crops. Cultivators are advised to refrain from shooting and to use other methods to scare the animals away. A ban on the capture of elephants for a further period of three years from 1957 has been recommended.

The leopard, an unprotected animal which in certain areas was once found in abundance and whose skin finds a ready market abroad is showing signs of declining.

The ban on the export of wild animals or parts of wild animals in commercial quantities or for commercial purposes, imposed in 1950, continued to be in force.

Various measures are being taken to stress the importance of the conservation of nature and the preservation of wild life.

As a mark of reverence and in recognition of the Buddha Jayanthi Year, for the first time in the history of wild life conservation in Ceylon, the issue of licences, including permits to shoot bear and leopards by moonlight during the Open Season was banned.

CHAPTER X

FISHERIES

Colombo Plan Aid

DURING the year 1956 much headway was made in the development programme connected with the fishing industry.

The Canadian Fisheries Project under the Colombo Plan continued to render valuable assistance in fishery development work.

The Fisheries Harbour at Mutwal, Colombo, is now ready for use for berthing of trawlers and research vessels.

Work on the 550 ton Cold Storage Plant and the By-Products Factory constructed at Mutwal, Colombo, with Canadian Aid, under the direction of Canadian Engineers is nearing completion. The Cold Storage Plant has facilities for quick freezing 10 tons of fish per 24 hours and to produce 25 tons of ice per day. It is expected to be ready for operations early in 1957. The staff for the operation of the Cold Storage Plant is also being trained under the supervision of Canadian Engineers.

The By-Products Factory will turn out Shark Liver Oil, Fish Meal, Dry Fish, Fish Oil and Fish Manures.

An expert in small craft fishing was made available from Japan under the Colombo Plan. He has been engaged in training fishermen in Negombo area in new and improved methods of trolling, longlining and dip-net fishing with lights.

Fisheries Development

Fresh Water Fishery Development.—During 1956, officers from the F. A. O. continued to advise and assist in the development of inland fisheries and in the technical training of Fisheries Officers. Field Surveys and investigations of the tanks in the Polonnaruwa area and the tanks and reservoirs in the Gal Oya area were conducted with a view to gauging their physical, chemical and biological conditions, their potential productivity and their possibilities for future development.

Experiments in rearing fish in paddy fields were carried out at Maha Iluppallama Farm with encouraging results. The fish were in the paddy fields for about $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. A slight increase in the yield of paddy in these fields has been observed. However, it is necessary to repeat these experiments before any conclusions can be drawn.

At Polonnaruwa Fisheries Station a new hatchery consisting of a series of spawning, nursery and stock ponds was constructed with flowing water from the Irrigation Channel and a pipe-borne supply from a well for the spawning of common carp, giant gourami and the kissing gourami. Due to the severe drought in the latter half of the year, the ponds went dry and all the fish were transferred to the Parakrama Samudra.

Fish farming is now well established at the Training School for Youthful Offenders at Wathupitiwela and it is included as an item on the Training Programme for the boys.

The fish ponds at Narahenpita carry stocks of common carp, kissing gourami, giant gourami, Chinese grass carp and *Trichogaster* in separate sections.

The spawning of common carp and kissing gourami in ponds was done in the fish ponds at the Fisheries Research Station under the guidance of the F. A. O. Adviser on Inland Fisheries. The young fish thus obtained were sent to Polonnaruwa, Wathupitiwela and Narahenpita. A course

of training for Fisheries Inspectors was conducted at the Fisheries Research Station, Colombo. This course included practical classes at the Narahenpita Fish ponds and the Kesbewa Lake in addition to theory classes.

Brackish Water Fisheries.—Field surveys and investigations of the lagoons of the Puttalam and Mullaitivu areas were conducted under the direction of the same F. A. O. Fisheries Adviser. Preliminary action was taken for the establishment of a Brackish Water Fish Culture Experimental Station in Negombo.

Mechanization of Fishing Craft.—Of the 40 Marine diesel engines gifted by Canada under Colombo Plan Aid, 32 have been sold to fishermen on hire-purchase system,—27 have been disposed of in Jaffna, 2 in Trincomalee and 2 in Mannar. One of these engines has been installed in a locally built "Oru" at Negombo and experiments are being conducted with a view to popularising mechanization along the west coast.

Commercial Activities

Trawler Fishing.—Trawler fishing by the Government vessels, "Braconglen" and "Maple Leaf" was confined as in previous years to the Wadge Bank and its neighbourhood. The "Braconglen" did 17 trips spending 175 days at sea with an average catch of 42 tons per trip; and "Maple Leaf" did 18 trips spending 173 days with an average catch of 37 tons per trip.

The vessels of the Fisheries Department have supplied during the year 1956, 3,071,547 pounds of fish to the Ceylon Co-operative Fish Sales Union Ltd, out of a total production of 3,130,149 pounds.

Shark Liver Oil Factory.—The present Shark Liver Oil Factory manufactured 3,402 gallons of standardised shark liver oil and 676 gallons of Veterinary shark liver oil, and 53 gallons of Stearine during 1956. The total quantity produced was sold to Government Institutions and to the public.

Pearl Fishery.—An inspection of the Pearl Banks was held in March, 1956. The dredge survey extended over 161 nautical miles and of the 420 stations examined 158 yielded oysters. Oysters were also found at 72 out of the 96 diving stations.

The oysters ranged in age from 6 months to 3½ years and several thousand oysters examined yielded 55 pearls, the largest being about 1½ mm in diameter. The oysters are still too young to support a fishery. It has been decided to rest the beds in Tambalagam Bay until the oyster population is big enough to support a fishery.

Chank Fishing.—During the year 1956 3,130 cwt. of chanks valued at Rs. 474,183 were exported.

Beche-de-mer Industry.—The fishing and export of beche-de-mer continued to be restricted to Fishermen's Co-operative Societies. Six Societies engaged in Beche-de-mer Fishing exported 1,435 cwt. of beche-de-mer valued at Rs. 218,809 during 1956. It is estimated that about 2,000 people are engaged in this industry. Singapore is the only market at present; possibilities of tapping markets in China, Hongkong and California are being examined.

Socio-Economic Activities

Registration of Fishing Craft.—The total number of boats registered as at December 31, 1956, was about 15,000. Of these about 7,200 boats had their registration renewed during the year. The unpopularity with which registration was greeted on its first introduction in 1954 has subsided to a large extent, and fishermen now show more readiness to register their boats. It was, however, necessary in a few instances to enter prosecutions for failure to register their boats.

Housing for Fishermen.—Considerable progress has been made in regard to the construction of houses for fishermen. The first of these housing schemes came up in the neighbourhood of Moratuwa, where the building of 95 fishermen's cottages was started at four centres—Koralawella, Egoda Uyana, Moratuwella and Angulana. These houses are almost complete and will be ready for occupation early in 1957.

Two schemes under the Land Development Ordinance have also been launched, 1 at Kathaluwa in the Galle District and the other at Talawila in Puttalam District. Provision has been made for 111 cottages at Kathaluwa and 55 at Talawila.

One of the main problems that has been encountered is the lack of readily available land for the building of houses. In many areas crown land is not available. The acquisition of private land normally takes some time as the objections of the owners have to be inquired into in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act.

Land has however, been acquired at Thoduwawa and Magalle; and the housing schemes for these areas will be started shortly. Acquisition proceedings are going on in respect of land at Dehiwala, Kottegoda, Gandara, Polykandy and Myliddy.

Relief to Fishermen in Distress.—Relief is granted by the Director of Social Services to individual fishermen in distress following fire, storm, accident, or other similar cause which adversely affects their occupation. Relief was sought in respect of 301 boats and 152 nets reported to have been damaged. 83 applications were rejected and a sum of Rs. 20,075 was paid during the year.

Crown timber is sold at royalty rates to genuine fishermen for the purpose of building new boats or replacing damaged or unseaworthy craft by the Conservator of Forests on the recommendation of the Director of Fisheries. 96 such applications have been recommended during 1956.

Beaching Grounds.—A beaching ground at Kurana-Katunayake was acquired during the year. Proceedings for the acquisition of land as beaching grounds for fishing craft at the following places were continued: Oruwella, Kaissawella, Puranawella, Gandara, Kudawella, Usaramba-Mirissa, Kottegoda, Suduwella, Kurinjanpitiya Balapitimodera, Rekawa-Tangalle and Nilwella-Dickwella.

Welfare Stores.—The Fisheries Department maintains Welfare Stores subsidised by the Government through which such fishery requisites as sail cloth, yarn, fish hooks, nylon fishing lines, fishing nets and twine are made available to fishermen at low prices, helping them thereby avoid excessive prices in the open market. Twenty Welfare Stores were maintained during the year.

Coastal Navigation Aids: Lights.—In certain areas it has been found necessary to provide shore-lights in order to help fishermen to locate their beaching grounds at night. Such lights were installed during the year at Panadure, Tangalle, Korallawella, Pallimunai, Hikkaduwa and Chilaw. Action has been taken to install them in few other places.

Removal of Reefs.—A large number of requests are made for the removal of reefs and blasting of rocks which hinder fishing operations. Due to the risk of sea erosion as a consequence, such requests are being examined carefully.

Air-Sea Rescue Service.—A co-ordinated rescue service between the Police, Air Force, the Master Attendant and the Fisheries Department is put in operation whenever it is reported that fishermen who have gone out fishing are missing or are in distress. Bad weather warning flags are also flown at many beaching sites when warning reports are broadcast by the Meteorological Department through Radio Ceylon. 23 distress calls were received from different parts of the Island during 1956.

Fish Kraals.—Licences to operate fish kraals in the Madu Ganga and Kudakalapu Ganga were issued by the Department of Fisheries. A consolidated set of regulations for the better regulation of fishing activities in inland-waters have been drafted for approval by the Parliament.

Fishing Disputes.—Regulations have been framed to give effect to the recommendations of the Committees of Inquiry appointed to inquire into (i) the Mullikulam and Arippe Fishing Dispute; and (ii) the Chilaw Fishing Dispute.

Regulations in respect of the following disputes are being drafted:—

- (i) Palangathurai Fishing Dispute;
- (ii) Oluvil Fishing Dispute; and
- (iii) Negombo Fishing Dispute.

Regulations to control the use of Parambu nets in certain parts of the Jaffna lagoon and regulations in respect of the Puttalam and Vattuvakal Fishing Disputes await the approval of the Parliament.

Other disputes have been inquired into and regulations will be drafted after the reports are accepted by the Hon. Minister of Industries and Fisheries.

Preventive Force.—The Preventive Force was strengthened to combat the dynamiting of fish in the areas hitherto unpatrolled. Sixty-two dynamiting cases were instituted during the year and in 22 cases convictions were secured. Trincomalee with 39 cases came first in the list of areas where dynamiting of fish was prevalent; other areas are Weligama, Dodanduwa in the southern coast and Batticaloa, Mutur, Kuchchaveli, Kalpitiya along the east coast. The patrol vessels of the Department of Fisheries continued to do fishing operations as well as anti-dynamiting work and rescue work in different parts of the Island.

Legislation

The Fisheries (Amendment) Act, No. 30 of 1956, was introduced and the Explosives Ordinance has been amended by the Explosives Act, No. 21 of 1956.

Fishermen's Co-operative Societies.—The Department of Fisheries provides these societies with technical guidance. Under the Fisheries Education Programme, the problems of the Fishermen members are investigated and assistance is given for the solution of these problems by means of mutual help and self-help.

An extension service designed to help fishermen with necessary technical information on gear, craft, mechanization, &c., has been instituted. This service will operate mainly through the Fishermen's Co-operative Training Centres established by the Department of Co-operative Development with a Colombo Plan Capital aid grant from Canada. The first of these centres will come into operation in 1957 at Batticaloa; other centres will be opened thereafter at Jaffna, Negombo and Galle.

One of the common problems confronting Fishermen's Societies is the lack of marketing facilities. The societies are often compelled to accept the terms offered by local traders particularly in respect of fish which is not accepted by the Ceylon Co-operative Fish Sales Union. The possibilities of establishing Regional Retail Organisations to operate from principal towns for disposal of Societies' produce are being examined. The first of these retail units catering for the needs of 3 societies will start operating from Batticaloa market early in 1957.

There were in 1956, 149 registered Fishermen's Co-operative Societies, while 74 societies were under organisation. Forty-six societies were under liquidation during the year.

Loans continued to be granted to Fishermen's Credit and Sales Societies and to Co-operative Fishing Societies only. A sum of Rs. 177,600 has been loaned to 23 societies during the year.

Fisheries Statistics

Compared with the figures for 1955, there has been an overall increase of nearly 30 per cent. in the catch. The largest increase was in the Western Division. The increase may be attributed to the incidence of a good fishing season.

TABLE 10-I—QUANTITY OF FISH LANDED BY DIVISIONS—1952-56

(excluding Trawler Landings)

Division	In cwt. (112 lb.)				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Western	63,786	51,927	33,888	33,871	77,429
Southern	97,677	60,787	82,403	67,010	64,908
Northern	123,841	178,590	157,120	222,758	255,243
Eastern	138,208	110,703	147,263	99,086	146,609
North-Western	71,026	77,508	137,116	169,801	221,123
Grand Total	494,538	479,515	557,790	592,526	765,312

TABLE 10.2 QUANTITY OF FISH LANDED BY KIND—1952-56
(excluding Trawler Landings)

Kind of Fish	In cwt. (112 lb.)				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Thora	14,834	20,688	15,701	16,008	17,638
Paraw	26,205	24,149	22,062	28,927	51,206
Blood Fish	67,140	37,664	53,401	40,070	65,649
Sharks and Skates	27,421	51,858	54,626	43,276	53,666
Rock Fish	120,240	139,424	160,083	156,423	102,504
Small shore-seine Fish—					
Group I*	39,834	37,117	36,403	51,995	81,100
Group II†	177,207	137,065	183,428	228,553	356,093
Other varieties	21,657	31,570	32,086	27,274	37,456
Total quantity	494,538	479,515	557,790	592,526	765,312

TABLE 10.3 QUANTITY OF CURED FISH PRODUCED BY DIVISIONS—1952-56

Division	In cwt. (112 lb.) dried weight				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Western	—	1,051	1,627	27	2,595
Southern	286	1,385	93	700	248
Northern	31,277	50,073	50,873	69,902	45,956
Eastern	37,119	26,244	32,584	11,203	21,225
North-Western	23,739	18,647	22,859	31,471	44,152
Total	92,421	97,400	108,036	113,303	114,176

Fisheries Research

Biological and Chemical Research.—Studies in the species composition, length frequencies and biology of the more important fish species in the trawler landings at the Wadge Bank Trawl Fishery were continued. A report on the general features and productivity presenting a discussion on the observed variations of catches will be published shortly. The biological study of the Sea Bream was continued—a study of the biology of the Scombrid fishes in Ceylon waters, a study of marine and estuarine crustacea, a limnological survey of the larger tanks—irrigation reservoirs—beginning with Parakrama Samudra, Minneriya and Giritale and a Planktonological investigation of Ceylon waters with special reference to fish eggs and larvae were the other investigations commenced during the year.

Experiments in the preparation of salted and dried fish, smoked fish and fish sauce were carried out at Polonnaruwa under the direction of the F. A. O. Fisheries Expert. Samples of commercially cured fish were analysed for content of moisture, oil, protein, ash, salt and sand to obtain information on quality and local consumer taste. A marketing test on laboratory cured samples of catfish

* Kumbala, Bolla, Katuwalla, Savalaya, Parati, Angila, &c.

† Herrings, Sardines, Hurulla, Sudaya, Halmessa, &c.

(Anguluwa) prepared by using a new process showed that this dried fish was accepted as a different product on account of its distinct flavour but its hygienic qualities of preparation may prove an important sales factor especially among the more educated class of consumer.

Liquid Fish Meal

Fish guts could be processed into liquid fish meal. Experiments on the use of liquid meal as a fertilizer showed that the liquid (in acid condition or neutralized) remained toxic to plants until it was diluted to one per cent. or less.

CHAPTER XI

FOREIGN TRADE

I—GENERAL REVIEW

THE year 1956 inherited a host of adverse price movements for Ceylon produce especially for tea. Import prices shot up to very high levels.

These adverse trends had a definite effect on the balance of trade. The favourable balance declined by Rs. 377.6 million from Rs. 478.9 million in 1955 to Rs. 101.3 million in 1956.

The total export earnings (domestic) declined from Rs. 1,872.1 million in 1955 to Rs. 1,652.3 million in 1956, a decline of 11.75 per cent. On the other hand the total imports have increased by Rs. 172.1 million amounting to an increase of 11.81 per cent.

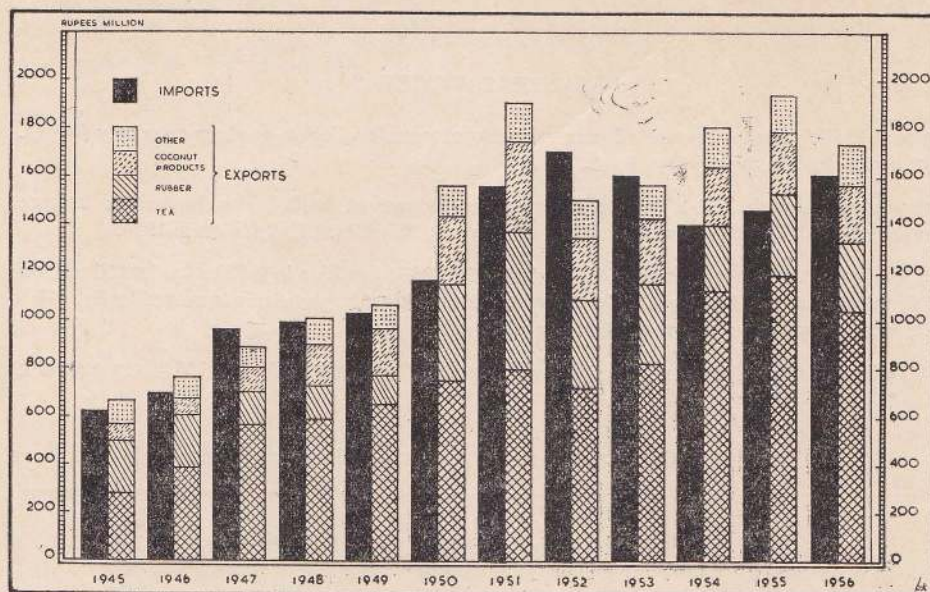
The following table illustrates the significant trends of external trade in 1956 compared with 1955 and 1954 :—

TABLE 11.1 SUMMARY STATISTICS OF CEYLON'S FOREIGN TRADE

	<i>(Rs. million)</i>		
	1954	1955	1956
Total Exports	1,809.3	1,940.1	1,734.6
Domestic Exports	1,714.7	1,872.1	1,652.3
Re-Exports	90.0	68.0	82.3
Imports	1,397.3	1,461.2	1,633.4
Total Trade	3,206.6	3,401.3	3,368.0
Trade Balance	412.0	478.9	101.2
<i>Price Indices :</i>			
Domestic Exports	155	162	152
Imports	100	101	113
*Terms of Trade	65	62	74
<i>Volume Indices :</i>			
Domestic Exports	124	131	125
Imports	143	140	153

$$\text{* Terms of Trade : } \frac{\text{Imports Price Index}}{\text{Exports Price Index}} (\text{Base 1948} = 100)$$

BALANCE OF TRADE, 1945-56

**Composition of Trade**

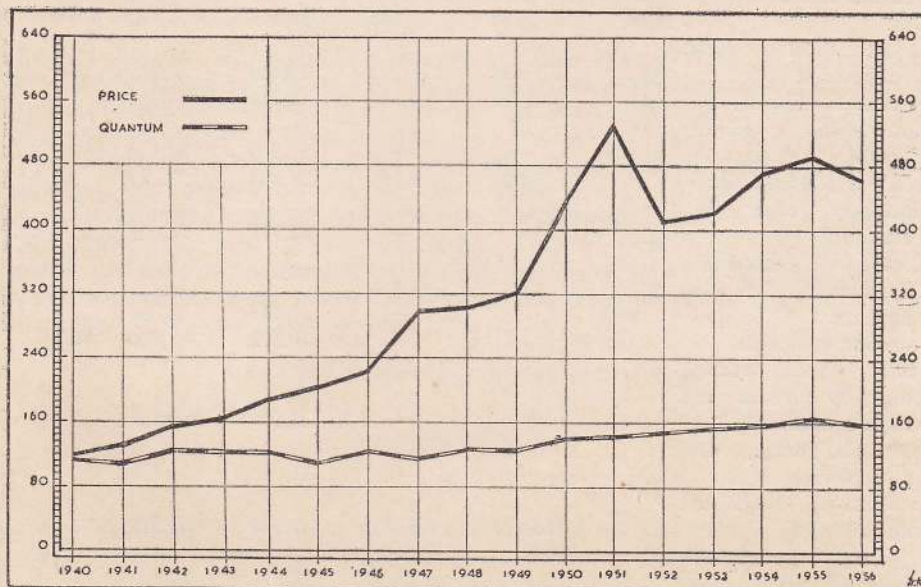
Exports.—During 1956 the contribution of tea, rubber and coconut products amounted to 95.7 per cent. of Ceylon's domestic exports as against 96.4 per cent. in 1955. The position of tea as our largest foreign exchange earner declined slightly to 63.2 per cent. The volume of exports of tea declined by 14 million pounds whereas the value of tea exports declined by Rs. 151 million. The average f.o.b. price for tea in 1956 was considerably lower than that of 1955.

The share of rubber decreased from 18.7 per cent. in 1955 to 17.7 per cent. in 1956. The volume of rubber exports fell by 30 million pounds and the value declined by Rs. 58 million.

The share of coconut oil and copra showed a slight decrease. The value of oil exports declined by about Rs. 14 million and the value of copra exports by about Rs. 8 million. The only bright feature had been the increase, both in value and volume, of the exports of desiccated coconut. The value of desiccated coconut exports increased by about Rs. 10 million which increased the share of this commodity to total exports by about one per cent. The value of all the other export products declined except cinnamon quills and arecanuts. Table 11.2 gives in detail the composition of Ceylon's exports for the years 1955 and 1956.

TABLE 11.2 MAJOR EXPORTS (DOMESTIC) 1955 AND 1956

Commodity	Unit	Quantity (In thousand)		Value (In thousand Rs.)		Per cent. to Total	
		1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
Tea	lb.	362,235	348,129	1,194,227	1,043,847	63.8	63.2
Rubber	„	222,344	192,996	350,348	292,553	18.7	17.7
Coconut oil	cwt.	1,945	1,698	113,291	99,220	6.1	6.0
Copra	ton	68	58	57,281	48,989	3.1	3.0
Desiccated coconut	cwt.	1,157	1,275	54,807	64,836	2.9	3.9
Other coconut products	„	—	—	33,973	31,448	1.8	1.9
Cocoa, raw	„	50	57	10,668	8,818	0.6	0.5
Cinnamon quills	„	42	45	12,043	17,973	0.6	1.1
Plumbago	„	198	183	6,202	6,197	0.3	0.4
Arecanuts	„	107	76	3,311	4,992	0.2	0.3
Papain	lb.	258	186	2,090	2,274	0.1	0.1
Others	—	—	—	33,875	31,116	1.8	1.9
Total	—	—	—	1,872,116	1,652,263	100	100

 INDICES OF EXPORTS (QUANTUM AND PRICE, 1940-56)
 (Base 1934-38=100)


Imports.—During 1955 the total commodity import bill went up by about Rs. 170 million. This increase was spread over a large number of items. The value and volume of rice imports increased heavily. Imports of rice were 2 million cwt. more than the imports in 1955 and cost about

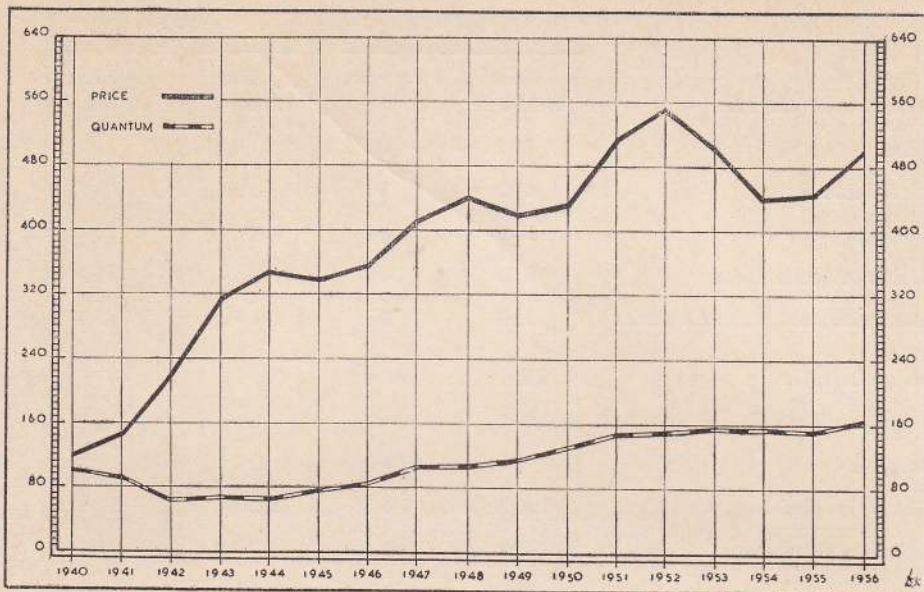
Rs. 42 million more. There was a heavy increase in the imports of sugar which increased the value of imports from Rs. 54 million to Rs. 86 million. More imports of fish products and currystuffs could be noticed. Among other consumer items the value of tobacco imports has increased.

An important feature in the composition of imports is the increase in the imports of liquid fuel, fertilizers, iron and steel and other metal manufactures, machinery and transport equipment. With the active implementation of the various development projects for the industrialisation of the country this trend can be expected to continue.

TABLE 11-3 IMPORTS, 1955 AND 1956

Commodity	Unit	Quantity (In thousand)		Value (In thousand Rs.)		Per cent. to Total	
		1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
Rice	cwt.	7,578	9,673	221,502	263,689	15.2	16.2
Wheat flour	"	4,304	3,645	86,301	70,483	5.9	4.3
Fish and fish preparations	"	—	—	67,836	77,957	4.6	4.8
Currystuffs (all items)	"	565	574	35,429	36,130	2.4	2.2
Sugar (refined, other sorts)	"	2,402	3,441	53,652	86,100	3.7	5.3
Milk products (all items)	lb.	28,833	28,271	41,773	41,078	2.9	2.5
Onions, other than red	cwt.	731	689	9,173	12,181	0.6	0.7
Potatoes	"	798	607	13,130	13,195	0.9	0.8
Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	lb.	4,152	4,086	16,999	18,013	1.2	1.1
Coal	ton	184	144	11,386	6,582	0.8	0.4
Liquid fuel, diesel, furnace and gas oil	gal.	176,424	135,793	79,420	61,760	5.4	3.8
Fertilizers (all items)	cwt.	3,730	4,157	48,714	54,380	3.3	3.3
Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	"	—	—	32,363	36,570	2.2	2.2
Iron and steel base metal	"	1,024	1,386	36,945	52,745	2.5	3.2
Machinery, other than electric	"	—	—	52,971	56,405	3.6	3.5
Electric machinery, apparatus and appliances	"	—	—	32,765	48,380	2.2	3.0
Transport equipment	"	—	—	70,572	83,500	4.8	5.1
Textile yarn, fabrics made-up articles and related products	"	—	—	135,029	160,401	9.3	9.8
Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	"	—	—	31,062	34,651	2.1	2.1
Kerosene oil, petrol and lubricating oil	"	65,774	63,092	44,944	45,228	3.1	2.8
Paper, paperboard and manufactures thereof	"	—	—	28,678	29,467	2.0	1.8
Others	"	—	—	309,100	340,877	21.2	20.9
Total		—	—	1,459,744	1,629,772	100	100

INDICES OF IMPORTS (QUANTUM AND PRICE, 1940-56)
(Base 1934-38 = 100)



Direction of Trade

In the field of exports the share to the Commonwealth Countries improved from 54.3 per cent. in 1955 to 56.2 per cent. in 1956, in spite of the fact the absolute value of exports dropped due to the general decline in Ceylon's export trade. The most significant feature was the improvement in the relative share of the United Kingdom which is Ceylon's largest buyer. The share of Ceylon's exports to the United Kingdom increased by 3.4 per cent. over last year's figure. However, our exports to Australia declined heavily from Rs. 149.4 million in 1955 to Rs. 95 million in 1956. There was general decline in Ceylon's exports to the other Commonwealth Countries except to the Union of South Africa where there was an increase of Rs. 7.5 million. Among the Non-Commonwealth Countries, the heavy rise in exports to China had contributed Rs. 61 million more. All other non-Commonwealth Countries reflected a declining trend except for Mexico and Tunis. Figures showing the distribution of exports are given in Table 11.4.

TABLE 11.4 EXPORTS BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

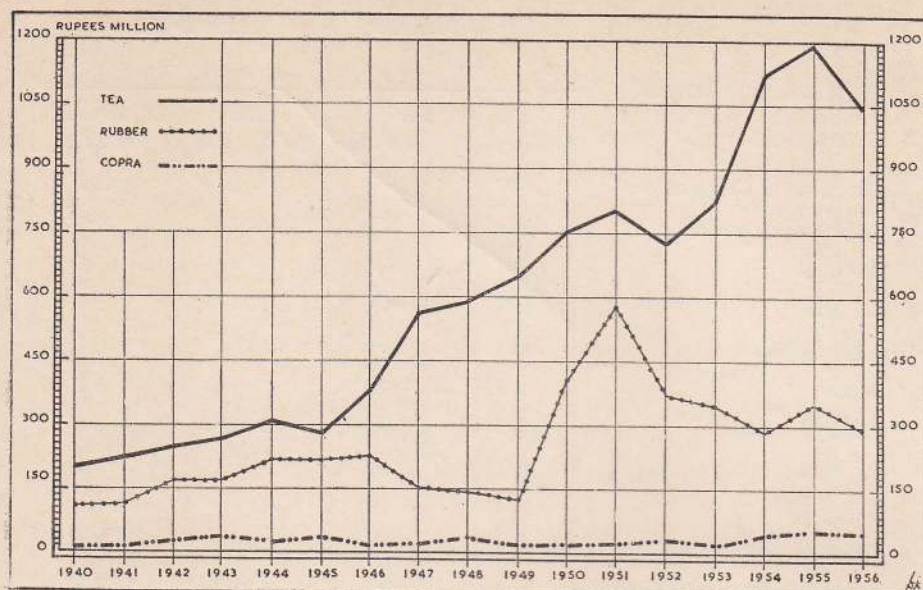
	January to December, 1955		January to December, 1956	
	Value (Million Rs.)	Per cent. to Total	Value (Million Rs.)	Per cent. to Total
Commonwealth Countries	1,016.2	54.3	928.7	56.2
United Kingdom	501.8	26.8	498.4	30.2
Australia	149.4	8.0	95.0	5.8
Canada	93.4	5.0	93.4	5.7

TABLE 11.4 EXPORTS BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION—(contd.)

	January to December 1955		January to December 1956	
	Value (Million Rs.)	Per cent. to Total	Value (Million Rs.)	Per cent. to Total
<i>Commonwealth Countries</i>				
India	77.7	4.1	71.4	4.3
New Zealand	43.2	2.3	42.1	2.5
Pakistan	14.9	0.8	6.6	0.4
Union of South Africa	83.0	4.4	90.5	5.5
Other Commonwealth Countries	52.8	2.8	31.4	1.9
<i>Foreign Countries</i>	850.1	45.4	719.3	43.5
Argentine Republic	0.1	—	0.5	—
Belgium	7.0	0.4	3.9	0.2
China (Peoples' Rep. of)	121.3	6.5	182.2	11.0
Egypt	89.9	4.8	27.0	1.6
France	22.9	1.2	15.5	0.9
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	75.4	4.0	59.4	3.6
Netherlands	44.5	2.4	35.0	2.1
Italy	50.2	2.7	12.9	0.8
Japan	11.0	0.6	7.2	0.4
Mexico	3.8	0.2	42.9	2.6
Tunis	8.5	0.5	16.7	1.0
U. S. A.	176.7	9.4	140.1	8.5
Other Foreign Countries	238.9	12.8	176.0	10.7
Ships' Stores	5.8	0.3	4.3	0.3
Grand Total	1,872.1	100	1,652.3	100

As regards Ceylon's imports an important feature was the shift in the major share of imports from the Commonwealth to the Non-Commonwealth Countries. Ceylon imported 51.9 per cent. of her imports from Commonwealth countries in 1955 but in 1956 her imports from this source dropped to 46.5 per cent. The position of the United Kingdom as our largest seller improved slightly, but our imports from India declined by about 3.5 per cent. Among the Non-Commonwealth Countries our imports from China increased considerably. There were no other striking changes in the direction of imports from other sources. Table No. 11.5 gives the distribution of imports.

EXPORTS OF TEA, RUBBER AND COPRA (BY VALUE) 1940-56



EXPORTS OF TEA, RUBBER AND COPRA (BY VOLUME) 1940-56

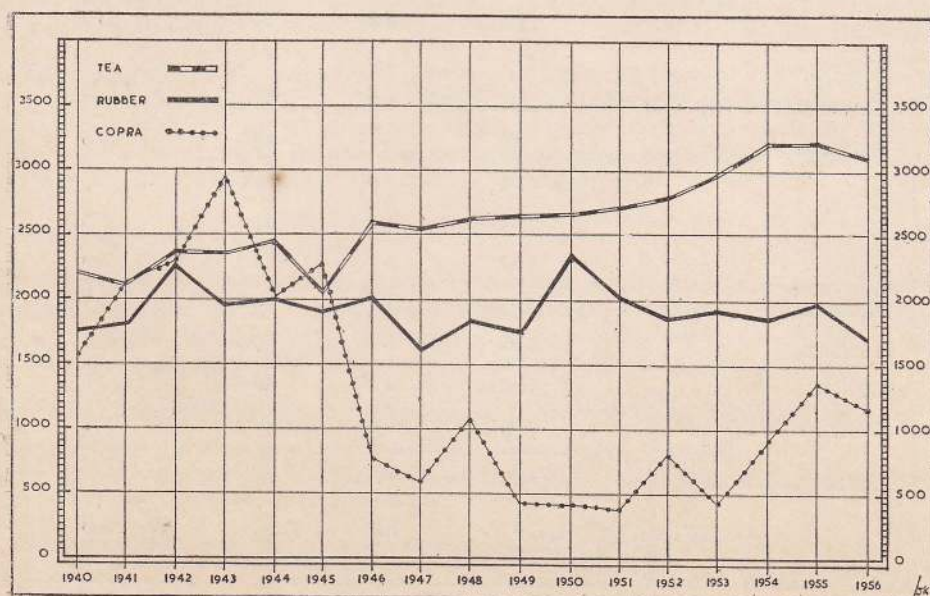
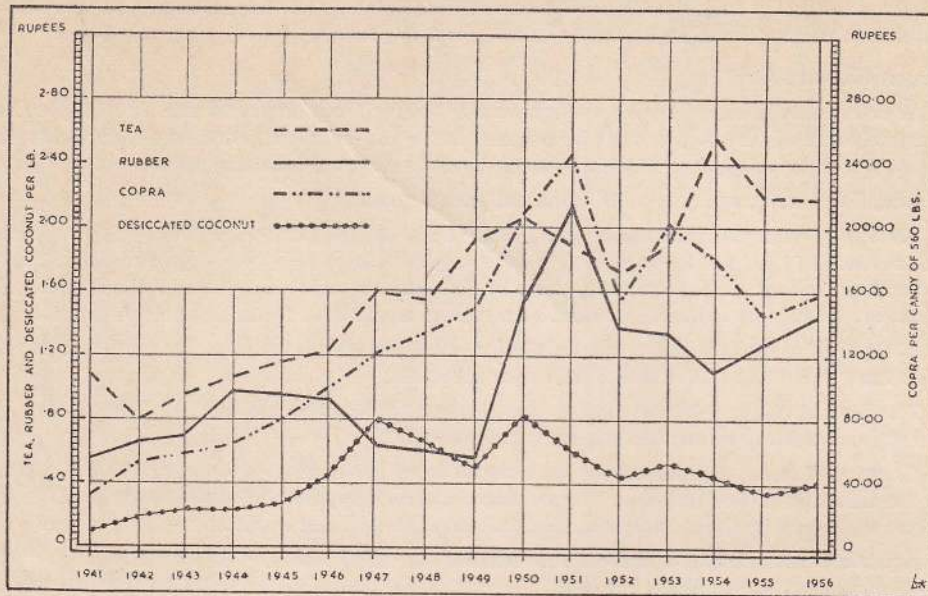


TABLE 11.5 IMPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	January to December, 1955		January to December, 1956	
	Value (Million Rs.)	Per cent. to Total	Value (Million Rs.)	Per cent. to Total
<i>Commonwealth Countries</i>	757.7	51.9	757.1	46.5
United Kingdom	306.9	21.0	344.7	21.2
Australia	87.3	6.0	94.5	5.8
Canada	15.8	1.1	16.3	1.0
India (Republic of)	242.1	16.6	212.7	13.1
Malaya	1.5	0.1	1.4	0.1
Maldiv Islands	6.7	0.5	10.6	0.6
Pakistan	21.3	1.5	6.9	0.4
Singapore	24.4	1.7	18.6	1.1
Union of South Africa	4.5	0.3	9.4	0.6
Other Commonwealth Countries	47.2	3.2	42.1	2.6
<i>Foreign Countries</i>	701.9	48.1	872.7	53.5
Belgium	26.8	1.8	37.7	2.3
Burma	116.2	8.0	145.3	8.9
China (Peoples' Rep. of)	79.9	5.5	133.8	8.2
Egypt	11.8	0.8	14.1	0.9
France	57.7	4.0	57.2	3.5
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	25.7	1.8	38.2	2.3
Indonesia	1.8	0.1	16.6	1.0
Iran	43.6	3.0	59.0	3.6
Italy	28.8	2.0	21.5	1.3
Japan	97.9	6.7	114.3	7.0
Netherlands	25.2	1.7	34.0	2.1
Thailand	12.8	0.9	10.9	0.7
U. S. A.	46.2	3.2	40.7	2.5
Other Foreign Countries	127.4	8.7	149.3	9.2
Countries Un-known	0.1	—	—	—
Grand Total	1,459.7	100	1,629.8	100

ANNUAL AVERAGE MARKET PRICES OF TEA, RUBBER, COPRA AND DESSICATED COCONUT, 1941-56



II—IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL

Import Control is directed towards (a) the regulation of the import trade to a greater or lesser degree in the context of Ceylon's Balance of Payments position, (b) the strengthening of the overall payments position of the Sterling Area, (c) the protection of certain local industries, (d) the procurement of goods for which export quotas have been fixed by the supplying countries as well as goods in short supply, (e) the Ceylonisation of the trade which is now a permanent feature of Ceylon's import and export trade policy.

Export Control is maintained for (a) the purpose of restricting the export of imported goods which are required for the essential needs of the Island, (b) the enforcement of minimum prices for certain export commodities, (c) the enforcement of standards of quality on certain products, (d) the control of strategic materials, (e) the restriction on the export of certain Ceylon produce required for the needs of the Island, and (f) the implementation of Trade Agreements.

Import Control Policy

Imports from E. P. U. Sources (excluding Austria and Germany).—Certain goods, originating from Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey are under licence. Licences for the importation of clocks, watches, textiles, motor cars and station wagons are issued only to Registered Ceylonese Traders.

Imports from Dollar Sources.—Certain goods originating from Dollar Sources are under licence.

Imports from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Japan, Poland, Yugoslavia, U. S. S. R., Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, China and Spain.—Only Registered Ceylonese Traders are permitted to import goods originating from these sources.

Imports from all Sources.—Certain goods are under licence from all sources and licences for such goods are issued at the discretion of the Controller.

Indent Agents.—Orders for goods originating from the following Ceylonised sources can only be placed through Ceylonese Indent Agents who have been registered by this Control :—

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, Spain, U. S. S. R., and Yugoslavia.

Export Control Policy

Gifts or commercial samples.—Export licences are not required for parcels sent by post provided the total value of the goods in such parcels sent in any one calendar month by any person to any country does not exceed Rs. 50 and the parcels do not contain the following goods :—

Rice, flour, condensed milk, milk foods and infants' food.

Removal of goods purchased ashore by Tourists, Transit Passengers and Ships' Crew.—Export licences are not required for goods for personal use or as gifts (except rice, flour, sugar, condensed milk, milk foods, infants' food) purchased ashore by Tourists, Transit Passengers and Ships' Crew with funds brought ashore by them, provided such monies are declared to the Customs on arrival.

Removal of goods by residents leaving Ceylon.—Residents leaving Ceylon are permitted to take with them without an export licence their personal effects.

Transshipment Cargo.—Export licences are required for transshipment cargo. The re-export of strategic materials to certain destinations is not allowed.

Commercial Exports.—Licences for the exportation of goods which are under control are issued at the discretion of the Controller. Export licences are not required for the following goods except where exports are to China, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania :—

Aquarium fish, arecanuts, Baskets and Basketware, Betel leaves, Coconuts (fresh), Coconut shell charcoal, Coconut shells (broken), Coconut shells, flour, Cardamoms, Cloves, Croton seeds, Coir yarn, mats and matting, Rope and other coir manufacture, Cocoa, Cinnamon bark oil, Cinnamon leaf oil, Citronella oil, Copra, Coconut poonac, Coconut desiccated, Coconut oil, Curios, Kapok, Kitul fibre, Mace, Mica, Nutmeg, Pepper, Plumbago, Postage stamps, (used and unused), Tea, Rubber toys, Rubber shoes, Shark fins, Straw, Grass, Rush and manufactures thereof, Tinned fruits, Tobacco unmanufactured, Vanilla and Wooden furniture.

Ceylonisation of the Export Trade.—Export licences are issued only to Registered Ceylonese Traders for goods to be exported to the following countries :—

China, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania.

III—SHARE MARKET REVIEW

Tea

The share market opened with a steady demand during the 1st Quarter of 1956. However, the 1st quarter index at 254 showed a slight drop as compared with the 4th quarter 1955 index which was 258. The index dropped to 224 in the 2nd quarter but improved a little during the 3rd quarter when it stood at 234. This increase was not maintained during the 4th quarter and the index once again dropped to 229.

Rubber

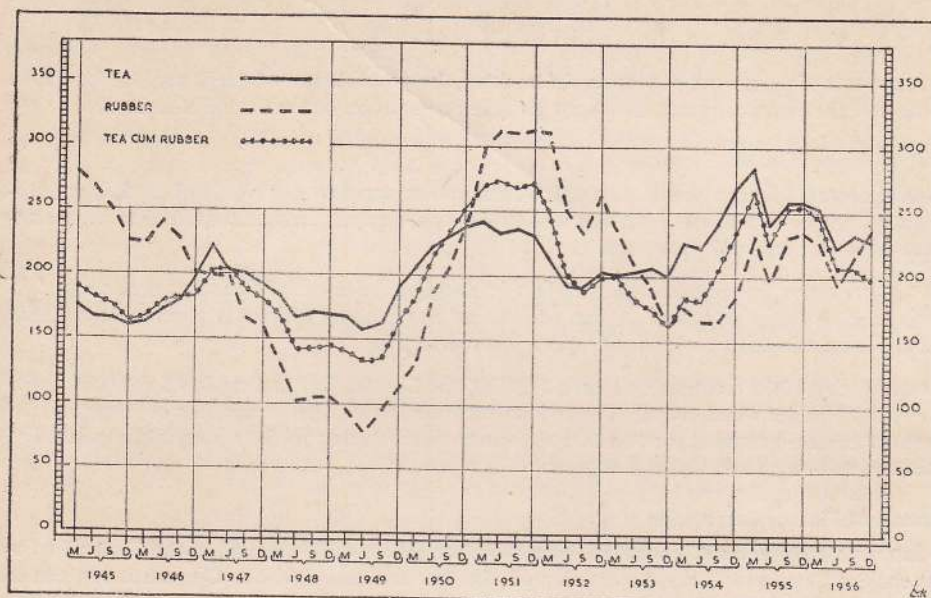
The share market maintained a high record throughout the year 1955 but in 1956 it registered a very big drop during the 1st and 2nd quarters when the indices were 227 and 195 respectively as compared to 235 for the 4th quarter of 1955. However, the fall in the share market did not continue and a rapid improvement followed. The index was 216 in the 3rd quarter and reached the high figure of 237 during the 4th quarter of 1956.

Tea-Cum-Rubber

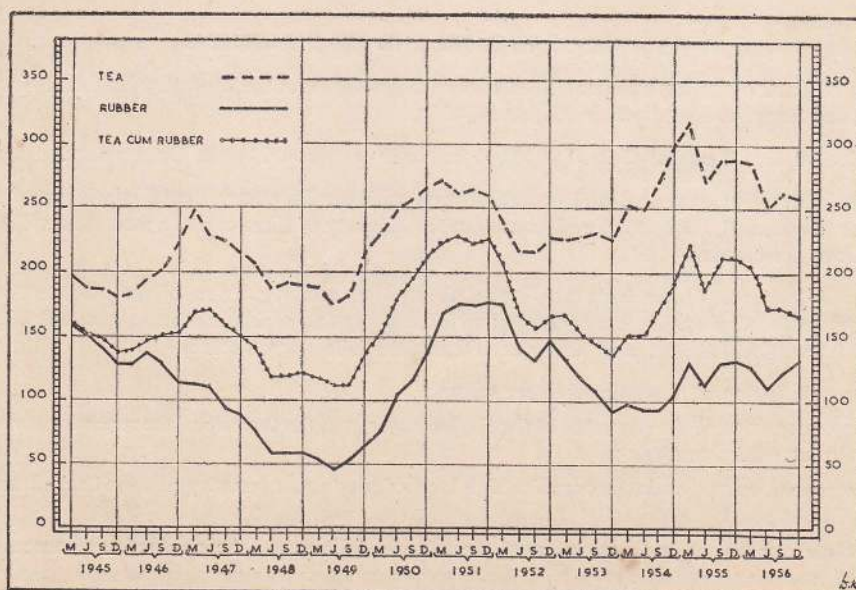
The demand for all descriptions continued its downward trend throughout the year. The 1st quarter index was 246 as compared to 255 in the 4th quarter, 1955. The 2nd quarter saw a further drop and index fell to 208 ; although both tea and rubber fetched a better market during the 3rd

quarter, no substantial improvement in the share of this sector occurred and the index was 208 in the 3rd quarter. The lowest figure was reached during the 4th quarter of 1956 when the index dropped to 199.

QUARTERLY INDICES OF SHARE PRICES (RUPEES COMPANIES), 1945-56
(Base : 1939 = 100)



QUARTERLY INDICES OF SHARE PRICES, 1945-56
(Base : Par Value = 100)



CHAPTER XII

MONEY, BANKING AND INSURANCE

I—GENERAL

BRIEF accounts of the growth of commercial banking, the establishment of the Central Bank and the evolution of the currency system have been given in earlier issues of the Ceylon Year Book.

The Development Finance Corporation

The Development Finance Corporation which came into existence by Act No. 35 of 1955, is an autonomous private body without Government control over its management though it has been established with the support of Government.

The Corporation has considerable freedom in deciding the form of financing projects and in ensuring the best of its resources. It can also initiate new projects where it is practicable and take an active interest in those projects with which it is connected.

At the closing of the accounts on March 31, 1957, the Corporation had rendered financial assistance to four projects and successfully underwritten the share issue of a public company, whilst agreement has been reached for financial assistance to six further projects now in the process of finalisation as to legal and technical aspects.

International Finance Corporation

The International Finance Corporation Agreement Act, No. 4 of 1956, passed by the Ceylon Parliament enables Ceylon to become a member of the International Finance Corporation which is a body set up for the purpose of furthering economic development by encouraging the growth of productive private enterprise in member countries, particularly in less developed areas, thus supplementing the activities of the I. B. R. D. Ceylon has paid \$166,000 to the Capital stock of the Corporation as subscription to 166 shares.

II—THE CENTRAL BANK AND ITS FUNCTIONS

The Central Bank of Ceylon was established under the provisions of the Monetary Law Act, No. 58 of 1949, and began its operations on August 28, 1950.

The Central Bank's capital of Rs. 15,000,000 has been contributed by the Government.

Responsibility of management and operation rests with the Monetary Board consisting of the Governor (Chairman), the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and a member appointed by the Governor-General.

The main functions of the bank are the administration and regulation of the monetary and banking system of Ceylon. It is also charged with the duty of so regulating the supply availability, cost and international exchange of money as to secure the following objects :—

- (a) the stabilization of domestic monetary values ;
- (b) the preservation of the par value of the Ceylon rupee, and the free use of the rupee for current international transactions ;
- (c) the promotion and maintenance of a high level of production, employment and real income in Ceylon ; and
- (d) the encouragement and promotion of the full development of the productive resources of Ceylon.

The Bank is empowered to adopt the customary techniques such as open market operations, adjustment of bank rates, alterations of reserve requirements, &c. The Commercial Banks in the country are required by law to keep with the Bank a minimum reserve against demand and time deposits. Profits from its operations are paid over to the Government.

The amount of outstanding Treasury Bills increased from Rs. 50 million at the beginning of the year to Rs. 60 million at the end of the year. The Bill rate fell from .75 per cent. per annum in December, 1955, to .46 per cent. in February, 1956, rose to .87 per cent. in September and then on there was a gradual decline in the rate to .60 per cent. at the end of the year.

A steady undertone prevailed in the Government security market during the year with a continuous flow of investment inquiry, especially from institutional investors. There was generally a paucity of stocks but the issues of Government loans early in February and later in November together with smaller issues of debentures by the Ministry of National Housing and the State Mortgage Bank eased the demand. Keen bids were noticed for all 3 per cent. and 3½ per cent. loans in general but most business was done in the short and medium dated maturities. Prices of Government securities remained practically unchanged over the year except for fractional variations in certain stocks which was due more to changes in maturity periods than to any change in the general level of interest rates. Market transactions in the 2½ per cent. Victory Loan, 1955-60 and the 3 per cent. War Loan, 1959-69, for example, were recorded throughout the year at 100, while the 3 per cent. National Development Loan, 1965-70 which registered business at 99 5/8 at the beginning gradually hardened to 100 towards the close of the year. The Government's borrowing operations were confined to long-term borrowing. For the first time the Central Bank issued its own securities to an amount of Rs. 10 million in two maturities in order to mop up the excess money supply.

The Central Bank's rate of advances to commercial banks remained unchanged at 2½ per cent. during 1956.

The ratio of reserves which the commercial banks are required to maintain with the Central Bank remained unaltered at 10 per cent. in the case of demand deposits and 5 per cent. in the case of time deposits.

The Central Bank of Ceylon, as agent of the Government continues to administer Exchange Control in terms of the Exchange Control Act, No. 24 of 1953. The scope of remittances abroad remained undisturbed since 1953.

There was no change in the exchange rate with respect to Sterling and Indian Rupees. The Rupee-Dollar Rate had to be changed from time to time during 1956 to keep in line with changes in the Sterling-Dollar Rate.

The income of the Bank for 1956, amounted to Rs. 27,800,858 and expenditure which included allocation to reserves in terms of section 38 of the Monetary Law Act totalled Rs. 23,800,858 giving a net profit of Rs. 4 million which was credited to the Consolidated Fund of Government in terms of section 39 (c) of the Act.

The total liabilities of the Bank as at the end of 1956 were Rs. 754.7 million as compared with Rs. 688.8 million at the end of 1955. In 1956 notes and coins in circulation amounted to Rs. 443.4 million and Bank deposits Rs. 150.1 million as compared with Rs. 425.0 million and Rs. 138.5 million respectively in 1955. Total assets which amounted to Rs. 754.7 million consisted of Rs. 737.1 million in International Reserve and Rs. 17.6 million in Domestic Assets. The respective figures for 1955 were Rs. 655.2 million and Rs. 33.6 million when total assets were Rs. 688.8 million. The table below gives the assets and liabilities of the Central Bank for 1955 and 1956.

TABLE 12.1 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE CENTRAL BANK

(Rs. million)								
	1955				1956			
	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June	Sept.	Dec.
ASSETS								
<i>International Reserve :</i>								
Cash and balances abroad including Treasury Bills	398.5	428.7	469.7	495.7	495.0	560.4	533.5	544.3
Foreign bills discounted	15.7	21.4	19.6	8.2	14.0	—	2.4	—
Foreign Government securities	151.5	151.5	151.2	151.2	164.6	169.1	192.7	192.8
Total	565.7	601.6	640.6	655.2	673.6	729.5	728.6	737.1
<i>Domestic Assets :</i>								
Loans and advances to Government	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Government and Government guaranteed securities	18.0	20.3	19.0	18.3	37.3	17.2	14.0	10.6
Other assets and accounts	4.5	7.2	10.1	15.3	16.7	7.8	5.9	7.0
Total assets or liabilities	588.2	629.1	669.7	688.8	727.6	754.5	748.5	754.7
International reserve as percentage of currency and demand liabilities	104.8	104.2	104.6	104.5	102.5	107.7	109.9	111.2
LIABILITIES								
<i>Capital Accounts :</i>								
Capital	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Surplus	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Total	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0

TABLE 12.1 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE CENTRAL BANK—(contd.)

	(Rs. million)							
	1955				1956			
	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June	Sept.	Dec.
LIABILITIES—(contd.)								
<i>Currency Issue :</i>								
Notes in circulation	359.1	356.2	388.1	402.9	393.4	419.8	419.4	419.2
Coins in circulation	20.6	20.8	21.3	22.1	22.5	23.2	23.6	24.2
Total	379.7	377.0	409.4	425.0	415.9	443.0	443.0	443.4
<i>Deposits :</i>								
Government	54.7	71.8	27.8	33.0	103.5	119.5...	43.2	59.5
Government agencies and institutions	6.6	16.6	20.1	12.9	21.8	6.0	2.8	7.1
Commercial banks	97.5	110.7	153.5	138.5	98.4	106.9	172.3	150.1
International Organisations	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.8
Others	0.6	0.7	0.7	16.8	16.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	160.2	200.6	203.0	202.0	241.4	234.2	220.0	219.5
Other liabilities and accounts	21.3	24.5	30.4	34.8	33.3	40.3	48.4	54.8

III—COMMERCIAL BANKS

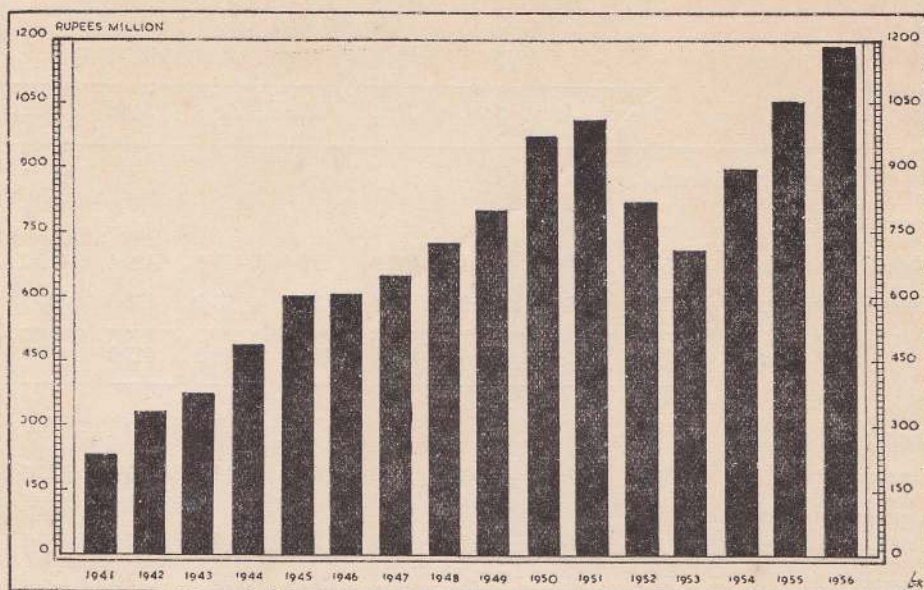
Of the Banks (Foreign and Local) registered under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance, No. 51 of 1938, the following continued to do business during the year 1956 :—

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China ; The Eastern Bank Limited ; The Grindlays Bank Limited ; The Hatton Bank Limited (Incorporated under the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Ordinance) ; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ; The State Bank of India ; the Indian Bank Limited ; The Indian Overseas Bank Limited ; The Mercantile Bank of India Limited ; The National Bank of India Limited ; The Oriental Bank of Malaya Limited and the Habib Bank (Overseas) Limited.

The Bank of Ceylon incorporated by the Bank of Ceylon Ordinance is the only statutory Bank which does commercial banking business as defined in this Ordinance.

Other statutory banks on a limited scale are the Ceylon and Post Office Savings Banks, the State Mortgage Bank, and the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation. A certain amount of banking activity of a specialised nature is also conducted by several co-operative organisations such as the Colombo Co-operative Provincial Bank Limited ; and the Co-operative Federal Bank of Ceylon Limited.

COMMERCIAL BANKS DEPOSITS, 1941-56



Banking Statistics

The total deposits including bankers' deposits have steadily increased as shown in the following table :—

TABLE 12.2 COMMERCIAL BANKS DEPOSITS, 1940-56

Year	(In rupees million)	Year	(In rupees million)
1940	216	1949	801
1941	231	1950	974
1942	330	1951	1,012
1943	373	1952	821
1944	487	1953	709
1945	601	1954	898
1946	606	1955	1,054
1947	649	1956	1,185
1948	724		

In 1943 the banks had Rs. 80 million in local investments. The figure steadily increased to Rs. 273 million in 1950. In 1956 it rose to 294 million from Rs. 249 million in 1955 in contrast with the decrease in 1953 and 1954. The cash in hand in banks reached the record level of Rs. 228 million in 1949 falling after the establishment of the Central Bank in 1953 to Rs. 26 million. In 1956 it stood at Rs. 34 million. The advances in Ceylon which was Rs. 21 million in 1945 has increased to Rs. 304 million in 1956.

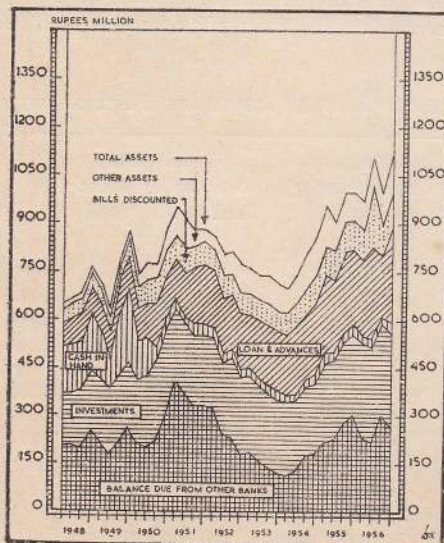
Some of the main items which constitute the assets and liabilities of the local banks are given below—

TABLE 12-3 COMMERCIAL BANKS ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1946-56

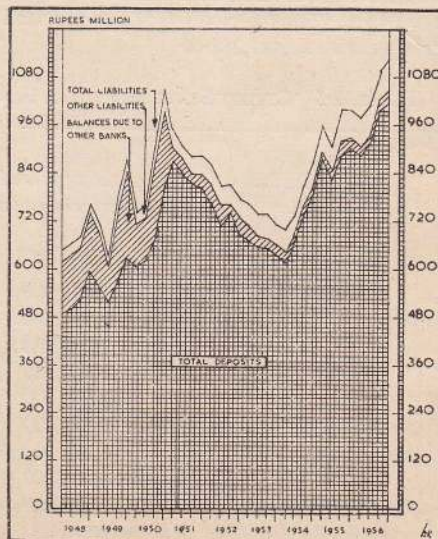
	(In rupees million)											
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	
Assets	637	675	764	875	887	883	775	711	867	999	1,124	
Cash in hand	113	169	181	228	36	34	27	26	27	31	34	
Balances due from other banks	239	180	252	261	301	333	180	120	181	307	266	
Loans and advances	49	90	82	101	128	184	177	193	224	233	304	
Bills discounted	19	41	47	53	83	73	64	60	83	91	103	
Investments	202	179	186	206	273	221	241	230	222	249	294	
Other assets	16	16	17	26	66	38	86	83	130	88	123	
Liabilities	637	693	762	873	1,051	883	775	711	866	999	1,124	
Total deposits*	541	532	596	625	805	804	686	637	790	901	1,015	
Balances due to other banks	72	138	145	217	190	33	45	25	11	29	31	
Other liabilities	24	21	21	31	56	46	44	50	65	69	78	

* Demand, time and savings only

COMMERCIAL BANKS ASSETS, 1948-56



COMMERCIAL BANKS LIABILITIES, 1948-56



Bank Clearings

The following table showing the average monthly bank clearings, in millions of rupees, gives an indication of the volume of banking business for the period 1939 to 1956 :—

TABLE 12·4 BANK CLEARINGS, 1939–56

<i>Year</i>	<i>Monthly average (In rupees million)</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Monthly average (In rupees million)</i>
1939	98·6	1948	390·7
1940	134·7	1949	418·0
1941	151·2	1950	549·4
1942	183·8	1951	691·4
1943	225·4	1952	687·8
1944	279·3	1953	670·6
1945	331·4	1954	684·4
1946	305·2	1955	757·7
1947	349·3	1956	734·8

The Ceylon State Mortgage Bank

The Ceylon State Mortgage Bank was established in October, 1931, under Ordinance No. 16 of 1931, for the purpose of providing long-term credit for agricultural and other prescribed purposes on the primary mortgage of immovable property situated in the Island, including the granting of loans to enable people to purchase lands and erect buildings on them.

Funds for the issue of loans are raised by means of debentures guaranteed by Government, the rate of interest being determined by the Board. The total indebtedness at any time on such debentures is restricted to Rs. 50 million.

The Bank is not a charge on the Government since its funds are borrowed from the public. The Bank reserves for itself a marginal profit to cover administrative costs.

The loans granted in the years ending September 30, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956, totalled Rs. 4,224,500 ; Rs. 4,934,500 ; Rs. 5,379,900 ; and Rs. 5,586,250 respectively, the last figure being the highest on record. There is now a definite upward trend in the Bank's business and a large demand for the credit facilities provided by the Bank. The Reserve Fund of the Bank now amounts to Rs. 1,447,268·66

TABLE 12·5 CEYLON STATE MORTGAGE BANK : LOANS GRANTED, REPAID AND OUTSTANDING

<i>Period</i>	<i>Loans granted during the period Rs.</i>	<i>Capital repayment received during the period Rs.</i>	<i>Total loans outstanding at the end of the period Rs.</i>
1945–46	591,650	716,456	3,611,917
1946–47	1,665,000	524,508	4,752,409
1947–48	2,281,500	661,490	6,372,419
1948–49	2,399,750	639,426	8,132,743
1949–50	2,569,750	799,765	9,902,728
1950–51	2,645,000	1,062,370	11,485,357
1951–52	3,184,000	1,281,884	13,387,474
1952–53	4,224,500	1,425,187	16,186,786
1953–54	4,934,500	1,358,023	19,763,263
1954–55	5,379,900	2,541,613	22,601,550
1955–56	5,586,250	2,060,063	26,127,737

The Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation

The Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation of Ceylon was established in December, 1943, under Ordinance No. 19 of 1943, for the purpose of financing agricultural and industrial enterprises and for the redemption of debts incurred by such enterprises by the provision of long-term credit facilities.

Financial assistance is provided by way of loans on primary mortgage of immovable property situated in any part of the Island. Loans are also granted on the security of plant and machinery, provided they are permanently installed in suitable buildings.

The title to property must be valid in the opinion of the Board of Directors. Generally speaking documentary title without a defect for about 40 years would be acceptable.

The rates of interest vary from 5 per cent. to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. The minimum loan that may be granted to any applicant is Rs. 500. The period of redemption for a loan may not exceed 25 years.

During the year ended September 30, 1956, 191 loans amounting to Rs. 6,305,030 were granted, and the profit for the year amounted to Rs. 498,752 before taxation.

TABLE 12·6 AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CREDIT CORPORATION : LOANS GRANTED, REPAID AND OUTSTANDING

<i>Period</i>	<i>Loans granted during the period</i>	<i>Capital repayment received during the period</i>	<i>Total loans outstanding at the end of the period</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1944-45	3,344,000	883,614	3,643,387
1945-46	2,611,750	493,631	5,759,506
1946-47	1,774,975	742,240	6,792,241
1947-48	2,612,700	666,000	8,255,950
1948-49	3,027,600	438,000	9,889,646
1949-50	6,555,100	1,101,200	13,982,646
1950-51	9,455,133	3,721,639	19,734,004
1951-52	10,250,980	3,921,611	26,063,364
1952-53	8,872,275	5,946,411	28,989,228
1953-54	5,518,110	5,025,344	29,485,349
1954-55	5,925,990	4,666,735	30,744,604
1955-56	6,305,030	3,809,608	31,980,771

IV—MONEY SUPPLY

Currency Notes and Coins

The Currency of the Island is regulated by the Monetary Law Act, No. 58 of 1949.

Currency Notes are issued in the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 50 and Rs. 100.

Coins are issued in the decimal sub-divisions of the rupee. The circulation consists of 50 cent, 25 cent and 10 cent coins in nickel-brass, 5 cents coins in cupro-nickel and nickel-brass, 2 cent coins in nickel-brass and 1 cent and $\frac{1}{2}$ cent coins in copper and bronze.

Money Supply

Money supply declined in the first four months of the year and then rose steadily till the end of the year. At the end of 1956 it was Rs. 1,126.8 million or 5 per cent. higher than at the end of the previous year.

The following table gives the money supply figures for the period 1946-56 :—

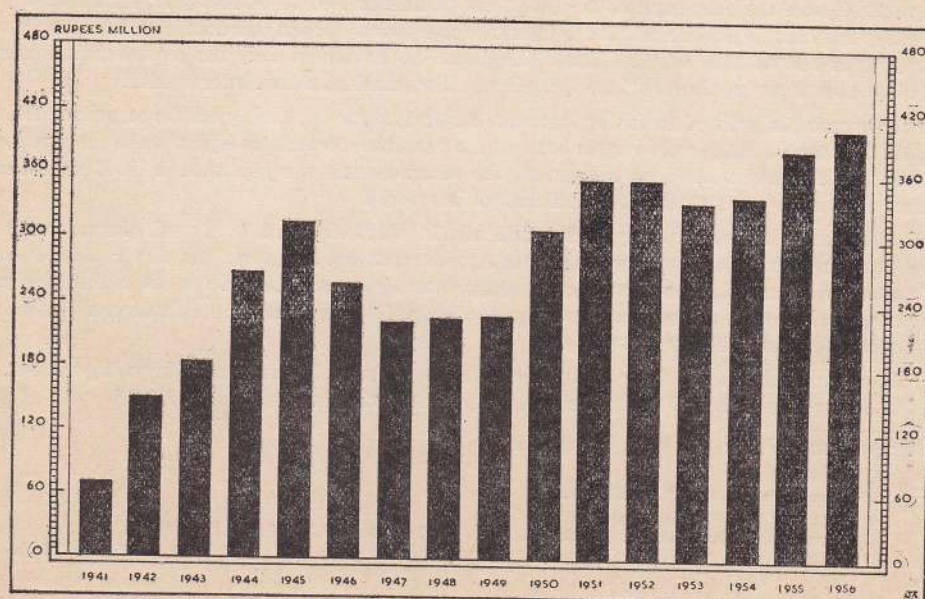
TABLE 12.7 MONEY SUPPLY

<i>End of Period</i>	<i>(Rs. million) Currency</i>			
	(i) <i>Total</i>	(ii) <i>Held by Government</i>	(iii) <i>Held by Banks</i>	(iv) <i>Held by public</i>
1946	392.9	5.3	112.9	274.7
1947	411.8	4.2	169.5	238.1
1948	426.4	4.2	181.1	241.1
1949	476.1	4.2	228.0	243.9
1950	367.4	6.0	36.0	325.4
1951	417.0	5.9	33.8	377.4
1952	388.8	4.8	27.4	356.6
1953	367.1	6.3	25.5	335.3
1954	376.2	7.5	26.9	341.8
1955	425.0	9.0	31.5	384.5
1956 January	413.6	6.9	30.8	375.9
February	409.1	6.5	24.7	377.9
March	415.9	9.3	22.0	384.7
April	423.1	7.4	25.7	390.1
May	454.2	9.4	37.6	407.1
June	443.0	8.7	24.8	409.5
July	439.1	7.1	29.2	402.8
August	437.7	8.3	29.5	399.9
September	443.0	7.5	26.2	409.3
October	440.8	8.6	28.3	403.9
November	433.4	9.8	25.9	397.7
December	443.4	8.4	33.9	401.1

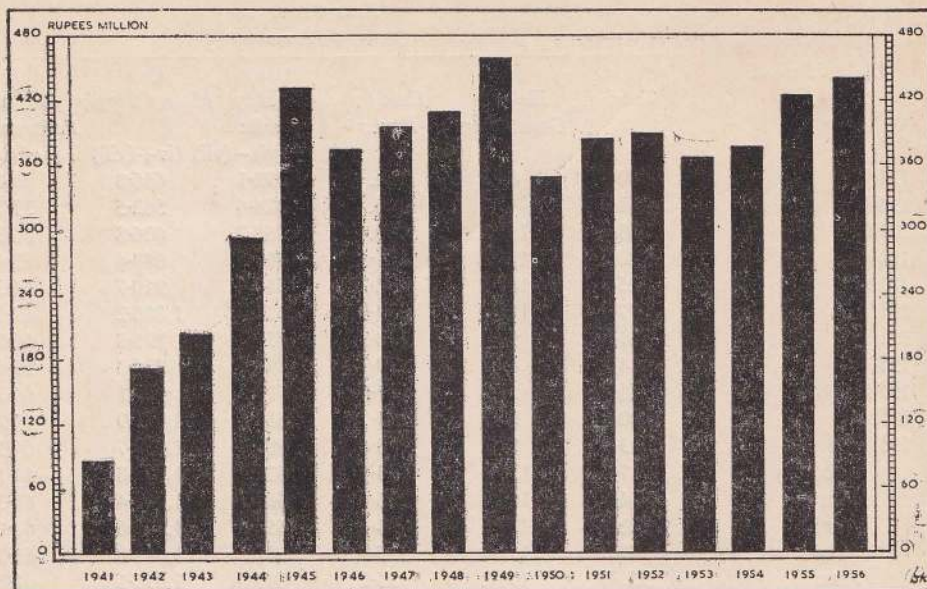
TABLE 12.7 MONEY SUPPLY—(contd.)

End of Period	(Rs. million)					
	Demand Deposits					
	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)
	Total	Held by Government	Held by Banks	Held by public	Money Supply (iv + (viii))	(vii) as Percentage of (ix)
				(v) - (vi) - (vii)		
1946	480.4	88.3	n.a.	392.1	666.8	58.8
1947	468.0	143.6	n.a.	324.4	562.5	57.7
1948	528.9	163.2	n.a.	365.7	606.8	60.3
1949	740.5	153.2	181.8	405.5	649.4	62.4
1950	925.3	147.6	192.3	585.4	910.7	64.3
1951	977.9	119.2	229.9	628.8	1,006.2	62.5
1952	761.8	52.3	170.3	539.2	895.8	60.2
1953	614.9	43.7	79.7	491.5	826.8	59.4
1954	778.2	51.0	111.9	615.3	957.1	64.3
1955	930.6	93.5	148.7	688.4	1,072.9	64.2
1956 January	913.0	86.7	142.6	683.8	1,059.7	64.5
February	917.6	138.6	103.1	675.9	1,053.8	64.1
March	934.6	164.0	106.9	663.7	1,048.4	63.3
April	928.9	181.6	94.8	652.5	1,042.6	62.6
May	909.0	151.4	115.9	641.7	1,048.8	61.2
June	953.0	191.2	115.2	646.6	1,056.1	61.2
July	944.2	190.3	105.8	648.1	1,050.9	61.7
August	949.9	184.6	111.9	653.4	1,053.3	62.0
September	996.8	163.0	179.2	654.5	1,063.8	61.5
October	950.7	119.3	157.6	673.8	1,077.7	62.5
November	984.3	127.0	160.6	696.8	1,094.5	63.7
December	1,011.1	127.8	157.6	725.7	1,126.8	64.4

NOTE CIRCULATION (ACTIVE), 1941-56



NOTE CIRCULATION (GROSS), 1941-56



V—INSURANCE

Insurance, like Banking, had till recent years been the monopoly of foreign companies. It was only when the Motor Ordinance of 1938 came into operation, making Third Party Insurance compulsory that the indigenous business interest took to insurance. Since then Ceylonese Insurance Companies have not only increased in number but also taken to underwriting every variety of risk. Many companies, however, commenced with Motor Insurance as their first concern.

In 1911, with the enactment of the Insurance Ordinance No. 11 of that year, an attempt was made to introduce legislation relating to insurance companies. It was based largely on the Assurance Companies Act of 1909 of the United Kingdom. So numerous were the representations made against it that it was not brought into operation and has remained a dead letter to this day.

The enacting in India of the Indian Insurance Act in 1938, based mainly on the recommendations of the Clauson Committee once again brought the question of insurance legislation to the forefront. A draft Ordinance based on the Indian Act with minor changes was published in 1938, but nothing came of it as the war and constitutional changes intervened.

In 1948 a Commission was appointed with Mr. L. M. D. de Silva, Q.C., as Chairman to report on Company Law, Banking, Insurance and Accountants and Auditors. Its first Interim Report "making recommendations as to the measures that should be adopted for the registration and more effective control of insurance activities in Ceylon" was published in February, 1950, with a "Draft Insurance Bill" for that purpose.

The report recommends the establishment of a Department of Insurance with a Superintendent as its head vested with wide powers to regulate and supervise insurance companies.

Important References :

- (1) Central Bank Bulletin.
- (2) Annual Report of the Central Bank.
- (3) Report of the Ceylon State Mortgage Bank.
- (4) Report on the Establishment of a Central Bank—Sessional Paper XIV of 1949.
- (5) Sessional Papers 22 of 1934, 1 of 1937, 28 of 1937, 22 of 1941 and the Annual Reports of the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation.

CHAPTER XIII

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

I—FISCAL AND MONETARY MEASURES

THE budget for 1956–57 was presented by the new Government which came into office in April, 1956. The total estimated revenue for 1956–57 is Rs. 1,207.7 million. The total budgetary expenditure in 1956–57 is estimated at Rs. 1,394.4 million. Rs. 1,366.5 million of this expenditure is to be met from revenue, domestic borrowing and cash balances while Rs. 27.9 million is to come from the proceeds of the I. B. R. D. Hydro Electric Loan. The overall budgetary deficit is estimated at Rs. 186.7 million. In contrast with the surplus of Rs. 127.6 million in 1954–55, Government had a net cash operating deficit of Rs. 1.2 million in 1955–56. The change from the previous financial year was due to a rise in current expenditure and Treasury advances to Government trading undertakings.

External Assets

At the end of 1956 the external assets stood at Rs. 1,179.3 million—an increase of only Rs. 25 million over the figure of Rs. 1,154.7 at the end of the previous year. In 1955, the rise in external assets was as much as Rs. 260 million.

TABLE 13.1 EXTERNAL ASSETS OF CEYLON (a)

End of Period	(Rs. million)				
	Government	Government Agencies and Institutions	Currency Board/ Central Bank	Commercial Banks	Total
	(b)		(c)		
1951	76.1	291.3	670.8	147.0	1,185.3
1952	65.9	310.6	403.4	57.1	836.9
1953	65.5	228.4	246.6	66.7	607.2
1954	52.2	225.8	527.1	90.1	895.2
1955	80.8	237.2	658.8	177.9	1,154.7
1956 January	87.2	237.5	650.9	172.2	1,147.8
February	90.6	238.0	675.3	166.3	1,170.2
March	101.6	239.0	679.2	157.3	1,177.1
April	98.9	239.4	696.6	147.0	1,181.9
May	92.4	239.8	702.2	114.4	1,148.8
June	87.1	240.1	736.9	120.7	1,184.8
July	90.1	241.8	724.3	144.4	1,200.6
August	85.7	241.2	728.4	145.6	1,200.9
September	80.8	242.5	735.0	135.9	1,194.2
October	78.4	243.0	733.0	140.6	1,195.0
November	71.8	242.9	744.2	125.8	1,184.7
December	70.6	243.1	744.7	120.9	1,179.3

(a) At face value according to books abroad.

(b) Includes War Loan re-lent to U. K. Government, less the part held by the Currency Board/Central Bank.

(c) The assets of the Currency Board were transferred to the Central Bank on August 28, 1950.

Balance of Payments

Table 13-2 summarises Ceylon's balance of payments for 1955 and 1956 :—

TABLE 13-2 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS FOR 1955-1956

Item	1955			1956 (a)		
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net
<i>Goods and Services</i>						
1. Merchandise	1,962.6	1,447.0	+ 515.6	1,843.2	1,510.7	+ 332.5
2. Non-Monetary gold move- ment (net)	—	2.0	— 2.0	—	3.6	— 3.6
3. Foreign travel	8.1	35.4	— 27.3	8.8	36.2	— 27.4
4. Transport and Insurance	93.5	138.2	— 44.7	86.8	163.9	— 77.1
5. Investment income	33.1	94.4	— 61.3	42.2	97.6	— 55.4
5.1 Direct Investment	5.5	84.5	— 79.0	4.0	86.1	— 82.1
5.2 Other interest and dividends	27.6	9.9	+ 17.7	38.2	11.5	+ 26.7
6. Government expenditure	56.4	26.0	+ 30.4	55.1	35.4	+ 19.7
7. Miscellaneous	40.4	67.4	— 27.0	42.9	75.0	— 32.1
8. Total goods and services	2,194.1	1,810.4	+ 383.7	2,079.0	1,922.4	+ 156.6
<i>Donations</i>						
9. Private remittances and migrants' transfers	7.0	84.5	— 77.5	6.1	89.4	— 83.3
10. Official donations	16.6	—	+ 16.6	1.8	—	+ 1.8
11. Total donations	23.6	84.5	— 60.9	7.9	89.4	— 81.5
Total current account	2,217.7	1,894.9	+ 322.8	2,086.9	2,011.8	+ 75.1
<i>Capital and monetary gold</i>						
12. Private capital movements	5.8	62.2	— 56.4	36.5	47.4	— 20.9
12.1 Direct Investment	1.1	25.7	— 24.6	0.5	16.7	— 16.2
12.2 Other long-term	4.3	29.0	— 24.7	7.0	40.7	— 33.7
12.3 Other short-term	0.4	7.5	— 7.1	29.0	—	+ 29.0
13. Official and banking institu- tions	8.2	282.3	— 274.1	5.6	64.9	— 59.3
13.1 Long-term assets	—	9.3	— 9.3	—	45.4	— 45.4
13.2 Long-term liabilities	8.2	—	+ 8.2	5.6	—	+ 5.6
13.3 Short-term assets	—	271.6	— 271.6	—	12.6	— 12.6
13.4 Short-term liabilities	—	1.4	— 1.4	—	6.9	— 6.9
13.5 Monetary gold	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Total capital and monetary gold	14.0	344.5	— 330.5	42.1	122.3	— 80.2
15. Errors and omissions	7.7	—	+ 7.7	5.1	—	+ 5.1

(a) Provisional.

Statistics are based on Exchange Control records.

Item 1. Invoice values, predominantly c.i.f. have been recorded. Notable exception—Ceylon Government imports which are c. and f.

Item 9. "Migrants transfers" are based on actual cash remittances; they do not include migrants' assets, left in Ceylon

Item 10. Figures shown under "Credit" for 1956 represents gifts in cash only and excludes gifts in kind.

Capital Expenditure

Government's capital expenditure in 1955-56 increased over the previous year by Rs. 51 million. Under-expenditure was 16 per cent. of the original estimate. The estimated capital expenditure for 1956-57 is Rs. 499.3 million and is 2.9 per cent. higher than the original estimate of capital expenditure for 1955-56.

Table 13.3 shows how the budgetary and extra-budgetary capital expenditures were financed and analyses the distribution of the total capital budget.

TABLE 13.3 SOURCE OF FINANCE FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (Original budget estimates)
	Per- centage	Per- centage	Per- centage	Per- centage	Per- centage	Per- centage	Per- centage
Current account surplus	84.6	23.2	45.9	120.5	121.0	93.6	54.0
Colombo Plan aid—grants	—	1.7	0.9	6.5	7.3	3.2	2.4
American aid	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.4
Net foreign borrowing	—	—	—	21.6	3.4	1.3	8.0
Net domestic borrowing	47.2	51.7	62.3	-35.2	-14.8	7.1	33.3
Reduction in cash balances (including reserves)	-31.8	23.5	-9.0	-13.5	-16.8	-5.1	
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total capital expenditure (Rs. million)	259.3	379.9	358.3	293.0	357.3	*408.1	499.3
Of which expenditure on capital maintenance (Rs. million)	(34.1)	(42.5)	(42.0)	(38.1)	(40.8)	(50.4)	(54.0)

* Provisional.

II—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS, 1955-56

The Government's Accounts for the financial year 1955-56 showed the following significant features.

(i) In contrast with surpluses of Rs. 33.7 million and Rs. 127.6 million in 1953-54 and 1954-55 respectively. Government had a small net cash operating deficit of Rs. 1.2 million.

(ii) Total revenue at Rs. 1,257.2 million reached the highest level recorded for any financial year and was due largely to increased revenue from income tax, estate duty, stamps, &c. Certain duties were slightly lower than in 1954-55.

(iii) The budget deficit was due to a sharp rise in expenditure chargeable to revenue. The rise in current expenditure was a result of the increase in the food subsidy bill and the increased expenditure on social and utility services.

(iv) Loan and Loan Fund expenditure was Rs. 211.0 million, Rs. 4.5 million lower than in the previous year.

(v) Government's borrowing and lending operations resulted in a net receipt of Rs. 12.2 million. This was utilized to finance the deficit of Rs. 1.2 million while the balance augmented Government's cash balances.

An analysis of Government's Accounts for the three financial years ending 1956-57 is given in the table below :—

TABLE 13.4 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON

	(Rs. million)		
	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (Original estimates)
1. Charges and sales	79.4	84.8	82.5
(a) Sale of existing property	1.1	0.9	1.2
(b) Other	78.3	83.9	81.3
2. Taxes on income and profits	206.4	299.7	276.7
3. Social insurance contributions	6.6	7.5	7.4
4. Death duties, &c.	6.7	6.4	8.7
5. Customs duties	628.9	608.4	590.1
(a) Export duties	370.7	322.1	325.2
(b) Import duties	258.2	286.3	264.9
6. Other taxes on goods and services	57.0	69.9	69.8
7. Other taxes and levies	38.4	42.2	42.5
8. Receipts from Government enterprises	96.6	106.2	106.1
9. Income from property	19.4	18.2	17.4
(a) From Government agencies and enterprises	0.9	1.2	1.6
(b) Other	18.5	17.0	15.8
10. Annuity payments and payments of advances made from revenue	19.2	13.9	6.5
11. Total revenue	1,158.6	1,257.2	1,207.7
12. Grants	26.0	12.9 ⁽¹⁾	35.9
(a) Colombo Plan aid	26.0	12.9 ⁽¹⁾	12.2
(b) American aid	—	—	11.8
13. Net foreign borrowing	12.1	5.2	39.8
14. Net domestic borrowing	—53.0	28.9	165.8
(a) Net market borrowing	—80.2	43.5	
(b) Net administrative borrowing	27.2	—14.6	
15. Decline in cash balances and reserves	—75.6	8.3	

(1) Provisional.

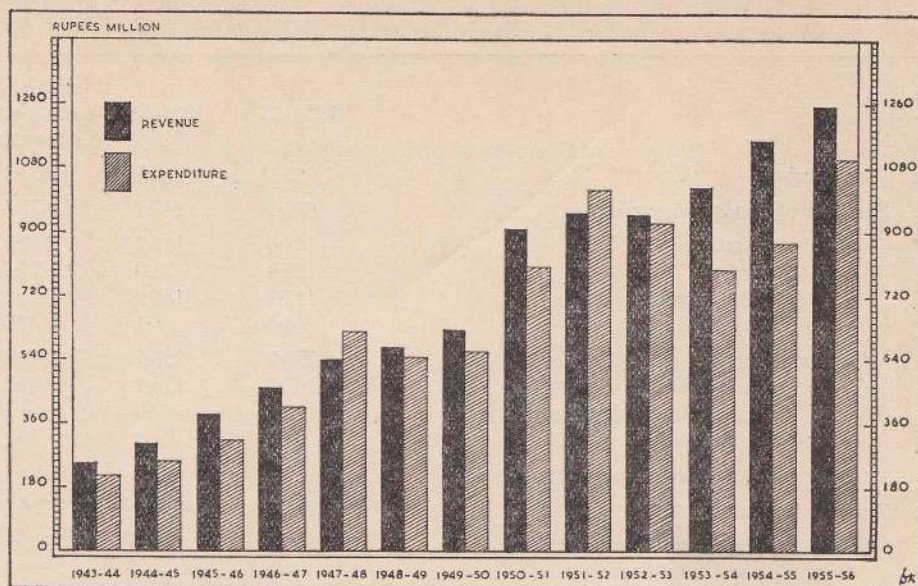
TABLE 13.4 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON—(contd.)

(Rs. million)

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (Original estimates)
16. Total receipts	1,068.1	1,312.5 ⁽¹⁾	1,437.3
17. Purchase of goods and services	601.3	647.1	671.4
(a) Administration	141.6	146.2	161.2
(i) Defence	17.9	23.0	26.4
(ii) Civil administration	117.3	116.9	127.8
(iii) Legislative	6.4	6.3	7.0
(b) Social services	233.9	269.5	269.8
(c) Economic services	142.1	139.9	146.3
(i) Economic development	72.3	67.9	69.2
(ii) Utility services	69.8	72.0	77.1
(d) Payments to Government enterprises	83.7	91.5	94.1
18. Transfer payments	125.0	136.0	266.6
(a) To private current accounts	101.7	113.3	241.9
(i) Food subsidies	—	—	100.0
(ii) Interest on public debt	33.5	35.4	37.7
(iii) Pension to Government employees	48.8	56.5	63.9
(iv) Direct relief	15.3	18.5	30.8
(v) Other	4.1	2.9	9.5
(b) Grants-in-aid to local authorities	23.3	22.7	24.7
19. Total current payments (17+18)	726.3	783.1	938.0
20. Total capital expenditure (21+22)	357.3	485.1	499.3
21. Acquisition, construction and maintenance of real assets	344.8	485.1	499.3
Expenditure on capital maintenance	(40.8)	(50.4)	(54.0)
(a) Administration	17.6	46.1	33.5
(i) Defence	8.6	14.1	13.5
(ii) Civil administration	9.0	32.0	20.0
(b) Social services	80.4	120.8	123.6
(i) Health	18.7	38.0	31.4
(ii) Education	14.0	29.4	36.9
(iii) General housing	39.8	44.9	40.7
(iv) Rural development	7.9	8.5	14.6
(c) Economic services	246.8	318.2	342.2
(i) Public utilities	117.6	167.8	176.4
(ii) Agriculture, irrigation and fisheries	120.0	137.2	161.5
(iii) Manufacture, mining and trade	9.2	13.2	4.3
22. Acquisition of financial assets	12.5	—	—
23. Net payment on account of operations financed through advance accounts (including other miscellaneous payments)	-15.5	—	—
24. Total payments	1,068.1	1,268.2 ⁽¹⁾	1,437.3

(1) Total receipts and payments for 1955-56 do not balance because figures of receipts are final whilst the payments are estimates.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1943-44 TO 1955-56



III—PUBLIC DEBT

Public debt figures for the Calendar years 1953 to 1956 are given in the tables that follow :—

TABLE 13-5 TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT, 1953-56

(In Rs. million)

<i>End of December</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net</i>
1953	1,175.0	993.3
1954	1,084.0	885.0
1955	1,105.0	898.4
1956	1,186.7	961.4

Total net debt rose by Rs.63.0 million as compared with the rise of Rs.13.4 million in the previous year.

Funded Debt

Gross funded debt and net funded debt increased by Rs. 71.6 million and Rs. 52.9 million respectively. The withdrawal of Rs. 8.9 million from the I. B. R. D. under the Loan Agreement of 1954 and the rupee loan transaction undertaken in 1956 were the two factors responsible for the increase in the gross funded debt.

TABLE 13-6 FUNDED DEBT

(In Rs. million)

<i>End of December</i>	<i>Foreign (Sterling)</i>				<i>Domestic</i>			<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Sinking Fund</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>IBRD Loan</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Sinking Fund</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net</i>
1953	125.4	60.4	65.0	—	730.5	121.2	609.2	855.9	674.2
1954	192.1	67.3	124.8	4.8	782.1	131.7	650.4	979.0	780.0
1955	192.1	65.8	126.3	13.7	849.2	140.8	708.4	1,055.0	848.4
1956	192.1	68.9	123.2	22.6	911.9	156.4	755.5	1,126.6	901.3

Floating Debt

Floating debt increased by Rs. 10 million as compared with a decline of Rs. 55.0 million in 1955.

TABLE 13-7 FLOATING DEBT

End of December	Treasury Bills	Advances from Central Bank	Loans from semi-Government Institutions	Total	Total Floating Debt as per cent. of	
					Total Debt	Total Rupee Debt
1953	190.0	72.1	57.0	319.1	27.2	30.4
1954	105.0	—	—	105.0	9.7	11.8
1955	50.0	—	—	50.0	4.5	5.6
1956	60.0	—	—	60.0	5.1	6.2

The proportion of floating debt to total debt rose slightly as shown in the above table.

Prices and Yields of Government Securities

Except for the Treasury Bill rate there was little change in the interest rates. The yields on medium and long-term securities remained practically unchanged.

IV—TAXATION AND YIELDS

The main heads of taxation and yields in respect of the financial years 1954-55 and 1955-56 were as follows :—

TABLE 13-8 TAXATION AND YIELDS, 1954-55 AND 1955-56

	1954-55		1955-56	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Customs	628,938,207	91	608,374,870	92
Port, Harbour, Wharf, &c.	21,875,940	42	24,478,692	73
Excise and Salt	57,041,081	53	69,883,141	15
Income Tax, &c.	224,226,814	61	317,855,417	92
Licences, Internal Revenue, &c.	17,806,253	94	18,798,742	24
Fees of Court or Office, &c.	11,478,321	25	14,414,635	50
Health Services	3,836,651	7	3,897,439	71
Reimbursements	13,741,134	28	13,896,672	33
Postal and Telecommunication Services	33,136,913	54	33,826,238	30
Interest, Annuities, &c.	15,282,503	16	12,005,596	53
Miscellaneous Receipts	35,190,898	19	37,204,583	1
Land Revenue	3,593,049	11	3,901,894	42
Land Sales	1,308,243	59	1,060,294	49
War Loan Interest	1,002,148	50	938,331	0
Railway Revenue	74,019,454	39	77,959,936	7
Electrical Department Revenue	16,109,049	15	18,749,885	98

The following is an analysis of the revenue under the broad heads, Direct Taxes, Indirect Taxes and Miscellaneous Revenue :—

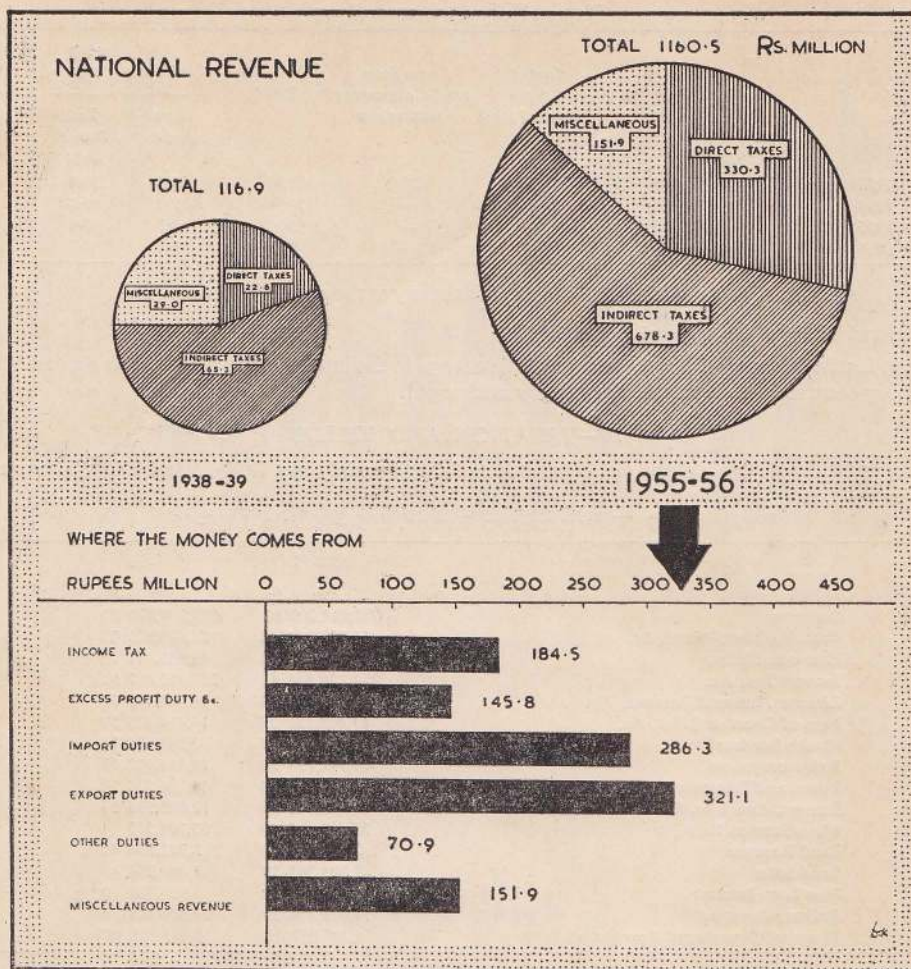
TABLE 13-9 NATIONAL REVENUE ⁽¹⁾

(In Rs. million)

	1954-55	Per cent.	1955-56	Per cent.
Direct Taxes	236.1	22.1	330.3	28.5
Income Tax	146.1	13.7	184.5	15.9
Excess profits duty, &c.	90.0	8.4	145.8	12.6
Indirect Taxes	685.9	64.2	678.3	58.4
Import duties	258.2	24.2	286.3	24.7
Export duties	369.2	34.6	321.1	27.7
Other duties	58.5	5.5	70.9	6.1
Miscellaneous	146.5	13.7	151.9	13.1
	1,068.5	100.0	1,160.5	100.0

⁽¹⁾ Excludes Railway and Electrical Departments.

NATIONAL REVENUE

**Excise Duty**

The amount realised from Excise Revenue in 1955-56 was Rs. 82,561,685 as against Rs. 75,819,083 in the previous year.

Export Duty

The export duty on tea remained unchanged at 65 cents per lb. throughout the year 1956.

The sliding scale of export duties which was introduced with effect from September 10, 1951, continued in operation till May 16, 1956, when a fixed export duty of 32 cents a lb. was levied on all rubber other than Scrap rubber and Scrap Crepe ; and a fixed export duty of 15 cents a lb. was levied on Scrap rubber and Scrap Crepe.

The export duties on coconut products were as follows :—

Copra	Rs. 185 per ton
Coconut oil	Rs. 135 per ton
Coconut desiccated	Rs. 95 per ton
Coconut poonac	Rs. 200 per ton
Fresh nuts	Rs. 65 per 1,000

Import Duties

The duty on a number of essential items required for developing small-scale industries was substantially reduced. The import duty on machinery for the local sugar industry is reduced from $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preferential and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. general. Duties were also reduced on wood-working machinery, numerous ingredients and packing materials required for the local manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals and certain other items in selected small-scale industries.

On the other hand, the duties on certain luxury goods which are imported have been increased.

Cesses

In addition to the export duty, the following cesses were also levied on exports of tea :—

Under the Medical Wants Ordinance	Rs. 0.15 per 100 lb. of made tea
Under the Tea Research Ordinance	Rs. 0.55 do.
Under the Tea Propaganda Ordinance	Rs. 1.70 do.
Under the Tea Control Act	Rs. 0.15 do.

A replanting cess was levied on all exports of rubber throughout 1956. Up to January 11, 1956, the replanting cess was 09 cents a lb. for sheet rubber and 10 cents a lb. on all other varieties of rubber. The replanting cess was increased on January 12, 1956, to 15 cents a lb. for sheet rubber, latex crepe and sole crepe. The replanting cess on scrap crepe remained unchanged at 10 cents a lb. The following cesses were also levied on exports of rubber :—

Under the Rubber Control Ordinance (1.1.56 to 30.4.56)	10 cents per 100 lb.
Under the Rubber Control Act (1.5.56 to 13.12.56)	15 cents per 100 lb.
Under the Rubber Control Act (14.12.56 to 31.12.56)	23 cents per 100 lb.
Under the Medical Wants Ordinance	75 cents per 100 lb.
Under the Rubber Research Ordinance	55 cents per 100 lb.

Income Tax

The Income Tax Ordinance was amended by Act, No. 3 of 1956, which gave effect to most of the recommendations made by the Taxation Commission in their report which was published as Sessional Paper XVII—1955.

An agreement between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of India for Relief from or the avoidance of Double Taxation of Income was signed on September 10, 1956. It became effective as from February 8, 1957, by which date all acts necessary to give the Agreement the force of law in India and Ceylon had been done.

The nett revenue from Income Tax for the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 212,450,013 which includes—

- (a) Contribution by Department of Electrical Undertakings in lieu of Income Tax and Stamp Duty amounting to Rs. 3,653,361.
- (b) Contributions in lieu of Income Tax by Government Departments other than the Railway and Electrical Departments in respect of profits from Government trading, commercial and Industrial activities—Rs. 24,268,959.

Excess Profits Duty

The nett revenue from Excess Profits Duty for the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 2,746,825.

Profits Tax

The nett revenue from Profits Tax for the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 83,999,377.

Estate Duty

The nett revenue from Estate Duty for the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 6,432,527.

The Estate Duty Ordinance was amended by Act, No. 50 of 1956, which increased the rates of Estate Duty payable on estates above Rs. 500,000 in value of persons.

Stamps

Special issues of stamps made in 1956 were the following :—

On March 26, 1956, stamps of the 10 cents denomination were issued to commemorate 25 years of National Service by Sir John Kotelawala, the then Prime Minister.

Four stamps of the denominations 3 cents, 4 cents, 10 cents, and 15 cents were issued in May 1956, to commemorate Buddha Jayanti. The 4 cents and the 10 cents stamps carried a surcharge of 2 cents and 5 cents respectively for the benefit of Buddha Jayanti Funds. The purchase of these surcharged stamps was optional.

The nett revenue from Stamps Duty for the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 11,760,701.

Food Subsidies Temporary Tax

The nett amount of revenue collected from Food Subsidies Temporary Tax for the financial year 1955-56 was Rs. 465,705.

V—NATIONAL SAVINGS MOVEMENT

The National Savings Movement of Ceylon like its counterpart in Great Britain is primarily a Voluntary Movement. It came into existence in 1943 ; and at the conclusion of the last Great War, savings were harnessed for National Development projects to fight the enemies within the country, such as malnutrition, disease, lack of educational and hospital facilities, &c. The staff is composed of a Commissioner, a Deputy and an Assistant Commissioner, a Publicity Officer, and 24 District Supervisors and an office staff of 30. The Head Office is situated in Colombo, while a branch office is run by the Assistant Commissioner at Kandy.

The National Savings Movement has been successful in recruiting approximately 35,000 active voluntary workers to carry out the different Savings Schemes and secure the co-operation of the public to deposit their savings in the Post Office Savings Bank, Ceylon Savings Bank and in Ceylon Savings Certificates.

In recent years the Women's Volunteer Savings Movement has gained popularity rapidly and today there are over 10,000 women who visit about 30,000 homes week by week to sell Savings Stamps.

The principal activities of the Movement are to guide and give assistance to the public by the formation of Savings Committees, Savings Groups, organising Savings Drives, Savings Weeks, Rallies, Campaigns, Competitions covering a wide range, and making Savings Stamps available even in the remotest parts of the Island through Voluntary Helpers.

During the year 1956, 724 new Savings Groups were registered and 53 defunct Savings Groups were cancelled. At the end of 1956 the number of Savings Groups in operation was 12,437 made up as follows :—

In Schools	6,743
In Government Departments	565
On Estates	871
In Rural Development Societies	2,017
In Local Bodies	848
In Industrial Centres	281
In Community Centres	43
In Mahila Samithies	250
Miscellaneous Groups	819

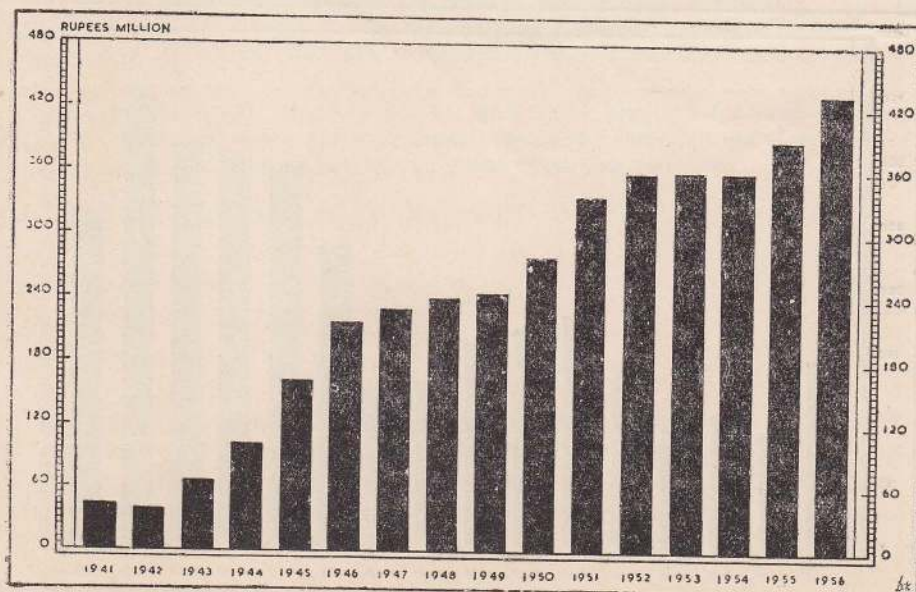
The "Small Savings" target for 1955-56 was Rs. 90 million. At the end of that financial year the amount realised was Rs. 116,376,538.13.

TABLE 13.10 SAVINGS DEPOSITS, 1946-56 (AT 31ST DECEMBER, IN EACH YEAR)

(In Rs. million)

Year	Post Office Savings Bank	Ceylon Savings Bank	Savings Certificates	Commercial Banks	Total
1946	104.4	60.9	27.8	25.9	219.0
1947	117.1	59.1	27.0	26.6	229.8
1948	127.6	57.2	33.2	25.5	243.5
1949	134.9	55.3	32.1	24.1	246.4
1950	163.7	58.4	31.7	27.0	280.8
1951	206.4	61.8	34.0	34.5	336.7
1952	222.1	64.2	35.0	37.8	359.1
1953	222.2	64.1	33.3	41.1	360.7
1954	215.6	62.1	31.3	50.7	359.7
1955	229.3	63.5	30.0	68.1	390.9
1956	252.6	65.2	33.4	83.2	434.4

SAVINGS DEPOSITS, 1941-56



CHAPTER XIV

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

I—TRADE UNIONS AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Trade Unions

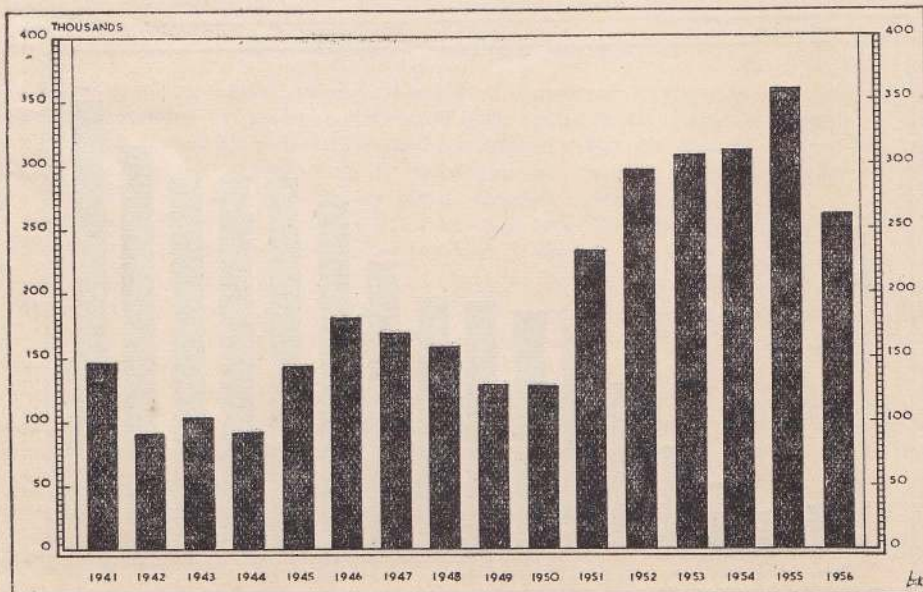
195 UNIONS (including 104 Unions of Public Officers) applied for registration during the year 1956 under the Trade Union Ordinance (Cap. 116) as against 95 during 1955.

Statistics for the period 1952 to 1956 are given in the Table below :—

TABLE 14-1 TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
(i) (a) Number of unions registered during the year	55	40	70	80	109
(b) Number of Unions cancelled during the year	35	35	46	53	67
(c) Number of Unions functioning at the end of the year	257	259	283	310	352
(ii) The above figures include the following Unions of Public Officers :—					
(a) Number registered during the year	35	17	27	49	67
(b) Number functioning at the end of the year	148	146	154	182	226
(iii) Membership of Workers' Unions	297,370	307,369	311,449	359,431	261,681
(iv) Membership of Workers' Unions in the Plantation Trade	201,492	196,078	188,438	220,419	154,650

MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH OF TRADE UNIONS, 1941-56



Industrial Relations

Legislation.—The Industrial Disputes Act, No. 43 of 1950, was amended during the year by the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, No. 25 of 1956, in order to rectify certain defects in, and to improve some of the provisions of the main Act in the light of the experience gained in the working of the Act.

Further amendments to the Act were also under consideration.

The business performed in the Port of Colombo was declared an “essential industry” by Order made by the Minister of Labour, Housing and Social Services under section 47 of the Industrial Disputes Act.

Negotiation, Conciliation and Arbitration

(i) *Joint Negotiating Machinery.*—The Joint Agreement between the Ceylon Estates Employers’ Federation and the Ceylon Workers’ Congress continued to be in force during the year, while the Joint Industrial Council established by the Ceylon Estates Employers’ Federation and the Ceylon Estates and Staffs’ Union in 1947 also continued to function.

Following a split within the ranks of the Ceylon Workers’ Congress towards the end of 1955, a new Union was formed under the name of the Democratic Workers’ Congress which after some agitation won recognition from the Ceylon Estates Employers’ Federation in May, 1956. Thereafter negotiations ensued between the Federation on the one side and Democratic Workers’ Congress and the Lanka Estate Workers’ Union on the other, with the object of establishing a joint negotiating machinery for the settlement of disputes between these parties but no finality was reached during the year.

(ii) *Conciliation and Arbitration.*—Conferences were held under the aegis of the Labour Department in respect of 341 disputes, 296 of which were settled at these conferences. Of the rest many were not pursued further, while others were settled by conciliation or arbitration. Three disputes were settled by conciliation in terms of section 3 (i) (c) of the Industrial Disputes Act. Six disputes were referred for settlement by arbitration (voluntary) in terms of section 3 (i) (d) of the Act and of these 4 were settled during the year while the other 2 were pending investigations. Four other disputes were also referred for settlement by arbitration (voluntary) but not under the Act and 3 of these were settled while the other had to be subsequently referred to an Industrial Court.

(iii) *Industrial Court.*—On March 3, 1956, for the first time since the Industrial Disputes Act became law, His Excellency the Governor-General appointed a Panel, in terms of section 22 of the Act, consisting of the following gentlemen, for a term of one year :—

A. R. H. CANEKERATNE, ESQ., Q.C. (*Chairman*),
H. A. DE SILVA, ESQ., C.M.G.,
G. CROSETTE THAMBYAH, ESQ., C.M.G.,
S. J. C. SCHOKMAN, ESQ.,
C. COOMARASWAMY, ESQ., C.B.E.

In all 14 disputes were referred to Industrial Courts for settlement in 1956 but as most of the references were made during the latter part of the year, the Courts could not complete the investigations in all the cases before the end of the year. Awards were made in respect of only 5 disputes in the course of the year.

(iv) *Collective Agreements.*—2 Collective Agreements transmitted to the Commissioner of Labour during 1956 were published in the *Government Gazette*.

Strikes.—The statistics of strikes during 1955 and 1956 are given below :—

TABLE 14-2 STRIKES, 1955 AND 1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>No of strikes</i>	<i>No of workers involved</i>	<i>No of man-days lost</i>	<i>Approximate amount of wages lost by workers as a result of strikes</i> <i>Rs.</i>
1955	107	22,730	105,929	272,364
1956	214	88,760	353,854	949,080

II—WAGES BOARDS

Minimum wage legislation in Ceylon originated with the minimum wage (Indian Labour) Ordinance, of 1927, the application of which was confined to Indian Labour. In May, 1938, the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce approved in principle the introduction of legislation for the setting up of Wages Boards Machinery to cover indigenous labour as well. The legislation finally appeared in the Statute Book in the shape of the Wages Boards Ordinance, No. 27 of 1941, which, with subsequent amendments, continues to be the principal minimum wage legislation in the country today. Part I of the Ordinance deals with all employers and workers in all trades in a general way, while Part II provides for the application of the Ordinance to particular trades involving the setting up of Wages Board Machinery for those trades. Part III deals with the appointment and powers of officers under the Ordinance and with the offences and penalties defined by the Ordinance.

The provisions of Part II of the Ordinance were made applicable to the Beedi Manufacturing Trade and the Baking Trade with effect from¹ August 10, 1956, and December, 1956, respectively. 19 trades are now covered by Part II of the Ordinance. At the end of the year investigations were being made by the Department to ascertain the feasibility or otherwise of bringing in more trades under the Wages Boards Ordinance.

Prosecutions were launched only on failure to recover short payments or to correct the employer by departmental procedure.

During 1956 the wages of 338,947 estate workers and 36,063 workers in establishments were checked. Short payments recovered amounted to Rs. 186,841.87 being the amount due to 11,906 workers. At the close of the year action was proceeding regarding amendments to the Wages Boards Ordinance.

III—FACTORIES ORDINANCE, &c.

The Factories Ordinance, No. 45 of 1942, and No. 22 of 1946, are modelled on the British Factories Act, 1937, and came into force on January 1, 1950.

The Ordinance contains various provisions for the Safety, Health and Welfare of factory work people.

Other parts of the Ordinance deal with the registration of factories, notification of accidents and industrial diseases, employment of women and young persons, application of the Ordinance to electrical stations, institutions, docks, wharves, quays, warehouses, ships, building operations, works of engineering constructions and to lead processes carried on in places other than factories.

The Ordinance forms an important part of Ceylon's social legislation but owing to various reasons all the staff to enforce it has not yet been appointed.

TABLE 14-3 STATISTICS RELATING TO FACTORIES ORDINANCE

	1955	1956
Factories registered under the Ordinance	3,718	4,288
Inspectors of Factories	3	3
Accidents reported (Fatal)	25	15
Accidents reported (non-fatal)	2,253	1,914

Shop and Office Employees Act

The Shop and Office Employees (Regulation of Employment and Remuneration) Act, No. 19 of 1954, covers employees in shops, mercantile offices and those in similar employment. This Act regulates the terms and conditions of employment in the mercantile sector relating to hours of work, holidays and leave, health and welfare and the setting up of machinery for determining minimum remuneration for such employees.

The Regulations under the Act which were published in *Government Gazette* No. 10,724 of October 15, 1954, were further amended by Regulations published in *Gazette* No. 10,899 of March 2, 1956.

A closing order for shops was operative in all Municipal and Urban Council areas in the Island.

2,383 shops and 347 offices were inspected during the year. A sum of Rs. 138,923.47 was detected by the Department being shortpayments on account of overtime in shops and Rs. 11,209.25 in offices. These amounts were disbursed to the employees concerned.

1,257 prosecutions were instituted during the year. Of these 1,141 were for breach of the closing order. This figure constitutes the highest on record.

At the close of the year amendments to the Act were under consideration.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, No. 47 of 1956

This Act passed in November 1956, regulates the employment of Women, Young Persons and Children. It deals mainly with the following matters :—

- (a) Night work in industrial undertakings,
- (b) Employment in industrial undertakings and at sea,
- (c) Employment other than employment in industrial undertakings and at sea.

Draft regulations under the Act are under preparation.

Maternity Benefits Ordinance

The provision of maternity benefits to women workers in Shops, Mines, Estates and Factories by employers is governed by the Maternity Benefits Ordinance, No. 32 of 1939, as amended by Ordinance, No. 35 of 1946, and Act, No. 26 of 1952.

Amendments to Regulations under the Ordinance were before Parliament. These regulations seek to ensure that the maternity benefits paid were the average wages that the women worker would have been entitled to had she worked during the period 2 weeks before and 4 weeks after confinement.

Labour Legislation Committee

A Parliamentary Committee with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Minister of Labour, Housing and Social Services as Chairman, was appointed to examine all existing labour legislation and to make necessary amendment to existing legislation, to consider new legislation wherever necessary and also to make recommendations regarding other matters relevant or incidental thereto. Written representations were called from Trade Unions and the general public and these were being examined by the Committee.

IV—INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

The Division of Industrial Hygiene is responsible for supervising all matters relating to industrial health and welfare, investigating occupational diseases and advising measures for their prevention and control.

Special investigations are carried out into industrial conditions in so far as they affect the health of the worker, and in particular regarding processes directly dangerous to health. The Division undertakes field investigations for the detection of health hazards in industrial processes as well as in agriculture, and for the development of preventive measures to counteract or eliminate such hazards.

The Division also provides technical services in industrial hygiene to meet the following requirements :—

- (i) The carrying out of technical functions by the Government to comply with its obligations as a Member State of the International Labour Organisation.
- (ii) The provision of technical assistance for the Department of Labour to enable it to implement the health and welfare provision of the Labour Statutes.
- (iii) To undertake special investigation at the request of Government departments, and to provide technical assistance and advice to them.
- (iv) The Division provides technical advisory services to local authorities and the Commissioner of Local Government in regard to drafting of legislation for controlling offensive and dangerous trades, housing, &c. in local authorities areas.

Toxic hazards in Agriculture

Close supervision is maintained for the protection of agricultural workers engaged in handling the newer toxic spray chemicals, particularly the organo-phosphorus preparations employed as insecticides and the Chlorinated phenolic compounds used as weed-killers. The use of oxalic acid as a coagulant on rubber estates received attention in view of disability reported consequent on eye injury.

Safety Leaflets

Advisory leaflets dealing with the safe use of harmful substances in industry and related subjects are issued. Supplies are made available on request to Government departments, local bodies and mercantile establishments.

Research Laboratory

The Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratory is provided with a full range of equipment for assessment of most of the health hazards likely to be met with in industry, agriculture and mining. It is hoped to undertake industrial field radiographic surveys when a transportable X-ray unit is provided.

V—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING

Cost of Living

Until recently there were two cost of living index numbers computed and published in Ceylon. One related to the cost of living of working class families in Colombo and the other to the cost of living of Indian estate labourers. These two index numbers have been discontinued and from January, 1953, a new index number called the "Colombo Consumers' Price Index Number" with the average prices in 1952 as the base is worked and published monthly by the Director of Census and Statistics. The following table gives the Colombo Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers

and the Indian Estate Labourers' Cost of Living Index Numbers for the period 1939 to 1952 and the Colombo Consumers' Price Index Number for the period 1953 to 1956 :—

TABLE 14.4 COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Colombo Working Class *</i>	<i>Estate Labour †</i>
1939	108	100
1940	112	107
1941	122	119
1942	162	150
1943	197	199
1944	200	211
1945	221	222
1946	229	228
1947	252	239
1948	260	259
1949	258	264
1950	272	274
1951	283	288
1952	281	287

* Base : November, 1938 to April 1939 = 100.

† Base : July–September 1939 = 100.

TABLE 14.5 COLOMBO CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX NUMBERS 1953, 1954, 1955 AND 1956 (MONTHLY).
(BASE : AVERAGE PRICES 1952=100)

	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	100.1	101.4	101.5	101.5
February	99.5	100.7	100.5	99.5
March	98.7	99.9	99.6	99.6
April	99.6	100.0	101.0	101.2
May	100.7	101.7	101.0	100.4
June	102.3	102.4	100.1	100.0
July	103.1	101.2	100.2	99.2
August	105.5	100.1	99.9	98.9
September	105.1	100.5	99.4	99.4
October	103.0	101.3	100.3	101.3
November	100.9	101.6	100.8	101.0
December	101.0	101.8	101.5	100.3
Year	101.6	101.1	100.5	100.2

Wages

An index number of wage rates which can be said to be applicable to the country as a whole is not yet available. Details of the minimum wages payable to workers in Tea and Rubber estates are, however, readily available from the inception of the Labour Department in 1923.

The relative movements of wages and cost of living of estate workers are brought out in the following table which shows the average minimum daily rate of wages, the cost of living index number for these workers, the wages rate index number and the index number of real wages for the period 1939–56.

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX, 1953-56

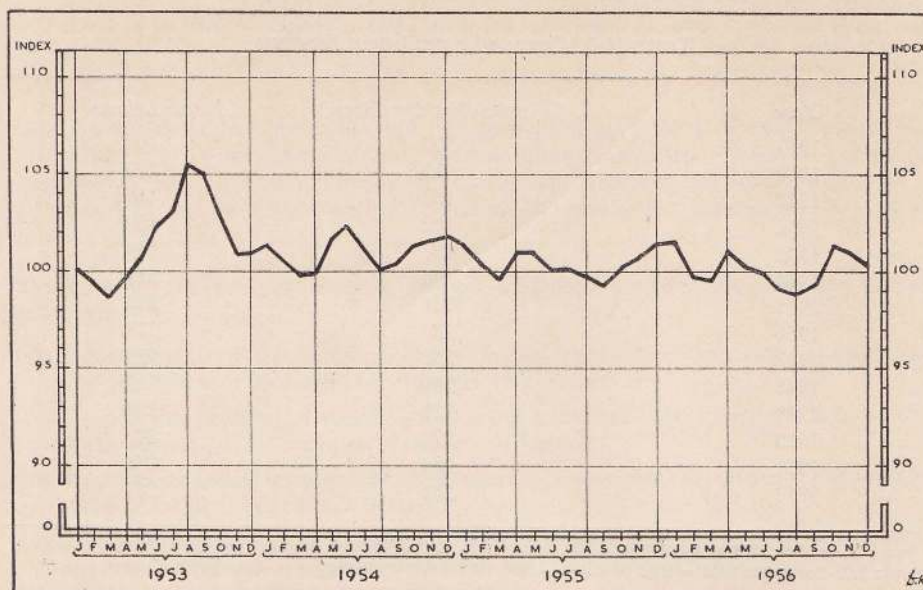


TABLE 14-6 COST OF LIVING INDICES, WAGE RATE INDEX NUMBERS AND INDEX NUMBERS OF REAL WAGES, 1939-56 OF WORKERS IN TEA AND RUBBER ESTATES

Year	Average minimum daily rates of wages <i>Rs. c.</i>	Cost of living index number for estate workers (Base: July-September 1939=100)	Wage rates index number (Average wages 1939=100)	Index number of real wages *
1939	0.41	100	100	100
1940	0.41	107	100	93
1941	0.45	119	110	92
1942	0.68	150	166	111
1943	0.83	199	202	102
1944	0.87	211	212	101
1945	1.00	222	244	110
1946	1.15	228	280	123
1947	1.20	239	293	123
1948	1.29	259	315	122
1949	1.31	264	320	121
1950	1.53	274	373	136
1951	1.90	288	463	161
1952	1.92	287	468	163
1953	1.95	291†	476	164
1954	1.99	290†	486	168
1955	2.06	288†	502	174
1956	2.07	287†	505	176

* Index Number of Money Wages ÷ Cost of Living Index Number = Index Number of Real wages.

† Equivalent of Colombo Consumers' Price Index in terms of the Estate Cost of Living Index Number.

Similar information as given for the estate labourers is shown below in respect of unskilled male workers in Government employment.

TABLE 14.7 AVERAGE RATES OF WAGES, COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS OF COLOMBO WORKING CLASS, WAGES INDEX NUMBERS AND REAL WAGES INDEX NUMBERS OF UNSKILLED MALE WORKERS, 1939-1956

Year	Average monthly rate of wages	Cost of living index number of Colombo working class families with base shifted to 1939=100	Wages index number of unskilled male labour in Colombo (base: 1939=100)	Real wages index number of unskilled male workers in Colombo*
	Rs. c.			
1939	16 64	100	100	100
1940	16 64	104	100	96
1941	18 45	113	111	98
1942	24 23	150	145	97
1943	28 98	182	174	96
1944	34 03	185	204	110
1945	41 92	205	252	123
1946	68 52	212	412	194
1947	75 74	233	455	195
1948	78 16	241	470	195
1949	77 81	239	468	196
1950	83 11	252	499	198
1951	89 79	262	540	206
1952	89 79	260	540	207
1953	90 97	265†	547	206
1954	91 04	263†	547	208
1955	94 94	261†	571	219
1956	96 24	261†	578	221

* Index Number of Money Wages ÷ Cost of Living Index Number = Index Number of Real Wages.

† Equivalent of the Colombo Consumers' Price Index in terms of the Cost of Living Index Number—Colombo Town with base shifted to 1939 = 100.

General Wage Rate (Minimum) Indices with base year as 1952, for workers in the following trades were prepared in 1956.

(1) *Agricultural Trades*.—Tea Growing and Manufacturing, Rubber Growing and Manufacturing and Coconut Growing.

(2) *Trades other than Agricultural*.—Coconut Manufacturing, Engineering, Printing, Match Manufacturing, Motor Transport, Dock Harbour and Port Transport, Tea Export, Rubber Export, Cinema and Building.

A table showing the Minimum Average Daily Rates of Wages and Minimum Wage Rate Index Numbers in respect of these Trades from 1952 onwards is given below :—

TABLE 14-8 MINIMUM AVERAGE DAILY RATE OF WAGES AND MINIMUM WAGE RATE INDEX NUMBERS—AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER TRADES, 1952-1956

Year	Agriculture		Trades other than Agriculture		Agriculture and Trades other than Agriculture Combined	
	Minimum average daily rate of wages	Minimum wage rate Index Number	Minimum average daily rate of wages	Minimum wage rate Index Number	Minimum average daily rate of wages	Minimum wage rate Index Number
	Rs. c.		Rs. c.		Rs. c.	
1952	1 96	100.00	2 92	100.00	2 04	100.00
1953	1 99	101.53	2 95	101.03	2 07	101.47
1954	2 02	103.06	2 94	100.68	2 09	102.45
1955	2 09	106.63	2 96	100.37	2 16	105.88
1956	2 10	107.14	3 00	102.74	2 17	106.37

Cost of Living allowances

Cost of living allowances payable to workers in some of the trades for which Wages Boards have been set up were based on the Cost of Living Index Number of estate labour, while in the case of workers in the other trades such allowances were based on the Colombo Working Class Cost of Living Index Number till June, 1953. With effect from July 1, 1953, allowances payable to workers in all the trades for which Wages Boards have been set up were based on the Colombo Consumers' Price Index.

Government employees were paid Cost of Living Allowances based on the Colombo Working Class Cost of Living Index Number till February, 1953. With effect from March, 1953, they are paid allowances payable on the figure of 285, the Cost of Living Index Number for Colombo Working Class families for the month of December, 1952. Allowances payable to most of the mercantile employees were also based on the Colombo Working Class Cost of Living Index Number till January, 1953, the last month for which this Index was published. They are now being paid allowances based on the Colombo Consumers' Price Index.

VI—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Legislation

The Fee Charging Employment Agencies Act, No. 37 of 1956, was passed in September. This Act has been enacted to regulate the carrying on of the business of a Fee Charging Employment Agency and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The regulations under the Act are under preparation.

Employment Exchanges

There were 17 Area Exchanges, 3 Branch Exchanges and 12 Registration Centres functioning in the Island at the end of 1956.

The number of placements done by the Exchanges during the year increased to 8,485 from 8,208 in 1955. The analysis of these figures according to the four main categories of registration is as follows :—

TABLE 14-9 EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE PLACEMENTS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Technical and Clerical</i>	<i>Skilled</i>	<i>Semi-skilled</i>	<i>Unskilled</i>
1955	2,166	1,064	1,187	3,791
1956	1,913	845	1,565	4,162

The total number of persons who registered themselves for employment or better employment at all the Employment Exchanges during the year rose to 100,572 from 83,883 during the previous year. This increase appears to be due primarily to the increase of population in an unexpanding employment market. The change in Government also acted as an incentive for large numbers to rush to the Employment Exchange for registration with the hope of obtaining better employment. The following table shows these registrations classified according to the main categories :—

TABLE 14-10 REGISTRATIONS AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Technical and Clerical</i>	<i>Skilled</i>	<i>Semi-skilled</i>	<i>Unskilled</i>
1955	18,524	10,609	22,358	32,392
1956	19,321	11,374	27,173	42,704

The following table shows the numbers who were awaiting employment at the end of each year in 1955 and 1956 according to the registers of the Employment Exchanges :—

TABLE 14-11 REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED, 1955 AND 1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>Technical and Clerical</i>	<i>Skilled</i>	<i>Semi-skilled</i>	<i>Unskilled</i>	<i>Total</i>
1955	14,498	8,544	20,142	27,826	71,010
1956	16,091	9,794	25,805	34,259	85,952

Unemployment Relief Schemes

There were 3,292 persons in employment at the end of the year in the Unemployment Relief Schemes. At the end of 1955 this number was 3,480. The decrease was due to the fact that no new workers were taken on to these schemes during the year either additionally or to replace those who dropped out during the year. The largest of these schemes is in Colombo in which there were 2,717 persons. A total extent of about 150 acres of land has been filled or levelled under this scheme from its inception in 1949 up to the end of 1956. The Unemployment Relief Works Organisation which controls this scheme has also undertaken several *ad hoc* earth filling works for other Government Departments. 15 such small schemes of work were in operation during the year and work on 10 of them were completed during the year itself.

The other Unemployment Relief Schemes in Colombo are in the Colombo Port and in the Zoological Gardens. There were 72 persons working in the former schemes at the end of the year and 24 persons in the latter. Satisfactory work was done in both schemes.

In the outstations the relief schemes under the control of the Kandy Municipal Council and the Galle Municipal Council were continued during the year. There were 349 persons in the former scheme and 130 persons in the latter at the end of the year. Improvements to roads have been the main work done under these schemes.

Employment Information Programme

The Employment Information Programme which was inaugurated by Dr. Saks, the I. L. O. Expert, in 1951, was continued during the year.

Training Schemes

The Training Schemes undertaken by the Labour Department could be classified into 3 types. The first of these comprises *ad hoc* schemes for the training of persons for jobs for which there is a dearth of workers. Some of these jobs are those of garden labourers, cooks, waiters and barbers. These shortages have been caused largely by the repatriation of non-Ceylonese. 24 barbers, 8 cooks and 7 waiters were trained under these schemes during the year and there were 26 barbers, 4 cooks, 2 waiters and 9 garden labourers in training at the end of the year.

The next type of training envisaged is the training of skilled workers needed for the development programmes of the Government. The Cabinet has set up a Committee to organise these training schemes. Preliminary steps were taken by this Committee during 1956 for the setting up of 2 training schemes, one for Electricians, Wiremen and Radio Mechanics and the other for Masons.

The third type of training undertaken by the Labour Department is the training of Supervisors under the scheme popularly known as "T. W. I" (Training-Within-Industry). A total of about 50 training groups was conducted in which 505 Supervisors employed in Government Departments and private establishments received training in the skills of Supervisors. An Assistant Commissioner of Labour visited the U. K. during the year on an I. L. O. Fellowship to obtain further training in the organisation and conduct of this scheme. Most of the engineering and industrial establishments in Colombo have already had their Supervisors undergo training in one of the 3 programmes of training under this scheme. Attempts are being made to introduce it to the plantations and other establishments in the outstations.

Unemployment Sub-Committee

A Cabinet Sub-Committee on Unemployment was appointed on May 28, 1956. The Assistant Commissioner in charge of "Employment" functioned as Secretary to the Sub-Committee. The Interim Report submitted by this Committee on August 23, 1956, is under consideration by the Cabinet and the National Planning Council. The recommendations of the Committee aim at providing increased employment opportunities both in the private and public sectors.

VII—CEYLON AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Ceylon participated in the 131st Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office which was held in Geneva from March 6 to 10, 1956.

The 39th Session of the International Labour Conference was held in Geneva from June 6 to 28, 1956. The Minister of Labour, Housing and Social Services attended the Conference as a visiting Minister and addressed the General Assembly. The Ceylon Delegation consisted of four.

The 132nd Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at which Ceylon was represented was held in Geneva on June 1, 2 and 29, 1956.

Convention No. 81 concerning Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce 1947, was ratified by this Government during this year.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION

I—GENERAL

THE early history of education in Ceylon has been outlined in earlier editions of the Year Book.

The Medium of Instruction

On January 1, 1956, the Swabasha medium was extended to the pre-S. S. C. Class in pursuance of policy already laid down. Science and Mathematics, however, continued to be taught in the English medium in those schools which were unable to find teachers capable of teaching these subjects through the medium of the national languages. In continuation of the scheme already in operation in 1955, subsidised tuition classes were conducted during the year to enable S. S. C. teachers to gain proficiency in the use of the mother tongue with a view to the introduction of the Swabasha media in the S. S. C. Class in 1957. The Minister of Education issued a directive on December 18, 1956, extending the use of the national languages to the Pre-H. S. C. Class from January 1, 1958, and to the H. S. C. Class from January 1, 1959. In the following subjects, however, schools were to be free to use either English or Sinhalese or Tamil at their discretion : Latin, Greek, English, French, German, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Economics, Western Music and Logic.

The Free Mid-day Meal

The outstanding event of the year was the restoration of the free mid-day meal from October 1, 1956. 1,200,000 pupils in the primary classes of Government, Assisted and Provisionally recognised Schools have been benefited by the scheme and there is every indication that the health of these children, particularly of those living in poorer areas, has improved. Each child receives a glass of milk and a bun on each school day. The scheme was made possible by the generosity of the people of the U. S. A. through the organisation known as CARE.

The Curriculum Committee

The Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. N. E. Weerasooria, O.C., appointed in August, 1954, to advise on the curricula most suitable for pupils in Primary and Junior Secondary Schools, reported in August, 1956. It recommended changes in the content of education, stressing the need for close correlation between language and activities and for a reduction in the number of Text Books. It also recommended the abolition of home work in the Primary School. Effect was given to these recommendations by the issue of circulars.

The Teaching of English as a Second Language

With the switch-over to the national languages as the media of education, greater emphasis has been placed on the teaching of English as a second language. A Primary School Syllabus in English already issued is to be followed by one for Post-Primary Classes. Work on this has gone on during the year and the syllabus will be issued shortly.

Science Education

It was decided during the year to set up Central Laboratories in Central and Senior Schools so that pupils in every part of the country may have the opportunity of studying science if they have the aptitude for it. A scheme was drawn up for the award of 500 Science scholarships to pupils who have completed work in Standard VIII. The first examination for the award of these scholarships was to have been held in December but had unavoidably to be postponed to January, 1957.

The Standard 8 Fitness Test

This test was not held in 1956, the Cabinet having decided to suspend the holding of the examination pending the provision of facilities for those who will be rejected as unfit for further academic education.

Vocational Guidance

On October 1, 1956, a Vocational Guidance section was set up in the Department of Education. Steps are being taken to introduce Vocational Guidance in all schools so that pupils in the last two years of school life may be guided in regard to the choice of a career.

A new Cumulative Record Sheet for Post-Primary Classes has been prepared and will shortly be issued to all schools. In addition Vocational Guidance Information Sheets giving information about careers are being prepared for circulation among schools. Teachers are also being trained in the Principles and Techniques of Vocational Guidance.

Revision of Syllabuses

The Departmental Scheme of Studies and Syllabuses was last issued in 1940. Since many of these schemes and syllabuses are now out of date and unsuitable for the present needs of education in this country, and owing to the purely literary contents of these Schemes and their failure to provide any kind of practical training it was decided to revise the syllabuses and a number of Committees were appointed for the purpose. In the course of the year work on the Syllabus in English for Post-Primary Classes was completed. Syllabuses were also prepared in Agriculture, Music and Eurythmics, General Science and Religion.

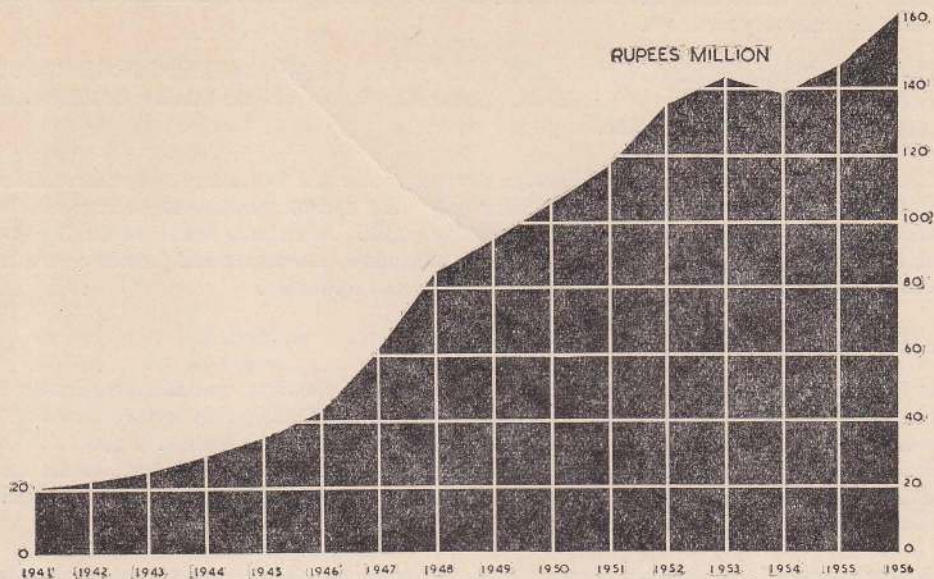
Supply of Teachers

2,807 teachers were in training during the year 1956. The teaching of General Science, Mathematics, Agriculture and Handicrafts received special attention during the year. The Training Colleges at Maharagama and Palali provided special courses in Practical Agriculture and allied subjects for men trainees. Under the guidance of Instructors from New Zealand an in-service training course in Wood work and metal work was conducted at Maharagama. The Maharagama Training College also provided specialised courses in General Science, Mathematics and Handicrafts.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION, 1950-56

	(Rs. thousand)
1950	105,598
1951	117,114
1952	135,484
1953	143,989
1954	138,264
1955	143,581
1956	158,813

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION, 1941-56

**Religious Education**

All Government English, Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim Schools impart religious instruction. 412 shrine rooms were built in schools during the year with the assistance of Parent Teachers' Associations. Buddha Jayanthiya gave a fillip to religious activities in Government and Assisted Buddhist Schools.

Technical Education

During the year an exhibit consisting of a shadow board, a wood work bench and a metal work bench was set up in the Head Office for the guidance of teachers who wished to open up workshops in their schools. The syllabus for hand work in the post-primary classes was drawn up during the year.

Adult Education

222 Classes and Centres, with an enrolment of 4,680 Adult learners, functioned during the year. The work in these classes and centres consisted of literacy education where this was needed, courses in civics, literature, health education, religion, &c. Games, both indoor and outdoor were provided; also radio listening-in and cultural activities like music and dramatics. A few centres prepared students for examinations like the Training Entrance and Sinhalese Teachers' Certificate Examinations. Cinema Shows were given at many of the Centres and classes by departmental Cinema Vans. Many of the classes have film-strip projectors. 11,250 film strips were borrowed during the year from the departmental film library.

II—THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Primary and Post-Primary Education, under the control of the Minister of Education, is administered by the Director of Education with the advice of thirty four Local Advisory Committees.

Local Advisory Committees have been established in Municipalities and Revenue Districts. These Committees consisting of officials, Members of Parliament and other local representatives are appointed by the Minister of Education and advise the Director of Education on the Educational needs of the areas they represent.

The General Advisory Council on Education which was set up under the Education Amendment Act of 1951, replaced the Board of Education. Its function is to advise the Minister of Education on any question referred to it by him.

Attendance at school is compulsory between the ages of five and fourteen except under certain conditions ; such compulsion, however, applies only when school accommodation is available within reasonable distance of the place of residence of pupils. Attendance officers of the Department of Education enforce the regulation governing compulsory attendance and prosecute parents violating these regulations when methods of persuasion prove ineffective.

The Free Education Scheme

Free Education was the chief recommendation of the Special Committee on Education (Sessional Paper XXIV of 1943). All education in the Island "from the Kindergarten to the University" was declared free as from October 1, 1943. This scheme mainly affected the Assisted English Schools which had earlier charged fees, whereas the Sinhalese and Tamil Schools had not. Under the free scheme the Government pays the total salary cost of staff and in addition an equipment and maintenance grant calculated at special rates.

A large number of schools joined the scheme from its inception, others were given time to decide. Since then, all schools except a few which became private schools, have joined the scheme.

The only fees that can now be levied in any school under the free scheme are —

- (a) a fee for the provision of facilities for games or physical training ;
- (b) a fee for the provision of dental treatment.

The School System

All schools which are maintained by Government or assisted by means of grants are compelled by law to admit pupils irrespective of race, nationality or religion.

There are four distinct types of schools, viz. (a) schools administered directly by Government, (b) schools assisted by Government and under the control of Managers, (c) schools which do not receive any aid from Government, (d) Pirivenas purely intended for Buddhist Bhikkus.

On May 31, 1956, there were 3,735 Government Schools with 891,581 pupils and 25,067 teachers. The arrangements for running these schools are entirely in the hands of the Education Department. In addition there were 3,131 Assisted Schools with 805,910 pupils and 25,300 teachers.

III—UNIVERSITY, LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

University of Ceylon

The University of Ceylon was established under the Ceylon University Ordinance, No. 20 of 1942. It is legally autonomous, being a Corporation consisting of the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Court, the Council and the Senate.

The University offers courses in Oriental Studies, Arts, Education, Law, Science, Agriculture, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Engineering. The number of students in 1956 was 2,534. The

following table gives the distribution of these students over the various courses for the years 1951 to 1956 :—

TABLE 15-1 CENSUS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, 1951-56

Course	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Arts	716	761	848	878	878	904
Sinhalese and Tamil Courses	109	51	19	19	24	24
Diploma in Education	48	61	74	72	58	57
Law Degree	36	34	32	30	31	32
Science Degree	223	272	322	332	397	459
Agricultural Degree	21	16	17	19	17	14
Pre-Medical Course	116	132	129	157	173	155
Medical Degree	689	696	706	677	644	627
Medical Diploma	19	11	12	—	—	—
Dental Degree and Diploma	43	44	48	46	42	47
Veterinary Science Degree	19	25	38	37	21	18
Engineering Degree	156	110	134	148	116	136
Higher Degrees	15	19	13	24	28	55
Total	2,210	2,232	2,392	2,434	2,429	2,534

The number of students who graduated in 1955 was 475. The corresponding figures for 1956 was 487. The table below gives the degrees awarded other than honorary degrees during the period 1943-56.

TABLE 15-2 DEGREES AWARDED OTHER THAN HONORARY DEGREES, 1943-56

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
M.D.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	8	13
M.O.G.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ph. D.	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	6
M.A.	—	1	2	4	—	2	4	3	2	3	—	4	1	1	27
M.Sc.	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	5
B.A.	44	59	64	56	66	87	108	172	139	171	148	157	207	218	1,696
LL.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	14	7	7	10	7	57
B.Sc.	20	22	27	31	33	40	44	52	48	40	34	52	64	90	597
B.Sc. Agric.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	10	8	3	6	5	4	50
M.B.B.S.	23	36	34	61	43	70	59	56	97	80	111	93	147	129	1,039
B.D.S.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	5
B.Sc. Eng.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	23	31	18	78
B.V.Sc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	8	8	25
Total	87	119	128	153	142	200	217	302	304	320	312	354	475	487	3,600

The Law College

The Ceylon Law College which is controlled by the Incorporated Council of Legal Education exists for the supervision and control of the legal education of students desiring to qualify as Advocates and Proctors of the Supreme Court. The Council consists of the Judges, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General and such other persons of standing in the legal profession as the Judges may appoint. The members hold office for three years at a time.

Admission to the Law College takes place in the month of September and the number of students admitted during the year 1956 for the Advocates' course was 50 and the Proctors' course was 43.

The number of candidates who, in 1956, entered for the examinations of the Law College and the number successful are as follows :—

	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Passed</i>
Examination for the admission of Advocates	228	103
Examination for the admission of Proctors	484	205

Ceylon Technical College

The Ceylon Technical College is a Department under the control of the Ministry of Education and is the principal institution in the Island providing training for the Junior Technical Grades :—

The Courses of study are conducted under three sections :—

Engineering,
Vocational, and
Commerce.

Bursaries and Scholarships

Bursaries are provided at this Institution to deserving students. Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded to those students who come first and second in the order of merit in each class.

CHAPTER XVI

PUBLIC HEALTH

I—GENERAL

THE year 1956 completes a period of two and half years of progress made since the re-organisation of the Department of Health Services under completely decentralised regional divisions each in charge of a Superintendent of Health Services with responsibility in the division for all services of the Health Department.

Early in the year, Lt.-General Sir Bennett Hance, Medical Advisor to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, arrived in the Island on the invitation of the Government "to assess the progress on the implementation of the Cumpston recommendations and the re-organisation scheme of the Department, and to advise further". His main conclusion is "that the general lines of re-organisation of the Health Services recommended by Dr. Cumpston as modified (with his agreement) by the Director of Health Services is in full consonance with modern ideas and is the correct approach to the health problems facing Ceylon".

In his Report (Sessional Paper XVI of 1956) he offers constructive criticism. For the future development of the Health Services he makes no less than 253 recommendations many of which have been implemented during 1956 while the others are currently under consideration by the Health Ministry.

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

The situation in 1956 regarding the incidence of the common infectious diseases was very satisfactory. For the second successive year there have been in the country no cases of Smallpox, Cholera, or Plague or any of the other quarantinable diseases. It is 19 years since the last case of human plague occurred. While this is a source of satisfaction, it does give no cause for complacency as vigilance has to be maintained if the population is to be protected from the major infectious diseases which are endemic in the neighbouring continent. In brief the result has been that the major killing diseases and Malaria have been brought under control; the acute specific fever have been disarmed; infective diseases other than Tuberculosis and of the Gastro-intestinal group, now cause little major ill-health. But for these, the standards of health in the country are stationary. The morbidity figures and expectation of life, though the former has been reduced in a few diseases considerably in the last decade, still compare unfavourably with those of many advanced communities.

Malnutrition

The outstanding medical problem from infant to school child is no doubt the extent of malnutrition now prevalent. It has been even surmised that "the prevalence of malnutrition may be the major cause of relative weakness, fatigability and lethargy of the average Ceylon peasant". In the Children's wards of hospitals vitamin deficiencies of all varieties and Kwashiorkor due to protein deficiency are seen in numbers. In the Medical Inspection of school children anaemia due to mineral or folic acid or protein deficiency, failure to thrive resulting in below standard weight and height for age are commonest of all defects found. Returns of diseases treated both at dispensaries and hospitals go to prove that anaemia is the national heritage of childhood and of the expectant mother in this country. The solution to this deep seated malady is not exclusively within the Department of Health. The supply of vitamins, minerals and drug supplements by the Department to correct diet deficiency will not touch the fringe of this problem which is inextricably tied up with the availability of the kind of food the people need and the ability to afford to buy such food. There are no doubt a number of people who owing to ignorance, traditions and religious scruples will

not consume it even if the correct food is offered to them. But their number is small. The Department of Health Services has done and is doing all in its power to educate people in the correct attitude towards food and its values.

Medical Buildings

A sum of approximately Rs. 17 million has been spent during the financial year 1955-56 on Medical Buildings.

The programme begun the previous financial year of developing existing Provincial Hospitals, Base Hospitals, District Hospitals and Peripheral Units was continued. Additional ward accommodation for T. B. patients and the construction of new buildings for schools of nursing and provision of quarters for staff begun last financial year were also continued. The new wards constructed gave an additional bed-strength of approximately 1,084 beds during the year 1956. In addition, with the completion of the Ratnapura New Hospital and General Hospital, five-storied ward block along with the other new wards under construction now, an additional bed-strength of approximately 3,244 beds will be available for occupation during the year 1957.

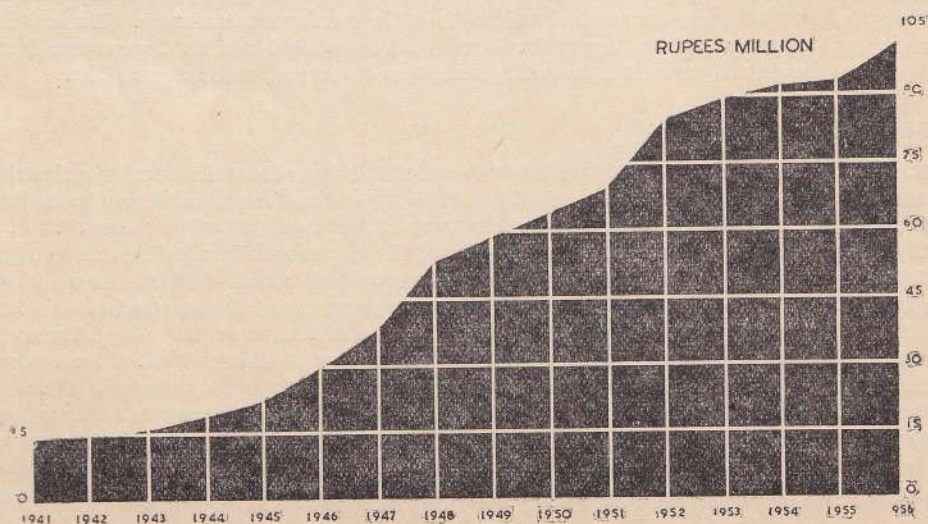
The programme begun the previous year regarding augmentation of water supply in hospitals where it was inadequate and provision of pipe-borne water supply to Peripheral Units which do not have it at present was continued. The programme of providing electricity to hospitals which do not have this amenity at present was also continued.

Expenditure of Health Services

The total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 95,834,312 as against Rs. 90,952,634 in the previous year. The increase of approximately Rs. 5 millions was due in the main to extra expenditure on the T. B. Campaign and other specialised campaigns and on Environmental Sanitation and Health Education. Administration costs represented approximately seven per cent. of the expenditure. Eighty per cent. of the annual bill was on the maintenance of Hospitals, Maternity Homes, &c., and the conduct of the Special Campaigns. The balance thirteen per cent. was on public health projects.

The revenue collected by the Department during the year 1955-56, amounted to Rs. 1,623,125. An important change which affected the revenue of the year was the abolition of charges for out-door treatment recovered from patients on the basis of their income.

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, 1941-56



II—MEDICAL SERVICES

During the course of the year, in consonance with the policy of the new Government there was a slowing down of the building programme of the Department, the accent being placed on improvements to the existing institutions both in accommodation and service rather than embarking on new undertakings.

Further steps were taken in the preparation to grant autonomy to the Management Committee of the Colombo Group of Hospitals.

Medical Institutions

At the end of 1956 the number of hospital beds had increased to 26,566 with the addition of 1,084 beds. The increase covers both general and special beds. There were 361 hospitals and maternity homes with 20,349 beds and 26 Special institutions with 6,217.

The number of Peripheral Units were 54 with 1,466 beds. A group consisting of a Rural Hospital, Maternity Home and Central Dispensary constitutes a Peripheral Unit.

Peripheral Units integrate both Preventive and Curative Health activities. They provide the ordinary medical needs for the common ailments thus preventing overcrowding in the District and Provincial Hospitals.

In addition to complete Peripheral Units, there are incomplete Peripheral Units consisting of a Central Dispensary and a Maternity Home or a Central Dispensary and a Rural Hospital.

Ambulance Service

There has been a slight increase in the strength of the Ambulance Service. The number of ambulances at certain Provincial Hospitals has been increased. Five new ambulances were purchased during this year. They are of the light type and are mainly used for sitting cases. The ambulance continue to be of great service to patients living in areas remote from the District Hospitals.

Legislation

In the sphere of legislation, the new Mental Diseases (Amendment) Act, No. 27 of 1956, superseded the Lunacy (Amendment) Act of 1952 and the outmoded Lunacy Ordinance of 1940. The change in the Law enable patients to be admitted to the Mental Hospital as voluntary patients without having to go before Justices of Peace and Judges before admission.

TABLE 16·1 COLOMBO GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND BED-STRENGTH

<i>Name of Institution</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>
1. General Hospital, Colombo	1,445
2. De Soysa Maternity Hospital, Colombo	340
3. Castle Street Maternity Hospital, Colombo	164
4. Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo	242
5. Victoria Memorial Eye Hospital, Colombo	200
6. Dental Institute, Colombo	28
Total	2,419

TABLE 16-2 DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCIAL BASE AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS, PERIPHERAL UNITS, RURAL HOSPITALS, MATERNITY HOMES AND THEIR BED-STRENGTH BY SUPERINTENDENT OF HEALTH SERVICES' DIVISION,—1956

Revenue District/s comprising the Superintendent of Health Services' Division	Provincial Base and District Hospitals			Peripheral Units			Rural Hospitals			Maternity Homes			Total		
	No.	Bed-Strength		No.	Bed-Strength		No.	Bed-Strength		No.	Bed-Strength		No.	Bed-Strength	
Colombo	10	1,532		4	98		3	63		14	160		31	1,853	
Kalutara	7	970		1	28		6	111		4	41		18	1,150	
Kandy	15	1,775		5	140		9	174		7	79		36	2,168	
Matale and Tamankaduwa	5	516		4	106		2	44		5	59		16	725	
Badulla and Nuwara Eliya	20	1,419		2	43		5	119		5	60		32	1,641	
Galle	7	1,016		5	162		4	84		4	34		20	1,296	
Matara and Hambantota	8	872		6	152		8	177		13	142		35	1,343	
Jaffna	8	1,120		3	86		4	85		12	114		27	1,405	
Vavuniya and Mannar	6	319		3	62		2	43		3	34		14	458	
Anuradhapura and Trincomalee	5	508		3	90		5	108		13	150		26	856	
Batticaloa	6	472		2	68		4	70		7	77		19	687	
Kurunegala	6	1,184		12	313		5	164		10	112		33	1,773	
Puttalam-Chilaw	4	354		3	84		3	78		2	24		12	540	
Ratnapura	9	926		—	—		5	90		4	44		18	1,060	
Kegalla	6	769		1	34		4	96		7	76		18	975	
Total	122	13,752		54	1,466		69	1,506		110	1,206		355	17,930	

TABLE 16-3 SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS AND BED-STRENGTH

<i>Name of Institution</i>	<i>Number of Beds</i>
1. Anti-Tuberculosis Institute	—
2. Kandana Sanatorium	320
3. Ragama Chest Hospital	586
4. Talagalla Chest Hospital	75
5. Welisara Chest Hospital	709
6. Wirawila Chest Hospital	96
7. Kankesanturai Sanatorium	84
8. Puttalam Chest Hospital	118
9. Mental Hospital, Angoda	2,158
10. Mental Hospital, Pelawatte	278
11. Leprosy Hospital, Hendala	702
12. Leprosy Hospital, Mantivu	260
13. Leprosy Hospital, Uragaha	34
14. Fever Hospital, Angoda	300
15. Prison Hospital, Kandy	45
16. Prison Hospital, Galle	11
17. Prison Hospital, Jaffna	20
18. Infectious Diseases Hospital, Jaffna	20
19. Prison Hospital, Anuradhapura	20
20. Prison Hospital, Batticaloa	5
21. Prison Hospital, Colombo	176
22. Police Hospital, Colombo	37
23. Training School for Youthful Offenders, Negombo	24
24. Training School for Youthful Offenders, Watupitiwela	22
25. Mahara Jail Hospital	112
26. Prison Hospital, Matara	3
Total	6,217

III—LABORATORY SERVICES

Laboratory Services continue to develop slowly. With the expansion of the hospital services and appointment of specialist staff to outstations it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the growing demand for better laboratory facilities.

Through the good offices of the Technical Co-operation Scheme, Colombo Plan, the services of Mr. R. J. Holt was obtained to set up a unit for maintaining and servicing medical laboratory equipment. An instrument maintenance unit has now been set up at the Medical Research Institute. A group of technicians has been trained and laboratory equipment in all parts of the Island is being regularly serviced.

Under the direction of a W. H. O., Epidemiologist a laboratory has been set up at Angoda, which functions as a branch of the Medical Research Institute undertaking a considerable volume of work and referring to the Medical Research Institute the more complicated examinations.

The Central Blood Bank under the Pathologist, General Hospital, Colombo, has developed further. A scheme to regulate collection of blood from outstations has been organised. Its full requirements for a day-and-night service are now satisfied.

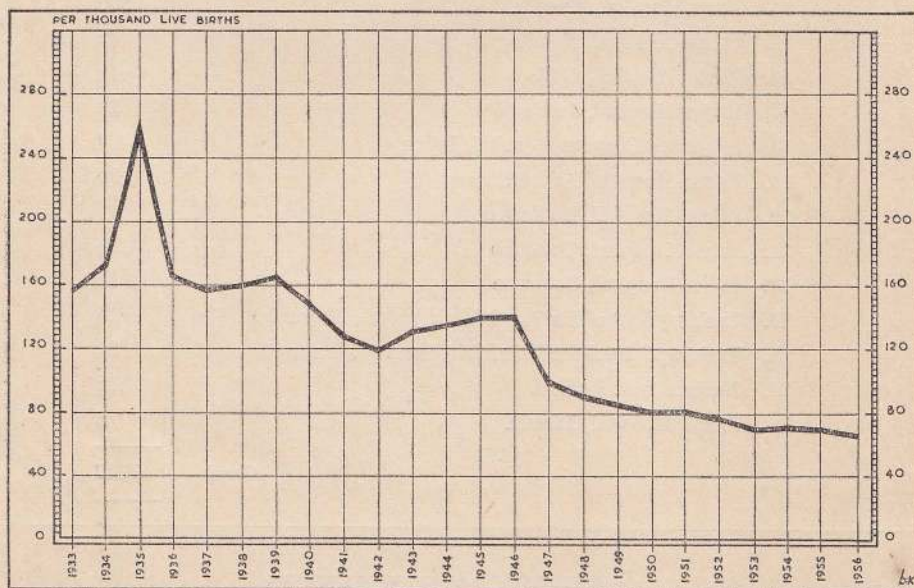
Steps are being taken to provide a laboratory, a type plan of which has already been approved, for each provincial hospital.

The buildings of the Insect-borne Diseases Field Training Centre have been taken over by the Division of Laboratory Services for a provincial laboratory. A Pathologist has been appointed and a fair progress has been made.

IV—PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The year 1956 was demographically a year of records—a crude death rate of 9.8, an infant death rate of 67 and a maternal death rate of 3.8 have been the lowest ever recorded in this country. The birth rate of 36.4 is also less than that in the previous year. If a downward trend in the birth rate is what the country expects in the face of food production which is unable to keep pace with the population growth, then this too constitutes a record.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE, CEYLON, 1933-56



With an increase of 206,000 in the population in 1956 over the previous year the natural increase which was below 20 per 1,000 of the population up to 1947, when the island-wide Malaria Control Scheme was inaugurated, has now gradually reached the high figure of 26.8 per 1,000. The birth rate of 36.4 per 1,000 of the population in 1956 is above the lowest rate of 34.0 in 1936 and much below the peak level of 42.0 in 1926.

The number of deaths registered from all causes totalled 88,971—a number less than in any year in the previous 45-year period except in 1954. The death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 of the population is the lowest recorded during the same 45-year period and compares very favourably with the recorded rates of most other countries (England 11.7 and India 20.1 in 1955.)

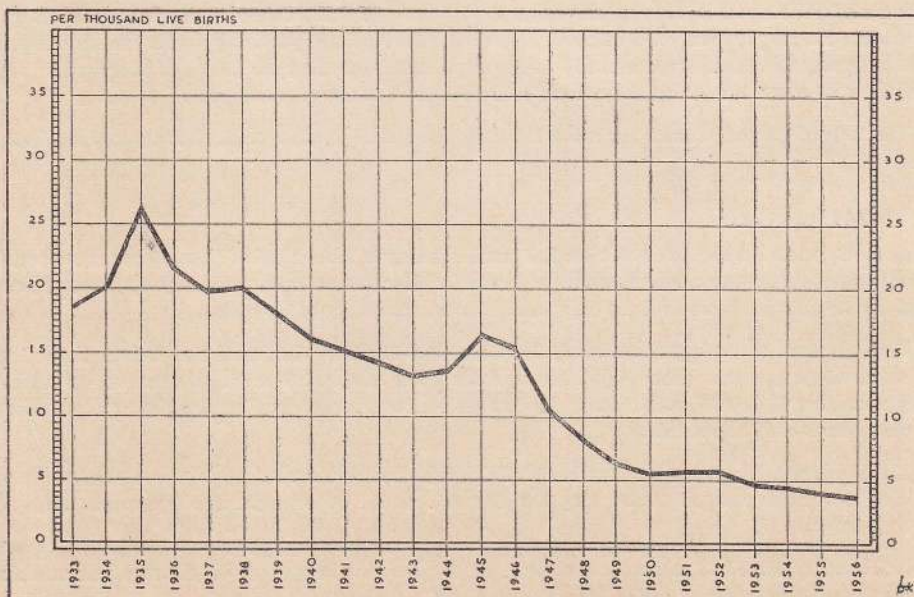
The fall in the death rate of infants to 67 per 1,000 live births from 71 in 1955 is the most significant drop in all vital occurrences during the year. Though this is the lowest ever recorded for this country it is still high compared with more advanced countries, the rates in some of them being even less than half of this.

The maternal death rate of 15.5 per 1,000 live births in 1947 was drastically reduced within a period of three years to 5.6 in 1950. No further improvement occurred till 1953 and thereafter the rate has steadily come down to 3.8 in 1956. The pattern of Maternal and Child Health Services was changed by the Department of Health from 1953 with the Hospital Obstetricians and Paediatricians taking part in the Welfare Clinics work. The maternal mortality rate of 3.8 so far reached is still three times as high as compared with what is obtaining in some of the other countries.

Environmental Sanitation

Still not more than one-third of the houses in Ceylon are provided with sanitary latrines and a considerable amount of morbidity due to adverse environmental causes exists in the country. This problem has received the attention of various Consultants who visited the country. In the recent report on the re-organisation of Health Services in Ceylon, Lt.-General Sir Bennett Hance states that one of the "primary health needs in Ceylon is the satisfactory provision of environmental sanitation. It cannot be over-emphasised that a rapid and drastic improvement in environmental sanitation and the control of bowel diseases has now assumed a position of unquestionable first priority". Environmental sanitation covers a wide field of activities which includes disposal of excreta, good water, housing control of food and milk, sanitation of working places, prevention of atmospheric pollution and control of insect and rodent pests, &c. The responsibility for taking effective action in all these rests under Ceylon Legislation with the Local Authorities. Consequently a considerable amount of responsibility for this public health measure, so intimately connected with the comfort and health of man, is with the Ministry of Local Government. The action that could be taken by the Department of Health is confined to technical advice, education of the public and co-ordination of work.

MATERNAL DEATH RATE, CEYLON, 1933-56



One of the most important items of Environmental Sanitation is the provision of water for drinking and for the colateral facilities of sewerage and drainage. The position regarding the provision of adequate water supply to the community is quite unsatisfactory. Not more than 10 per cent. of the population is served with a pipe-borne water supply. "Of the 7 Municipal Council towns, only 5 have pipe-borne water supply ; of the 36 Urban Councils only 14 and of the 38 Town Councils only 9 have some sort of pipe-borne water supply. The conditions in the Village Committee areas are infinitely worse. In some of the areas of the dry zone, obtaining of water at all is a perennial problem".

Pilot Project

To work out simple, cheap and feasible methods of rural sanitation and water supply the Pilot Project, set up with assistance from W. H. O. and UNICEF, continued its work in Kurunegala area. So far the Pilot Project has been carrying out experiments only in the dry zone area. The work has been chiefly in the form of construction of latrines and wells and the training of personnel. It has not been possible as yet to extend this work to the wet zone. Only a population of about 5,700 had been provided with these facilities by the end of 1956, while the original target was to provide those facilities to a population of 65,000. Considerable experience has been gained already from this experimental project.

Maternal and Child Health

A committee consisting of representatives of the teaching staff of the University and representatives of the Department of Health has been appointed to study the question of the organisation of Maternal and Child Health work and of morbidity and mortality among pre-school children and mothers and also to clarify the position as to why there has not been much improvement in the maternal and infant mortality rates during the last few years. This committee is expected to submit its report early.

For school medical inspection the services of more Apothecaries were utilized during the year than in 1955, the number being 174 compared to 82 in 1955. The number of scholars examined was also more than in the previous years, namely 151,072 compared to 130,636 in 1955. Of these medically examined, 70.1 per cent. had on an average 2 defects. The most common defect that was detected was malnutrition, while Hookworm infestation came second. Diseases of the teeth and gums constituted 21.38 per cent. To intensify School Health Work, Supervising Public Health Inspectors are being requisitioned for general follow-up work in safeguarding the health of the pupils. More defects were corrected during the current year compared to the previous year.

The School Dental Clinics functioned during the year. A new clinic was opened at Ananda College.

Food and Drugs Control

The Food and Drugs Regulations, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 relating to the control of Food were made operative in all towns under the administration of Local Authorities as from February 1, 1956. Prior to this the Regulations were in force only within the Municipality of Colombo.

The question of getting the local authorities, specially the Municipal and Urban Councils for a start, to implement these regulations within their respective areas was taken up with the Commissioner of Local Government. He has since directed these local authorities to implement the regulations as early as possible.

The Food and Drugs Regulation, No. 7, 1955, relating to the control of the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream was gazetted during the year and would be brought into operation during the early part of 1957.

(a) *Control of Food.*—The control of food under the Act in respect of the regulations already promulgated was enforced in the Municipalities of Colombo and Kandy.

(b) *Control of Drugs.*—The control of drugs was enforced by the Director of Health Services. The licensing of dealers in drugs other than those dealing with household drugs as given in the First Schedule to these Regulations, was put into operation as from February 1, 1956. The total number of dealers licensed during the year was 738.

The Drug Control Inspectors commenced a survey of all dealers in drugs in their areas and a number of unlicensed dealers have been detected. It is not proposed to take any legal action against these till sufficient time is given to them to obtain their licences.

Sampling of drugs was not carried out. When the dealers have had sufficient time to acquaint themselves with the requirements of the Regulations pertaining to Drug Control, steps will be taken for sampling and subsequent legal action.

The Government Analyst has been approved as a Public Analyst for all the local authorities in the Island, in respect of the analysis of drugs.

(c) *Estate Health Work.*—Health work was carried out on estates scheduled under the Medical Wants Ordinance. Every effort was made to improve the sanitary conditions under which the estate labourers lived and to provide medical care to those who needed it.

The general sanitary conditions of the majority of the estates inspected during the year was below standard.

Medical Facilities (Estates)

The Government maintained 66 Hospitals and 116 Dispensaries in the Estate Medical Districts in charge of qualified Medical Officers and Apothecaries to render medical aid to the estates and the indigenous population. In addition, the estate authorities maintained 122 estate hospitals and 434 estate dispensaries (including the 122 dispensaries attached to estate hospitals) for the exclusive use of the plantation labourers.

Colonization Schemes.—Health work was carried out in 46 Colonization Schemes as against 34 in 1955. Action was taken to provide the necessary medical facilities to colonists and also to protect their health. Latrine construction in the areas under Colonization Schemes has not been quite satisfactory. The health of the colonists on the whole, has been satisfactory.

Rabies.—The central authority for the eradication of rabies has now been vested with the Department of Health, as rabies is still an important problem among the Zoonoses. Due to measures already adopted, the number of human deaths from rabies has been reduced from 43 in 1955 to 24 in 1956.

Health Education.—Health Education work was carried out by the Health Educators attached to the 15 Divisions. The chief activity during the year has been the in-service training of personnel and the study of the habits and customs of the people with a view to changing the attitude of the people enabling them to realise the value of healthful living.

V—SPECIAL DISEASES

Malaria

With the interruption of residual spraying of insecticides for the control of malaria at the beginning of 1955 no attempt was made to deal with the gametocyte reservoir in the population. Malaria morbidity with a rate of 0.35 per 1,000 for 1956 has reached the lowest ever recorded—(the highest was 754 per 1,000 in 1940).

General Hance in his report refers thus to the achievement in the field of malaria control : “Public Enemy No. 1 (of 1949) has by brilliant adaptation and adoption of recently developed methods been halted in its advance, repulsed and driven into and held in check in the fastness of the jungle areas. However, he maintains a desultory and uneasy guerilla warfare”.

The increase in the percentage of positive blood smears from the fever cases as reported by the Division of Anti-Malaria Campaigns indicate that cases of malaria and foci of transmission were on the increase in 1956.

It is conjectured that with the stoppage of systematic insecticidal spraying their increase will be progressive in the succeeding years. Partly for this reason and partly to still further reduce the incidence of malaria to negligible proportions and if possible to banish it altogether from the country a malaria "eradication programme" will be instituted in the ensuing year. In this programme cases of malaria will be detected at the earliest possible opportunity by intensified vigilance activity, whilst at the same time systematic residual spraying will be re-introduced to keep the *A. Culicifacies* in check until the gametocyte reservoir in the population is permanently reduced to levels below the threshold for effective transmission.

It is hoped that in five years from now Ceylon will be in a position to announce the complete eradication of this one time scourge.

Tuberculosis Control

Considerable progress has been made in the campaign against Tuberculosis.

Those found to be suffering from the disease can now have full range of medical treatment made available to them without delay at the Special Institutions and the usual hospitals. They have the benefit of early discovery at any of the six Chest Clinics out of the nine planned; they can be returned to full health more quickly and more confidently by admission as in-patients to the 3,438 beds now available throughout the country (which includes 110 beds in the Hawke Memorial Ward for Children donated in 1936 by the C. N. A. P. T.) followed by domiciliary or ambulatory treatment where suitable, with financial assistance for subsistence from the Department of Social Services; and their families and friends can be protected by B. C. G. vaccination with surveillance in the home by health visitors specially attached to the campaign to advise. In the process of control the major emphasis in the future will shift from therapeutics to prevention. No effort will be spared to seek out the patient who is spreading the disease. Such effort will be directed not only to trace the source of the disease in the clinically recognised case but also in those whose infection is revealed only by the Tuberculin Test.

The recent Sample Survey, the figures of which have not as yet been completely statistically analysed, indicate that the number infected with Tuberculosis in the population is somewhere between 63 and 65 thousands, and of this number 29,510 (some figures overlapping) were treated at clinics and 10,932 in institutions according to available statistics for 1956.

Venereal Diseases

1956 was the third year of operation of the campaign against Venereal Diseases since the National team took over from the International Experts. There is a decrease in the prevalence of symptomatic syphilis. With the extension of routine blood testing among pregnant women and to the general population among selected groups the correct diagnosis of latent infection is becoming more difficult. For this reason the necessity for a Central Laboratory exclusively for the campaign has been urged.

Gonorrhoea is not so much a medical problem as in pre-penicillin days. Yet there are indications that self-treatment and treatment by quacks are still common.

The pivot on which the foundation of Venereal Disease control rests is successful contact tracing and not mere treatment of those suffering with the disease. This activity had a set back for a time as a result of representations made against it. The experienced worker on the staff who usually undertakes this work is always in close contact with patients as well as the clinician and knows how this delicate task could be arranged according to local circumstances without embarrassment to the parties concerned.

Yaws (Parangi) is still prevalent in the under-developed parts of some of the provinces defying complete eradication. There were 490 reported cases in 1956 with 258 of them in the infective stage. This is not the entire problem. A special section of the V. D. Control Campaign in charge of a full-time Medical Officer was set up during the year to work on a programme for its complete eradication.

Leprosy

The medical outlook on the infectivity of Leprosy has changed to such an extent in recent years that the question of even repealing the Leprosy Ordinance under which segregation is made compulsory, has engaged the serious attention of the Health Department. However, the Ordinance will be on the statute book for a little longer. Leprosy was added to the list of diseases notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Ordinance as hitherto the disease was not notifiable.

With the advent of the Sulphone group of drugs for the treatment of Leprosy it is possible, with their adequate administration to diminish the years of infectiveness of the afflicted so that one generation of cases cannot produce an equivalent number in the next. A case finding programme by an island-wide survey to ascertain the total number infected and immediate contact investigation whenever a diagnosis was established in a case, received priority in the control programme carried out during the year, so that early treatment with the Sulphone drugs could be instituted in all cases diagnosed.

This survey revealed a decline in the prevalence of the disease in almost all surveyed areas which covered nearly three-fourths of the Island, comprising of some of the worst spots according to past experience.

New cases detected numbered 475 during 1956 as against 316 in the previous year. The increase was due to the survey carried out. On this basis the highest number of cases that the Department of Health, will be ever called upon to deal with would be less than 2,500. Of them 984 are already inmates at the three institutions at Hendala, Mantivu and Urugaha.

Filariasis

The temporary measures to eliminate the breeding places of the Filariasis carrying mosquito have not succeeded in spite of sustained efforts for several years. In the Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Urban Council area alone the rate of increase of man made potential breeding places for this mosquito is four-fold as compared with the position four years ago. The fact that there has been some reduction in the microfilaria infection rate in the people resident in the coastal filaria belt in the west of Ceylon due mostly to larval and some adult control of the vector combined with the treatment of those found infected by blood examination is no criterion to record that the situation is under control. The further extension of this danger to health has been curbed only at the cost of increased expenditure of money. The Central Government undertook from October, 1956, the partial financial responsibility for the cost of converting mosquito breeding catch-pits of privies into mosquito proofed ones in some Urban areas and also to assist the Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Urban Council to improve the scavenging and conservancy services. The results of this responsibility on the prevalence of the *Culex fatigans* mosquito are keenly watched.

The permanent solution to the filaria menace lies in a pipe-borne water supply with sewered latrine and adequate surface drainage.

The rural problem of filaria has been disposed of by weedicide control of pistia plants in water tanks and treatment of cases.

Mental Health

At the end of 1956 there were 4,523 inmates at Angoda and Pelawatte Mental Hospitals. The number of direct admissions was 21 (voluntarily) and 103 (temporary) since the promulgation of the Mental Diseases (Amendment) Act, No. 27 of 1956, which was the formal abandonment of the social contingency of locking up the mentally ill, so as to isolate them from the rest of the community, through the intervention of the Courts of Law.

In spite of every advance in the treatment of Mental Diseases the Mental Hospital has become checked up with schizophrenics who entered as young men and lived most of their lives there. Schizophrenia remains the main problem. Probably the most important thing in this mental disorder is to prevent rather than cure it. Socio-economic rehabilitation of the cured and the relieved is now receiving adequate attention through handicrafts under an Occupational Therapist trained abroad. In addition to this some patients work in the Hospital Farm, where the insane are

employed in an occupation they are normally used to in their villages. This Farm activity produced over 94,000 pints of milk for the consumption of the inmates. During 1956 an Expert assigned by the World Health Organisation studied the problem of the mentally handicapped child in Ceylon and reported that this question need not receive high priority here when other problems in the field of Mental Health await urgent solution. However, the recommendations made by him in his report will receive attention in subsequent years.

Provision has also been made to appoint in the 1956-57 financial year, a Psychologist to the Child Guidance Clinic for mental testing of children, advice the patients undergoing domiciliary treatment and their contacts. Those cured are able to be rehabilitated in suitable employment at Talagolla Centre.

VI—INDIGENOUS MEDICINE

College of Indigenous Medicine

The course of studies at the College extends to a period of five years.

There are 40 Scholarships of the value of Rs. 240 per annum and 40 Bursaries of the value of Rs. 120 per annum. These are distributed as follows :—

<i>Section</i>	<i>Scholarships</i>	<i>Bursaries</i>
Ayurvedic	27	36
Siddha	5	—
Unani	8	3
	—	—
	40	39
	—	—

Hospital

Number of patients treated in the hospital in 1956 was 2,375.

Paying patients	9
Non-paying patients	2,366
Number of deaths	18

The section of the hospital wards which accommodated paying patients was demolished to make way for the new buildings. This accounts for the reduction in the number of paying patients treated from 59 in 1955 to 9 in the year under review. No paying patients are at present admitted to the hospital.

The number of patients attended to in the hospital during the previous year was 2,521.

Number treated during 1956 at the Out-Patients' Department was 338,311.

Pharmacy

The Pharmacy attached to the Hospital continues to manufacture all the medicines necessary for the treatment of patients in the Hospital and Out-Patients' Department.

Grants to Free Ayurvedic Dispensaries

Annual grants varying from Rs. 80 to Rs. 1,500 have been made to Ayurvedic dispensaries which are maintained by recognised bodies and conform to certain conditions laid down by the Ministry of Health. Free Ayurvedic dispensaries maintained by Local Bodies have also been given grants from Rs. 100 to 13,000 per annum. During the year under review grants were given to 74 dispensaries maintained by Private Boards of Management and 67 dispensaries maintained by Local bodies.

During the previous year grants were given to 82 dispensaries maintained by Private Bodies and 52 dispensaries maintained by Local Bodies.

Registration of Practitioners of Indigenous Medicine

The total number of practitioners of Indigenous Medicine registered up to the end of December 1956 is 7,481. Of this number 5,268 are General Practitioners and 2,213 are Specialists. During the year 1956, 93 General Practitioners and 48 Specialists were registered.

All the applications received up to December 31, 1952, have already been dealt with, but applications from those who are eligible for registration in terms of the Indigenous Medicine Ordinance, No. 17 of 1941, and Indigenous Amendment Act, No. 49 of 1949, are still being received at this office for registration.

About 3,000 practitioners of Indigenous Medicine who were unable to apply for registration within the specified period have now applied for application forms.

Pharmacopoeia of Indigenous Medicine

The Pharmacopoeia Committee which is divided into three sub-committees Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani, was appointed by the Hon. the Minister of Health to compile a Pharmacopoeia for Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani medicines respectively. Of the three sub-committees only two sub-committees, viz., Ayurveda and Siddha are at present functioning.

Both these Committees have submitted interim reports. So far more than half the work has been done. It is expected that it will take another 2 to 3 years to complete the entire work.

Additions and Improvements

The two-storied ward block for the hospital, the construction of which commenced this year, is nearing completion. With the occupation of this ward, the bed-strength of the hospital will increase by one hundred and twenty-four.

VII—QUARANTINE SERVICES

Ceylon's defence against the introduction of dangerous infectious diseases like Cholera, Small-pox and Plague from neighbouring countries and against Yellow Fever from Yellow-Fever-infected areas, is its Quarantine Regulations made under the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance of 1897.

The original conception that quarantine measures were a kind of sanitary police and prison system as obtained at Ceylon's Segregation Camp at Mandapam, has been modified by the International Sanitary Regulations, to which Ceylon is a signatory, in order to give the well immunised traveller freedom of movement based on the co-operation of the public. The better protection against the importation of quarantinable diseases than a barrier of quarantine restrictions, is to set up an effective Public Health Service to protect the community by the immunising procedures and other advances made in medical science.

Mandapam and Tattaparai Quarantine Camps guard against the entry of Cholera and Small-pox infection into Ceylon from India through the rail route and sea route respectively. Immigrant labourers, are subject to quarantine procedures. They also receive the attention of the Protector

of the Indian Government and of the Commissioner of Labour at Mandapam Camp. Passengers (other than immigrant labourers) are subject to medical surveillance in Ceylon, provided they conform with the usual requirements.

The Port Health Organisation at Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee and Out-Ports, is an important part of the Quarantine Department. Ships are inspected on arrival to determine whether they are healthy or carry infection. Ships, their personnel and cargo, are appropriately dealt with in case infection is found to be present. The fumigation of plague-suspect cargo with Hydrogen Cyanide gas is a conspicuous feature of Ceylon's defence against plague.

The Airport Health Service is well established. Ratmalana, as the principal Airport in Ceylon has a full-time Airport Health Officer with the necessary staff to combat the importation of infection by aircraft. At Kankasanturai (Jaffna Airport) and at Katunayake (Royal Air Force Station. Negombo) part-time Airport Health Officers are functioning.

In view of the possible entry of Yellow-Fever into Ceylon through aircraft, special precautions, are taken at our Airports, e.g., Mosquito control of Ratmalana and Katunayake, disinfection of aircraft arriving from Yellow-Fever-infected areas. Passengers arriving from such areas without vaccination certificates against Yellow-Fever are liable to isolation in an isolation hospital in Ceylon.

CHAPTER XVII

SOCIAL SERVICES, RURAL WELFARE AND NATIONAL HOUSING

I—SOCIAL SERVICES

A Separate Department of Social Services was created in 1948 to deal with the subjects of Poor Relief, Relief of Distress, Charitable Institutions, Workmen's Compensation and Social Insurance. All these subjects with the exception of Social Insurance were previously administered by the Department of Labour on a limited scale.

Public Assistance

The administration of the Poor Law Ordinance of 1939 promulgated for rendering public assistance to poor was vested in the three major Municipalities of Colombo, Kandy and Galle. The Municipal authority established its own standards of determining relief within a general pattern set by this Ordinance.

In areas outside these Municipalities, payment of monthly allowances to the needy continues to be the basic social service and still affords the major governmental protection against the hazards of old age, sickness and disability. Assistance to destitute widows and to women deprived of their husbands' help owing to imprisonment or physical disability is also provided. The standards determining relief are set out in the Manual of Public Assistance Orders and Procedure, and the maximum payments are Rs. 10 per mensem for an individual and Rs. 20 per mensem for a person with dependants.

The number of persons who received monthly allowances and the total sums expended in such cases since 1953-54 are as follows :—

TABLE 17-1 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (MONTHLY ALLOWANCES)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Persons</i>	<i>Total sum expended Rs.</i>
1953-54	75,151	7,330,304
1954-55	76,161	6,890,673
1955-56	84,798	7,411,156

The full responsibility for the administration of public assistance and relief of distress, whether casual or widespread, is by the Central Government through its Revenue Officers.

Casual Relief

Assistance is given to relieve distress resulting from accidents or other emergencies affecting individuals or small groups. The relief covers distress resulting from loss of earnings, or food supply by fire or accident, repair or reconstruction of houses, assistance to purchase clothing, implements of trade or tools or cooking utensils lost through fire, rain, storm or other similar cause. The maximum grant payable in any one case is Rs. 300. The amount spent on casual relief in 1955-56 was Rs. 216,870 on 3,022 cases.

Relief of Distress

Floods and droughts are a common cause of distress. Any catastrophic occurrence like a cyclone, earthslip or an epidemic, which involves the people in suffering and helplessness is also regarded as abnormal distress.

The scheme for relief of distress due to floods provides for the immediate grant of relief in the form of food, clothing and shelter to those rendered homeless, and grants of money up to a maximum of Rs. 300 to those whose houses require repair or rebuilding or for implements of trade damaged or destroyed. Assistance to relieve distress due to crop failure usually takes the form of provision of unskilled employment in relief works.

A scheme of financial assistance for indigent tuberculosis patients and their dependants has been formulated by the Department of Social Services in close collaboration with the Department of Health Services with the object of compensating for loss of earning power during treatment and thus encouraging early and complete treatment and care. The maximum payment to a family where the patient is receiving institutional treatment is Rs. 60 per mensem and where outdoor treatment is taken Rs. 80 per mensem. Supplements of Rs. 40 per mensem are also payable in respect of dependants who are themselves afflicted by the disease. In 1956 a total amount of Rs. 4,304,155 was spent in assisting 7,700 family units whereas the expenditure in the previous year was Rs. 3,143,867.

Voluntary Agencies

The Voluntary Agencies continue to perform a very necessary and useful service. The paucity of funds generally makes their effort inadequate in relation to the large numbers seeking assistance. Even though the sphere of State action has greatly expanded in recent years, Government in pursuance of its policy of encouraging voluntary effort, has given liberal grants to such agencies in varying amounts. In 1955-56 Rs. 1,249,002 was paid as grants to 217 Voluntary Agencies including Orphanages.

Homes for the Aged

Government policy in regard to the Homes for the Aged has been to assist by means of grants to existing Homes financed by private subscription and voluntary agencies. A sum of Rs. 299,161 was paid to 24 such organisations in 1955-56 as grants-in-aid. But since the Voluntary Agencies are unable to cope with the demand for institutional relief, Government had decided to establish and run State Homes for the Aged in suitable areas. Four such Homes have been established at Koggala, Anuradhapura, Jaffna and Mirigama. Action has also been initiated to construct Homes in Kurunegala and Kandy Districts.

Creches

A scheme to provide Creche facilities for the daytime care of children between the ages of about three months and 5 years in areas where there is a concentration of working mothers came into force in 1951. Grants are given to Voluntary Organisations or Local Authorities for the erection of buildings, purchase of equipment and furniture and for the running of the creches. An annual maintenance grant is payable depending on the number of children cared for in the creche. In 1955-56, 20 creches were assisted by Government grants amounting to Rs. 227,338.

Rehabilitation of the Disabled

Although the term "disabled persons" is popularly associated with disabled ex-servicemen and civilian war casualties, industrial accidents and diseases are an equally important cause of disablement. Liability for compensation in such cases is placed on the employer under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance but no obligation is imposed on him to assist either in their rehabilitation or re-settlement.

A scheme to provide vocational training for the orthopaedically disabled persons in the Orthopaedic Workshops was inaugurated in September, 1952. The period of training varies from six months to three years depending on aptitude, extent of physical disability and the particular trade. A maximum allowance of Rs. 2.20 per diem is paid for the duration of the training.

Deaf and Blind

Government policy in regard to the deaf and blind was to entrust their care and welfare to voluntary organisations and confine state activity to practical measures for the prevention of deafness and blindness. In 1948, however, this policy underwent a change when the State, in effect, accepted responsibility for the after-care of the adult deaf and blind as well. In pursuance of this policy an annual Government grant of Rs. 147,500 is being paid to meet the running costs of the existing scheme of Sheltered Workshops, and steps have been taken to provide improved buildings for the Sheltered Workshops at Seeduwa. A National Council for the Welfare of the Deaf and Blind has been formed to advise the Government and the organisations engaged on this work.

Problem of Vagrancy

The rehabilitation of vagrants and other anti-social elements is being done by the Government through the House of Detention and the Home for Vagrants. At present the House of Detention and the Home for Vagrants are two separate institutions, the former being under the direct management of the Department of Social Services while the other is managed by the Salvation Army on behalf of the Government. Training in Cottage Industries is given to the inmates. This training, in addition to keeping the inmates gainfully occupied while under detention, helps them in obtaining employment on their release. A survey of the Beggar Problem in Ceylon was carried out by the Department of Social Services and its Report was published in 1956 as Sessional Paper XI—1956.

Workmen's Compensation

The payment of compensation to workmen meeting with accidents in the course of their work is provided for under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 19 of 1934, which was brought into operation in 1935, and administered since 1948, by the Director of Social Services. The Ordinance expressly extends the term "accident" to include occupational diseases like anthrax, lead poisoning, &c. The compensation payable is determined on the basis of wages earned by a workman in relation to the loss of earning capacity sustained by him. Insurance is not compulsory under the Ordinance, but an employer may insure with an Insurance Company in order that he may safeguard himself against these risks. Claims paid to employees who met with accidents since 1954 are as follows :—

TABLE 17-2 WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS, 1954-56

Year	Claims	Amount Rs.
1954	7,863	706,391
1955	7,722	610,930
1956	7,646	656,779

Social Insurance

The Government has decided to introduce a National Provident Fund Scheme as a first step towards the introduction of Social Insurance in Ceylon. The preparatory work in this connection is being done by the Department of Social Services.

Legislation

The Poor Law Ordinance for rendering public assistance is in force in the Municipalities of Colombo, Kandy and Galle since 1940.

The preparation of a draft bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance in the light of past experience and with reference to the recommendations of the Social Services Commission is in its final stages.

A draft Charities Regulation Bill to prevent the improper collection of funds allegedly for charitable purposes is receiving the attention of Government.

II—RURAL WELFARE

The basic objectives of the Rural Development Movement are to co-ordinate village activities through a welfare organisation and formulate village development schemes on a collective basis.

During the year emphasis was laid on community benefit projects rather than on individual needs and the major concentration was on community projects such as schools, industrial centres, roads, dispensaries, hospitals, &c. A sum of Rs. 2,550,875 was spent on these projects. Some of the main works executed were 180 school buildings handed over to Government, the self-help contributions being valued at Rs. 900,950,163 miles of new roads constructed and 158½ miles of roads improved on a self-help valuation of Rs. 569,458; assistance from Government funds being Rs. 131,138. Other Government Departments are also offering more and more contracts to the Rural Development Societies for their own work. The total value of such work has been almost three lakhs during the year under review.

Sanitation schemes obtained assistance in a sum of Rs. 958,159 from Government against a self-help contribution valued at nearly Rs. 2,000,000. 2,145 wells and 7,887 latrines were constructed.

Assistance from Rural Development Societies to Textile Centres

Under the 1,000 Textiles Centres Scheme, up to the end of September, 1956, 540 Textiles Centres valued at Rs. 2,500,000 were constructed by Rural Development Societies and handed over to Government. The Government assistance for this was Rs. 747,720.

Canadian Aid Scheme

The principles of utilisation of aid from Canada for the completion of all roads started by Rural Development Societies remained unchanged. Work continued to progress and a total amount of Rs. 2,008,974 has been spent from the Rs. 3,217,522 given by the Government of Canada. In 1955-56 Rs. 1,255,186 worth of work was done.

Women's Societies

The work in connection with women's activities continues to progress. Mrs. B. C. Milan's services were obtained for one year from the UNESCO for advice on women's activities particularly in regard to Home Science and Training.

Women in the rural areas show keen interest in undergoing training. A special course lasting 2½ months for those who had been found suitable at the previous short-term courses was arranged in January this year. This special course is of particular interest in that it is based on the workshop method of training rather than through a series of lectures as in the case of the shorter courses.

4,490 men and 1,422 women were trained at the various courses conducted by the Department of Rural Development either at the Provincial Training Centres or in the three-day courses arranged in the D. R. O's Divisions. In addition, field seminars of 4 to 5 days duration at a time were conducted for the benefit of men and women of the remoter backward areas who for some reason or other find it difficult to undergo residential training. Officers of various Departments meet village leaders at these seminars, discuss common problems and impart useful information.

Backward Communities

The work in connection with the rehabilitation of the Backward Communities progressed satisfactorily, particularly in regard to the Veddahs. In certain areas these nomadic groups have been fully settled and there is no reason to presume that they will revert to their old habits.

Fundamental Education Project

The work of the Project continued. The functions of this centre are training and practical field work.

The programmes connected with the following were carried out :—

- (a) Rural Development
- (b) Encouragement of Cottage Industries
- (c) Religious activities
- (d) Co-operation
- (e) Agricultural Extensions
- (f) Adult Education
- (g) Health Education

Senior Officers from foreign Governments and voluntary organisations in Great Britain, Pakistan, Nepal, India, &c., visited the Project in the course of the year to study its activities. Their visits in most cases were sponsored by the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations Organisation. Their visits were also availed of by the Project Staff to discuss their own problems in their countries and the methods adopted to solve them. This mutual exchange of experience has been of much benefit.

III—THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance of 1912 made provision for co-operative credit societies. Other (non credit) types of societies and secondary institutions could not be organised under it. These and other defects led to the passing of Ordinance No. 34 of 1921 which in turn was repealed by Ordinance No. 16 of 1936 consolidating and amending the law relating to the constitution and control of Co-operative Societies. This also has been amended by Act No. 21 of 1949.

The following table shows the progress made between 1921 and 1941 :—

TABLE 17.3 PROGRESS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1921-41

Year	No. of Societies	No. of Members	Turnover Rs.	Owned Capital Rs.	Assets in Rupees	
					Primary Societies	Secondary Societies
1921	154	18,000	132,000	143,000	204,000	—
1931	600	24,000	1,243,000	641,000	1,610,000	249,000
1941	1,852	79,000	4,458,000	3,230,000	4,952,000	1,243,000

The co-operative movement in its early stages was concerned mainly with the provision of rural credit. The last world war gave a new pattern by shifting emphasis from credit to productive and

distributive functions. The consumers' movement became the life line of food distribution during the years 1942-45. The following table indicates the development of the movement in recent years :—

TABLE 17.4 ANALYSIS OF CO-OPERATIVES BY TYPE OF SOCIETY, 1942-56

<i>Type of Society</i>	1942*	1945*	1948*	1952†	1956†
1. Credit	1,622	1,811	1,959	2,495	3,569
2. Thrift and Savings	164	198	228	320	398
3. Consumers' (Primary)	52	4,027	3,887	3,408	2,584
4. Agricultural Production and Sales	11	23	47	498	955
5. Cottage Industries	16	26	34	210	713
6. Production and Sale (excluding 4 and 5)	40	111	112	194	282
7. School Co-operatives and Youth Clubs	32	46	65	816	1,396
8. Other Primary Societies	29	32	41	77	150
9. Secondary Societies	70	162	189	221	265
Total	2,036	6,436	6,562	8,239	10,312

The Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Society (now familiarly known as CAPS) which originally started in 1947 is yet the most important type of producers' society. These societies are of limited liability and are engaged in—

- (1) giving loans both in cash and kind to cultivators who are members,
- (2) supplying them with agricultural requirements, and
- (3) in selling the produce of their members.

The Director of Food Production is their supplier of finance and the Commissioner for Marketing their customer under the Guaranteed Price Scheme.

235,000 agriculturists have joined as members.

The total assistance by way of loans given by the Government to these societies since 1947 has amounted to Rs. 95 million of which Rs. 75 million have been repaid. Under the Guaranteed Price Scheme these societies collected during 1956 produce worth Rs. 122.1 million of which that of members amounted to Rs. 95.6 million, i.e., 78 per cent. The quantity of paddy collected was 9,816,000 bushels.

The Coconut Industry is being rehabilitated on Co-operative basis and there are 32 societies with a membership of 8,000 covering an acreage of 88,000. Eighty-two per cent. of the members are small-holders owning between 1-10 acres. 13 societies are equipped with desiccating and oil mills. The Central Organisation is a Union of Coconut Producer Societies which is a direct shipper of coconut produce (Copra, D. C., Coconut Oil and Fresh Nuts) and sold for its member societies produce worth Rs. 3.0 million while the societies alone sold produce worth Rs. 10.4 million during 1956. The Union also exported 11,314 cwt. of Desiccated Coconut and 158,000 coconuts both valued at Rs. 719,608 during the year.

Development of Cottage Industries on Co-operative lines has made rapid progress as will be seen from the above table. There are 713 societies in all and these comprise 370 Textile Weavers, 97 Carpentry, 87 Coir Workers, 64 Pottery, 16 Mat Weavers and 79 Others. The total membership

* Year ending April 30.

† Year ending December 31.

is 23,700. Government assists these societies by way of short-term loans for the purchase of raw materials, marketing, medium-term loans for purchase of equipment and machinery and long-term loans for construction of buildings and purchase of land.

The fishermen are helped through the Fishermen's Co-operative Credit and Sales Societies and the Co-operative Fishing Societies. The Ceylon Co-operative Fish Sales Union, which is a Union of the Producer Societies, was registered in 1952 to assist them in selling their catch. It received during the year 410,000 lb. of fish from the member societies and the fishing centres run for migrant fishermen.

This Union performs yet another function. The entire catch of the trawlers engaged by the Government Department of Fisheries is purchased by the Union and sold at a fair price to the consumer, thereby acting as a check on the Market Price of traders' fish. 4.1 million lb. of fish were received from the trawlers. During the year it sold 3 million lb. of fish for Rs. 2.3 million.

The Government has made available a sum of Rs. 3 million and Rs. 2 million respectively for the development of the Fishing Industry and of Cottage Industries on Co-operative lines.

Co-operative production and distribution of milk are making rapid advances. There are 31 societies, with the Colombo Co-operative Milk Union at the apex, which function on much the same lines as those in Stockholm and Geneva. The primary societies produced among themselves 3,784,000 pints of milk during the year 1956 and sold 3,572,724 pints of milk for Rs. 1,575,300. The Bomiriya and the Jaffna Co-operative Dairies are outstanding examples of successful co-operatives in this field.

The Co-operative Milk Union has its own buildings and owns the most up-to-date pasteurization plant in Ceylon, with a capacity of 400 gallons an hour. Both these cost Rs. 4 lakhs. During 1956 it sold 3,816,663 pints of milk for Rs. 2.1 million. Its selling price is 55 cents per pint which is well below outside price for comparable milk.

In Kegalla District, 5 Rubber Producers' Societies operate in estates acquired by Government for village expansion. The acreage owned by these societies is 1,481 and the average holding per member is a little more than 2½ acres. There are also another 8 societies registered for small-holdings.

The Tea Small-holders' Societies number 24 with a membership of 3,827 which is 4.3 per cent. of the number of Small-holders in the Island. The total extent served by these societies at present is 14,000 acres which is 17 per cent. of the total acreage of small-holdings. The assistance received by these societies from Government in 1956 was Rs. 156,750 by way of loans and Rs. 103,035 as subsidies to members. The Morawak Korale Tea Producers Society has set up a Tea Factory in order to process the produce of the members' plantations. During the year it collected 478,584 lb. of tea and manufactured tea to the value of Rs. 631,456. The quantity of green leaf collected by all societies was just a little less than 5 million lb.

A scheme for the Co-operative management of Tea Estates was adopted during the latter part of the year with the registration of the Knavesmere Estate Tea Producers Co-operative Society in the Kegalla District. The Estate—280 acres in extent—is owned by the society and not by the members of whom there are 124. During the 3 months of its working the society made a profit of Rs. 55,512.

In view of the increased local demand for Cigarette Tobacco as against the uncertainty of the export market for chewing tobacco, the formation of more Tobacco Growers' Societies for the cultivation of Cigarette Tobacco was encouraged. There are 39 such societies with a membership of 6,236. The Department of Agriculture is the financier of these societies. The total sales of these societies during the year amounted to Rs. 1,022,441.

The Consumer section of the Co-operative Movement comprises 2,584 (retail) primary societies and 95 (wholesale) secondary Unions of such societies; the latter's function is to supply goods to groups of societies and save them the trouble and expense of individual buying. There are 3,631 retail selling points and 4,683,000 consumers attached to them. The sales of the primary societies during the year amounted to Rs. 185 million and that of the Unions Rs. 322 million.

The C. W. E. was established in 1943 as a wholesale supplier of consumer goods to co-operative retail stores in the Island. Originally a Government Department, it is now managed by an autonomous Board of Directors appointed by the Government.

Credit Societies continue to be a great boon to the poor peasants, for as many as 284 new societies were registered during the year 1956 bringing the total number to 3,569—the largest number of any single type of society. Total loans granted by this type of society during 1956 amounted to Rs. 10.6 million; the majority of the loans were for agricultural operations in the rural areas and for trade in urban areas. Total savings in Credit Societies (as deposits) and in Thrift Societies at the end of 1956 amounted to Rs. 13,737,000.

There are 12 Co-operative Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Island. Nearly a lakh of persons received treatment during the year. The Tholpuram Moolai Co-operative Union Hospital (Jaffna) the great pioneer, deserves special mention for its long period (now 21 years) of sustained and inspiring effort. It has 62 rooms and 3 open wards, a fully equipped operating Theatre and Maternity Labour Room. Free treatment and concessions to indoor patients are afforded as relief to poor patients. It receives an annual grant of Rs. 15,000 from the Government for maintenance and free treatment. The Tellipallai Co-operative Hospital (also in Jaffna) has 2 wards with 8 rooms and the Sandalankawa Hospital has 12 fully equipped rooms and its own X-Ray plant as well.

Co-operation among the young is fostered through the School Co-operative Societies and Youth Clubs; there are 1,316 of the former with a membership of 117,330 and 80 of the latter with a membership of 4,800.

Other spheres of Co-operative activities include Transport, Welfare, Housing and Labour. Special mention should be made of the Colombo Chalmers Granaries Co-operative Labour Society which is the most recent example of a successful Co-operative effort to remove exploitation by middle-men. The members of this society handle the food cargoes at the Chalmers Granaries. The net profits earned during the first three months of its working alone amounted to Rs. 33,000.

The Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, the apex representative body of the movement, was elected a member of the International Co-operative Alliance during the year—a recognition of the Ceylon Movement.

The Co-operative Movement is financed by the Co-operative Federal Bank of Ceylon, the Co-operative Provincial and District Banks (of which there are twelve), the Department of Food Production, the Department of Fisheries, the Cottage Industries Department and the Agricultural Department. The Government had deposited a sum of Rs. 6 million in the Federal Bank to enlarge its working capital and a sum of Rs. 4 million has been returned.

The rapid expansion of the movement is reflected in the financial turnover of the Co-operative Societies of all types. In 1956 it reached the very high figure of Rs. 1,271 million excluding the C. W. E.

The School of Co-operation at Polgolla run by the Co-operative Department has earned world-wide recognition within the last few years. The School although primarily meant for the training of the Departmental Officers has also undertaken the training of foreign students, unofficials and employees and officers of other Departments. It is one of the schools selected for trainees and fellows under the Colombo Plan and U. N. Agencies.

Mention should be also made of the Co-operative Training School at Jaffna started by the Co-operators themselves and of the inauguration of an Extension Division in the Department for the main purpose of providing extra mural education in Co-operation.

The Commissioner of Co-operative Development and Registrar of Co-operative Societies has a number of statutory functions to perform such as registration, supervision and audit of societies.

IV—NATIONAL HOUSING

In recent years, the acute housing shortage has attracted considerable public attention. The Department of National Housing which was established under the National Housing Act, No. 37 of 1954, seeks to relieve the housing shortage in two ways, viz.—

- (1) the grant of loans for the construction of houses to :
 - (a) individuals ;
 - (b) housing bodies ;
 - (c) building societies ; and
 - (d) building companies.
- (2) the building of houses departmentally to be rented out or sold outright or alienated under rent-purchase basis to persons who do not already own houses.

Assistance is also afforded to Building Societies, Building Companies and Housing Bodies to acquire land for building on.

The policy in regard to the grant of loans was revised with the change of Government in April, 1956. The maximum loans, since grantable is Rs. 25,000, provided that :

- (a) the applicant, his wife or his dependent child does not own a house ;
- (b) the applicant, his wife or his dependent child has not previously obtained financial assistance from the Housing Loans Board or the Department of National Housing ;
- (c) the grant of the loan for the construction of a house would not result in the displacement of any individual residing on the land on which the house is proposed to be built unless adequate arrangements have been made by the applicant with regard to the re-housing of such a tenant.

Pending the examination of the financial position the Department suspended entertaining applications from July 16, 1956 to March 28, 1957. At the date of the suspension 6,048 applications had been received involving the construction of 8,810 houses of which 1,740 applications were received for the construction of 2,343 houses during the year 1956. 1,341 houses were under construction at the end of 1956 of which 384 were completed during the year under review. A sum of Rs. 25,025,374.77 was paid out as loans for house construction during the year after inspection.

Working Class Houses**KIRIBATHGODA AND GONGITOTA**

53 working class houses of type D1 pattern were completed at Kiribathgoda, Kelaniya, and 49 of the same type at Gongitota. In addition to the above, 137 type D1 houses, 94 type D2 houses and 9 type D3 houses were under construction and nearing completion at Gongitota at the end of 1956.

ARUPPOLA

30 working class type D2 houses were under construction.

Middle Class Houses**NAWALA**

12 type 3A houses, 6 type 3B houses and 6 type 4B houses were completed in 1956. In addition 12 type 3B houses and 51 type 4B houses were under construction at the end of 1956.

KELANIYA

22 type 3B houses and 82 houses of 3A, 3B and 4B types were under construction and nearing completion.

ARUPPOLA

42 houses were under construction.

HORANA

39 houses within the U. C. limits were completed during 1956.

MOUNT LAVINIA

Two middle-class houses are being constructed.

Low Cost Houses**RAMMED EARTH**

Construction of houses out of rammed earth has been carried out. 35 houses of type D1 were completed and a further 20 houses are under construction. Three applicants for loans constructed houses each costing about Rs. 30,000 out of rammed earth.

CELLOCRETE

The Department secured the assistance of Cellocrete Housing Service Ltd. for the construction of 7 houses at Kiribathgoda which are estimated to cost about Rs. 150,000.

Emergency Houses**MALIGAWATTE**

208 emergency houses for persons displaced as a result of the Department acquiring land for building purposes were completed and the construction of a further 144 houses have commenced.

BASIC FLATS

Work on Basic Flats at 3 sites—Wolfendhal Street, Skinners Road North, Kotahena, and Messenger Street has commenced. In all 710 units of accommodation will be provided. These basic flats consist of the following and are intended to provide housing accommodation for the working class population :—

Type A—332 flats	1 living room, kitchen, bath and lavatory.
„ B—211 „	1 living room, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bath and lavatory.
„ C—107 „	1 living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bath and lavatory.
	60 shops on ground floors
Total	710

Building Societies

By the end of 1956, 78 building societies having a membership totalling to 1,563 were registered. Of these societies, 12 were able to commence building operations and most of the others for which lands were acquired were not able to proceed with their building schemes due to lack of funds. The activities of most of the other societies also came to a standstill for this same reason.

71 acres of land were acquired and taken over during the year.

General

Rammed earth houses constructed with the help of the Government Town Planner were exhibited at the Royal Food and Agricultural Exhibition held in January-February, 1956. Sufficient publicity was given to the activities of the Department at the Exhibition.

CHAPTER XVIII

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

I—RAILWAYS

THE Railway system of the Island has been patterned to meet her commercial and agricultural requirements and falls naturally into two categories ; (a) that serving the flat low country, and (b) that serving the central hilly portion of the Island and the Kelani Valley which produce its tea and rubber.

All the lines except the Kelani Valley line are of broad gauge. A double track exists only on the main line up to Polgahawela and on the coast line up to Panadure.

The total length of railway line in Ceylon is 898 miles 13 chains of which 811 miles 35 chains are broad guage ($5\frac{1}{2}$ feet) and 86 miles 58 chains narrow gauge ($2\frac{1}{2}$ feet).

TABLE 18.1 VOLUME OF RAILWAY TRAFFIC

<i>Year</i>	<i>Passengers conveyed* (thousands)</i>	<i>Season Ticket Holders (thous ands)</i>	<i>Goods conveyed (thous and tons)</i>
1951	27,582	518	1,505
1952	27,945	535	1,614
1953	26,042	516	1,582
1954	18,479	468	1,593
1955	18,763	451	1,604
1956	19,717	466	1,625

Organisation

The railway in Ceylon is State-owned and controlled, the management being vested in the Ceylon Government Railway Department. The set-up, at present, consists of five divisions or sub-departments under the General Manager.

Finances

Commercial accounts were introduced into the Railway in the financial year 1928-29. Excluding provision for interest and annuities, the following table compares results since 1941-42.

* Excludes Season Ticket Holders.

TABLE 18·2 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE OF THE RAILWAY, 1941-42 TO 1955-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>Working Expenditure (Rs. Million)</i>	<i>Gross Receipts (Rs. Million)</i>	<i>Net Receipts (Rs. Million)</i>	<i>Paying Train miles (Rs. Million)</i>
1941-42	24·4	28·3	3·9	4·2
1942-43	28·9	39·7	10·8	3·5
1943-44	32·1	52·0	19·8	3·6
1944-45	39·7	59·6	19·6	3·8
1945-46	52·1	56·3	4·2	4·2
1946-47	62·8	48·3	-14·5	4·4
1947-48	70·9	52·5	-18·4	5·1
1948-49	71·2	55·1	-16·2	5·5
1949-50	71·3	57·7	-13·6	5·7
1950-51	72·8	66·0	- 6·8	6·0
1951-52	83·2	70·9	-12·3	6·2
1952-53	85·6	70·1	-15·4	6·2
1953-54	81·6	73·4	- 8·2	5·9
1954-55	83·3	74·0	- 9·3	6·1
1955-56	88·7	78·0	-10·7	6·5

The Railway worked at a profit during the period 1928-29 to 1933-34 and 1941-42 to 1945-46. In 1953-54 the deficit was eight million rupees the corresponding figure for 1952-53 being fifteen million rupees.

The annual capital outlay on the Railway since 1950-51 was as follows :—

TABLE 18·3 ANNUAL CAPITAL OUTLAY, 1950-51 TO 1955-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rs. Million</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Rs. Million</i>
1950-51	7·6	1953-54	12·1
1951-52	9·7	1954-55	19·3
1952-53	9·1	1955-56	30·0

The capital expenditure on the Railway since its inception up to the period 1955-56 was Rs. 330,387,909.

Train Service

The train service now provides a number of well equipped express trains with both sleeping berth and buffet facilities. In addition fast goods trains operate between provincial towns ensuring quick delivery of goods.

Railway Workshops

In meeting the increased demand, and also in keeping with the fresh outlook brought about by the change in policy and administration, the Ratmalana Works, has been responsible for a 100 per cent. increase in local manufacture, and an increase in the number of new carriages built locally. The First Diesel Locomotive constructed in the Island was built from spares and salvaged material off condemned Diesel Units this year.

Work also commenced on the new carriage building shop and the Laboratory Research Workshop.

Amongst special achievements during the year are the introduction of three special liveried train sets, viz., one set of the "Yal Devi" and two sets of the "Uda Rata Menike" which are aluminium panelled coach train sets.

Co-ordinated Road Motor Services

With a view to affording the general public the facility of through transport by rail and road, regular road motor services for passenger and freight traffic have been established in various parts of the Island, linking up out-lying areas with the nearest rail-head stations. The route mileage of these services totals 407. Services for freight traffic now function between Chilaw-Puttalam, Nanuoya-Ragalla, Matara-Tissamaharama and Bandarawela-Welimada, while passenger services are established in the first two areas.

Seasonal passenger services are also provided in connection with pilgrimages to Sri Pada and Kartaragama and the major religious festivals at St. Anne's Church, Talawila, Madhu Church and St. Anthony's Church, Wahacotte.

A system of co-ordinated road and rail transport was introduced in 1956 providing facilities to the residents of remote areas to patronise the popular express trains at important railway stations. These services operate on the Coast, Up-country and Northern Lines. Bus connections have also been provided at several intermediate railway stations. Special transport is also arranged for tourists and excursion parties visiting health resorts and other points of scenic and historical interest.

A start was also made in 1956 with a scheme for the co-ordination of rail and road passenger transport in Colombo and the suburbs, with Colombo Fort Railway Station as the base. Omnibuses plying to and from Mount Lavinia and Nugegoda now call at the special bus halt at Colombo Fort Station to connect with long distance trains.

Collection and Delivery services by departmental vehicles are in operation in the Municipalities of Colombo, Kandy and Galle, and their suburbs, affording the general public expeditious and economic door-to-door transport for goods and parcels. Collection and delivery work is also performed by cartage agents in the Matara-Tissamaharama, Chilaw-Puttalam, Nanuoya-Ragalla and Bandarawela-Welimada areas.

II—ROADS, ROAD TRANSPORT AND CANALS

The Public Works Department maintains 11,258 miles of road excluding 21 miles of trunk roads maintained by the Municipal Council of Colombo at the expense of the Central Government. Of the total mileage maintained by the Public Works Department, 9,745 miles are motorable, 6,978 miles are bitumen surfaced and a further 290 miles are metalled but not bitumen surfaced.

The general average spent on the maintenance per mile of all P. W. D. roads in 1955-56 was Rs. 1,686 compared with Rs. 935 in 1954-55.

Development of Trunk Roads

A planned programme for the development of Trunk Roads within the Colombo Municipal Limits has been put into effect with the funds provided by the Central Government for maintenance of Trunk Roads. Already several miles of Premixed Carpets have been laid along the Galle Road from Turret Road, Kollupitiya to Dehiwala Bridge, Parsons Road and Sutherland Road and the High Level Road.

Construction of Roads recommended by Kandyan Peasantry Commission

The Public Works Department has contributed to the implementation of the proposals of the Kandyan Peasantry Commission by opening out roads in the Kandyan areas which have hitherto been served only by footpaths and jungle tracks. Approximately 13 miles of roads have been constructed and either metalled and bitumen surfaced or gravelled. A further 30 miles of roads have been traced.

Roads constructed under Canadian Grant

The P. W. D. has undertaken work to the extent of Rs. 770,000 for the Department of Rural Development and financed from funds provided under the Canadian Grants on the construction of rural roads which will develop the agricultural resources of the Island.

Improvement of Provincial and District Roads

Out of the 4,400 miles of roads taken over from P. R. CC. and D. R. CC. in 1951, 1,100 miles have been metalled and tarred. 33 miles of roads were taken over by the P. W. D. from Village Committees during 1956.

Construction and Maintenance of Bridges

The construction of the New Kelani Bridge proceeded apace during the year. A heavy programme of work covering 75 items of bridge construction and maintenance was carried out by the P. W. D. during the year under review. A sum of Rs. 214,116 was spent on the maintenance of iron and timber bridges over 50 feet in length, of which there are 567 on the roads maintained by the Public Works Department.

Maintenance of Inland Navigation

A total length of 146 miles of Inland waterways was maintained by the Public Works Department at a cost of Rs. 212,951. The presence of *Salvinia* weeds continues to be a major problem. No satisfactory method of dealing with this pest has yet been devised even though a number of Commercial firms have been experimenting with various types of chemical sprays.

Motor Transport

Motor Transport enjoys an exceptionally favourable position in Ceylon.

Development of road transport in Ceylon has been very rapid since the war. The number of vehicles at the end of each year beginning with 1947 was as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Motor Vehicles</i>
1947	39,783
1948	47,210
1949	52,085
1950	56,646
1951	64,864
1952	73,379
1953	80,201
1954	83,404
1955	88,750
1956	96,033

Registration of Motor Vehicles

The total number of new motor vehicles registered during 1956, was 9,261 which represents a 33 per cent. increase over the figure for 1955. Registration fees on transfer which had been increased in October 1955, were reduced to their former level in September, 1956.

Various fees prescribed by the Motor Traffic Act are collected in uncanceled stamps for the registration and transfer of vehicles, issue of driving licences and Conductors' and Ticket Inspectors' licences, applications for stage carriage permits and carriers permits, &c. The total amount of fees collected by the Commissioner of Motor Traffic in the way of stamps during the financial year 1955-56 amounted to Rs. 2,678,250.

Nearly 50 per cent. of the vehicles in the register are garaged in the Colombo area for which the licensing authority is the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Licence fees amounting to Rs. 3,357,707 were collected during the financial year 1955-56.

Driving Licences

The total number of drivers registered up to December 31, 1956, was 167,411. Between ninethousand and ten-thousand licences are issued annually, but as they are not renewable it is not possible to give the actual number of licence holders in the Island.

Provision exists in the Motor Traffic Act to call upon any person to undergo a fresh driving test and to cancel his licence if he is found unfit to drive at the test. This provision was invoked in the case of certain taxi drivers and the licences of 4 such persons were cancelled as a result.

Road Passenger Transport Services

Seventy-five regular operators provided omnibus services during the year on about 1,000 routes. The route mileage for all these services is 21,090 miles while the total time-table mileage is 275,000, approximately. The number of new buses registered during the year was 573. Of these, many are vehicles of larger capacity than those which they have replaced. 3,024 buses were licensed by the 75 operators for use during the year as against a requirement of 2,906. These figures do not, however, present a true picture of the standards of operation of the services as only 33 out of the 75 operators had the required number of buses or more while 42 of them could not provide the stipulated number.

As a result, complaints of irregular running and failure to run the services according to the approved time-tables were still frequent. With the recruitment of additional Divisional Road Transport Officers, fairly frequent checks on the running of the services were carried out and prosecutions were launched and convictions secured in several cases for irregular running.

At present the fare per passenger mile on regular services varies from 3 to 5 cents according to the nature of the country, availability of traffic, &c. Regular hiring car services are allowed fares varying from $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents to 10 cents per passenger mile.

The table below shows the number of buses in use, the number of bus miles run and passengers carried year by year from 1948 to 1956 :—

TABLE 18-4 BUS PASSENGER TRAFFIC, 1948-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of buses licensed</i>	<i>No. of miles run during June</i>	<i>No. of passengers carried during June</i>
1948	1,502	3,912,017	11,891,586
1949	1,631	4,359,746	14,333,708
1950	1,849	5,089,612	15,946,096
1951	2,007	5,718,308	19,175,152
1952	2,329	5,976,337	22,915,685
1953	2,560	6,682,462	23,915,251
1954	2,731	7,234,211	27,429,824
1955	2,902	7,124,204	29,149,869
1956	3,024	8,261,318	33,490,791

Occasional services such as pilgrimages, tours, &c., are provided by 136 companies who hold certificates of eligibility to operate the services. 297 buses were used by them for these occasional services during the year.

Nationalisation of Omnibus Transport

With the change of Government in April 1956, it has been the declared policy of the new Government to nationalise all regular omnibus transport in the Island. With the object of collecting the preliminary data required for the formulation of nationalisation plans and to carry out a survey of the methods adopted and facilities provided by State transport undertakings, a team of officers consisting of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Works, the Commissioner of Motor Traffic, the General Manager of Railways, the Controller of Establishments and an Accountant visited the State Transport Organisations in Madras, Hyderabad and Bombay. Their Report was published as Sessional Paper No. XIII of 1956.

A team of three German experts also visited the Island in December 1956, to advise the Ceylon Government regarding the nationalisation of omnibus transport.

Road Haulage

Lorries provide the chief means of goods transport by road. There has been a very rapid increase in the number of lorries in use since the war. In 1956 there were 14,918 lorries in use as against 5,200 in 1946.

In order to protect the interests of the Railway and to eliminate wasteful competition, the Motor Traffic Act prohibits the issue of permits authorising long distance carriage over 60 miles, in competition with the Railway. The main exceptions are—

- (a) Carriage of fresh fruits, fresh vegetables or other perishable or fragile articles ;
- (b) Any carriage which is justified on strong economic grounds ; and
- (c) Carriage by persons who were providing long distance services in 1949. The rights enjoyed by these persons will, however, terminate at the end of 1957.

The use of lorries is authorised by two kinds of permits, viz., those issued to persons who carry goods for hire or reward—Public Carriers Permits ; and those who use the lorries specified in the permit in connection with any trade or business carried out by the permit holder—Private Carriers Permits. 5,598 Private Carriers Permits and 1,565 Public Carriers Permits were in force during the year 1956.

Automobile Association of Ceylon

This Association is affiliated or has reciprocal agreements with most of the Automobile Associations and Clubs in other countries and the Secretary (P. O. Box 338, Colombo), will afford any relevant information which may be desired. The various landing, Customs and Registration formalities can be arranged for visitors by the Association.

Tramways and Trolley Bus Service

The Passenger Transport Department of the Colombo Municipal Council was providing Trolley Bus Services along 9.75 route miles and Trams Services along 3.5 route miles. The Rolling Stock consists of 35 Double Deck Trolley Buses and 37 Single Deck Tram Cars.

Electric power to operate the vehicles is drawn from the Government Hydro-Electric Scheme at 11,000 volts A.C. and Council owns and maintains Rectifier Sub-Stations and Distribution Systems for supply to the Overhead Trolley Wires.

During the year the Council placed orders for 20 single deck and 6 single crush load trolley buses and the necessary Overhead and Rectifier Equipment for operating an additional 3 route miles.

III—SHIPPING

The Port of Colombo today ranks as the seventh busiest port in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Although it is one of the biggest artificial harbours in the world, Colombo lacked many of the facilities essential for a modern port of this size—quays for alongside berthing, modern warehouses, mechanical cargo handling equipment, &c. A start was made in 1950 to modernise the port by providing these facilities. The work, undertaken by a combine of two well-known Fresh firms, Messrs. Schneider & Company and Messrs. Establishments Billiard, of Paris, has provided about seventeen alongside berths at quays, a large number of warehouses and the latest mechanical equipment for cargo handling. This scheme of development will place the Port of Colombo on par with other large modern Eastern ports.

Progress was made on the Scheme during 1956. As planned the “Prince Vijaya”, “Queen Elizabeth”, “Delft” and “Oil Dock South” quays were completed and put into use. The Port of Colombo has an Oil Dock with modern equipment capable of accommodating two tankers simultaneously at alongside berths.

A sum of Rs. 4½ millions is being spent on the electrification of the Port. This work was begun several years ago and is now nearing completion. When it is complete, it is expected that almost all port facilities, equipment, &c., will be electrified, with appreciable economy in working costs.

The Beira Lake which lies adjacent to the harbour is being developed by the construction of new Locks and Bridges, which will permit larger craft to the Lake. A new 100 ton Lock was opened in 1955.

Imports and Exports

The quantity of imports and exports, excluding coal, fuel oil, water and transshipment cargo handled in the Port of Colombo in 1956, amounted to 2,900,945 tons (2,021,709 tons imports and 879,236 tons exports). The increase over the 1955 total of 2,734,361 tons (1,782,859 tons imports and 951,502 tons exports) is 166,584 tons.

Port Railway

The total volume of railborne traffic handled by the Port Railway system in 1956, showed a further decrease. 534,718 tons were handled in 1956, as against 549,364 tons in the previous year.

Passenger Traffic

The Passenger traffic handled in the Port during the year 1956, was 262,647—a decrease of 85,481 over the figure for the previous year. This was caused by a reduction in the numbers of “transit” passengers, who constituted the main group.

Landing and Shipping

Landing and Shipping of cargo is assisted by an efficient crane service.

In addition the Port has numerous modern cargo handling appliances for easy stacking and quick delivery of cargo. There is a total quayage of 15,657 lineal feet. The largest lift which can be made is 60 tons and the conveyance of cargo from the vessel to the wharf is done by lighters and is carried out by licensed stevedores and landing companies.

Merchant Vessels

The total number of merchant vessels engaged in foreign trade which entered the Port and the total nett registered tonnage are as follows :—

	<i>No. of Ships</i>	<i>Nett registered tonnage</i>
1955	2,940	12,325,996
1956	2,934	11,141,294

Transshipment and re-shipment

There was a decline in the volume of transshipment and re-shipment traffic handled through the Port. The tonnage fell from 52,395 tons in 1955 to 30,953 tons in 1956, a fall of 42 per cent.

Coal Imports and Bunkers

The quantities of coal imported and issued for bunkers during the years 1955 and 1956, were as follows :—

	<i>Imports tons</i>	<i>Bunkers tons</i>
1955	216,516	13,650
1956	166,772	14,644

Liquid Fuel Imports and Bunkers

Liquid fuel imports during the last two years were as follows :—

	<i>No. of Tankers discharging</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1955	52	577,831
1956	63	689,852

The quantities of liquid fuel issued for bunkers during the two years were—

	<i>No. of Ships bunkered</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1955	1,422	452,470
1956	1,581	547,156

Bulk Coconut Oil Facilities Scheme

The receipts collected from operating through Bulk Coconut Oil Facilities Scheme during 1955 and 1956 were Rs. 458,508 and Rs. 562,349 respectively.

Fresh Water Supplies

In 1956, 777,519 tons of water were supplied as against 852,040 tons in 1955.

IV—CIVIL AVIATION**International Relations**

Ceylon is a member state of the International Civil Aviation Organisation since July, 1948. The Ceylon Government in common with other Member States continues to implement through its National Legislation the International Standards and Practices that are recommended by the Organisation for the systematic and orderly development of Air Transport.

Air Transport Services

Air Ceylon International Service.—Air Ceylon in partnership with K. L. M. Royal Dutch Airlines resumed her International Air Transport Service on once-weekly basis, from February 21, 1956, on the route, Colombo-Bombay-Karachchi-Cairo-Rome-London-Amsterdam.

Air Ceylon's Regional Service.—Air Ceylon operates a daily service with Dakota aircraft between Colombo, Jaffna, Tiruchirappalli and Madras.

Foreign Airlines.—The Indian Airlines Corporation, the British Overseas Airways Corporation, Quantas Empire Airways, Trans World Airlines and K. L. M. Royal Dutch Airlines operate weekly foreign services through Colombo.

Aerodromes.—The two civil airports available for use by international services are—

- (a) *Colombo Airport (Ratmalana)* situated eight miles south of Colombo Harbour. This is the chief civil aerodrome in the Island designated as an international airport by the Government. Extensions to the Terminal Building are in progress and will be completed in 1957.
- (b) *Jaffna Airport (Kankasanturai).*—This aerodrome is situated on the northern-most tip of the Island approximately twelve miles north of Jaffna and is the designated international alternate to Colombo Airport.

Other Aerodromes.—The aerodromes at Puttalam, Minneriya and Vavuniya have been maintained by the Government as emergency landing grounds. The landing strip at Amparai is being reconstructed and is nearing completion.

Negombo Airport is a military aerodrome, and is situated nineteen miles to the north of Colombo Harbour, and may be used by civil aircraft with permission from the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs.

Flying Training.—The Ceylon Air Academy, has provided flying training facilities to the youth of Ceylon, the provision of these services being incidental to its flying programme. Charter flights and internal services are periodically undertaken by the Academy. The Air Academy has a fleet of ten light aircraft including one Hiller Helicopter.

V—POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

On December 31, 1956, 243 Post Offices (including the Central Telegraph Office which does only telegraph business), 1,253 Sub-Post Offices, 111 Village Receiving Offices, and 3 Railway Receiving Offices were open for business.

Post Offices deal with all classes of Postal business, viz., mail and parcel work, registration and insurance of postal articles, money order, postal order, Savings Bank and Savings Certificates work and telegraph and telephone business.

Sub-Post Offices provide facilities on a lesser scale. Village Receiving Offices deal with mail work only while at the Railway Receiving Offices facilities for despatch and receipt of inland postal telegrams are available in addition to mail work.

Air Mail Services

Foreign Air Mail Service is available to practically all countries, the rates of air postage and other information are shown in the Air Mail Leaflet issued from time to time by authority of the Postmaster-General.

Inland Air Mail Service for first class mail (letters and postcards) is available between Colombo and the principal Post Offices in the Jaffna Peninsula. A special air fee of 5 cents per article in addition to the ordinary inland postage is levied.

Facilities for transmission of postal articles by inland post on the value payable system are available provided the amount specified by the sender is between 50 cents and Rs. 600. In addition to the ordinary postage payable on the article a posting and delivery fee of 5 cents to 15 cents is charged on every article.

Money and Postal Orders

Money Orders are issued and paid at any Post Office in the Island. They may also be sent to most foreign countries. The maximum amount for which an Inland Money Order can be issued is Rs. 600. The rate of commission on Inland Money Orders is 20 cents for each complete sum of Rs. 20 and 20 cents for the remainder.

Money Order remittances to India and most other foreign countries are accepted at all Post Offices subject to Exchange Control Regulations.

The Telegraph Money Order System is in operation between all Money Order Offices in Ceylon and those in India, Burma and United Kingdom and the States of the Federation of Malaya.

In the case of telegraph money orders (Inland and Foreign) the cost of the telegram is collected in addition to the usual money order commission. A fixed fee of 10 cents is also charged on Inland and Indian Telegraph Money Orders.

Postal Orders for 50 cents, Re. 1, Re. 1.50, Rs. 2, Rs. 2.50, Rs. 3, Rs. 4, Rs. 5, Rs. 7.50 and Rs. 10 are issued and paid at all the Money Order Offices. The commission is 5 cents for sums up to Rs. 3 and 10 cents for others.

Post Office Savings Bank

Post Office Savings Bank business is transacted at all Money Order Offices during the hours appointed for Money Order Business. The Post Office Savings Bank receives deposits from Re. 1 up to a maximum of Rs. 4,000 per year provided the total amount standing to the credit of a depositor does not exceed Rs. 10,000. Interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on every complete sum of Rs. 10.

Savings Certificates

Savings Certificates are issued at Post Offices (including A & B Grade Sub-Post Offices), Kachcheries, D. R. O. Offices and Banks. The interest is free of Income Tax for individual holders. Ten years Savings Certificates with the face values of Rs. 7.50, Rs. 15, Rs. 75, Rs. 150 and Rs. 1,500 are issued at the purchase price of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 50, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,000. They reach maturity in ten years. The difference between face value and purchase price represents 5 per cent. Simple Interest or 4-10 Compound Interest.

Telecommunication

Telecommunication Services in the Island are provided by the Department of Posts and Telecommunications which holds a monopoly in respect of these services.

There are 11,269 miles of telegraph wire (including railway telegraph wires) of which 3,246 are laid underground and 136,862 miles of telephone wire (including trunk and junction lines) for subscribers circuits of which 77,953 are laid underground (excluding private estate lines). There are also 126 miles of underwater cables. The number of automatic exchanges as at December, 1956, was 198.

Telephone communications exist between the principal towns and most of the rural districts. They are generally served by Government Exchanges. A few rural districts are served by private licensed exchanges connected to the General trunk system by means of Government trunk lines.

At the end of 1956 the number of telephone subscribers in Colombo was 9,659 and those in the provinces were 7,412. The number of telephone call offices was 868. There are 397 telephone exchanges of capacities ranging from 5 lines to 10,000 lines. The largest is the Colombo Exchange and consists of a central automatic exchange of 8,000 lines capacity and two satellite exchanges of each 2,800 lines capacity. Other large exchanges are in the towns of Kandy, Galle, Jaffna and Nuwara Eliya with capacities ranging between 300 and 600 lines. Kandy, Galle and Nuwara Eliya have automatic exchanges.

Telephone call office facilities have been made available to 518 Sub-Post Offices without telephone exchanges.

The charge for the use of a public call box for six minutes or less is 10 cents.

Telegraph

The telegraph network is as widespread as the telephone network in that telegrams handed in at Sub-Post Offices are transmitted by telephones.

Telegrams in the National Languages

Inland Telegrams written in Sinhalese and in Tamil are accepted at certain specified telegraph offices. The charges are the same as for telegrams written in English. For purposes of telegraphic transmission a system of transliteration of Sinhalese and Tamil characters into Roman characters has been adopted.

Foreign and Colonial Telegrams

The rates for telegrams to India are Rs. 2.50 (express) and Re. 1.25 (ordinary) for the first 12 words or less and 15 cents and 10 cents respectively for each additional word. Telegrams to other Empire countries can be sent "Via Imperial" air rates varying from 90 cents to Rs. 3.40 per word according to the distance of the places of destination and the charges levied by other administrations.

A plain language letter-telegram service is available to most of these points at approximately half these rates with a minimum charge for 22 words. Social telegrams can be sent to all British possessions at a charge of Rs. 4.50 for 10 words and 41 cents for each additional word.

Photo-Telegrams

The charges for facsimile service will depend on the dimensions of the picture and the country to which transmission is desired the minimum being Rs. 40-80. Photo-telegrams are accepted only at the Central Telegraph Office, Colombo. The rates and the countries to which the service is available are shown in the Ceylon Post Office Guide.

Overseas Telecommunications

Ceylon is very well served with Overseas Telecommunications both by cable and by wireless.

The Ceylon Government took over the assets of the Cable and Wireless Ltd. on June 1, 1951, following the lead set by the United Kingdom and other Dominion Governments. Ceylon also became a Partner Government in the Commonwealth scheme of telecommunications by adherence to the Commonwealth Telegraphs Agreement of 1948. Submarine telegraph cables radiating from Ceylon connect with the main cables and wireless system and provide rapid communication to all parts of the world.

In addition, Radio Telegraph circuits are in operation to and from the United Kingdom, Burma, Japan, China and Malaya. Telegrams to foreign countries are forwarded either by cable or by wireless according to whichever service is the more expeditious dependent on the load of international telegraphic traffic.

A Radio Telephone service is available to and from the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan and most European countries and countries in Africa; and a subscriber in Ceylon can therefore communicate with a large proportion of the world's telephone subscribers.

The Radio Telephone service is available to the public on all days except Sundays and Good Friday at a basic charge of Rs. 40 for three minutes.

Telephone and Telegraph communication with India is via a submarine cable laid across the Palk Strait between Talaimannar and Rameswaram. Contact is made with the Indian Telephone network through two carrier telephone circuits between Colombo-Trichinopoly.

Five voice frequency teleprinter circuits are in use between Colombo-Madras and Colombo-Madura, and from these stations distribution and collection of traffic from other places in India takes place.

Radio Telegrams are accepted at any postal Telegraph Office in Ceylon for transmission to ships equipped with radio telegraph apparatus. These telegrams are transmitted through the coast stations to Colombo.

CHAPTER XIX

LAND DEVELOPMENT

I—PROGRESS OF LAND DEVELOPMENT

THE custody of all Crown land in the Island is vested in the Land Commissioner who is responsible for the administration of such land and its systematic alienation. The Government's policy regarding alienation and administration of Crown land is embodied in the Land Development Ordinance, No. 9 of 1935, and in the Crown Lands Ordinance, No. 8 of 1947.

Alienation of Crown Land

(a) TO PEASANTS

The new Government which had been elected to office in April, 1956, recognized that land-hunger in the rural areas of the thickly populated parts of the Island was one of the most urgent problems, and reviewed the administrative arrangements that were in existence for the alienation of Crown land. It was found that although the original intention of the Land Development Ordinance was to provide each family with an economic unit of land, a tendency had grown in recent years to divide all available land among the landless applicants. This practice resulted in most allotments in the thickly populated districts being only sufficient for residential use. Therefore, steps were taken to provide applicants where sufficient land is available with economic units which would enable a family to earn its livelihood by the intensive cultivation of the land.

During the year 1956, 612 Land Kachcheries were held and 43,794 acres of Crown land were offered for alienation to peasants. At these Land Kachcheries, 30,214 acres were alienated to 17,416 peasant families. The largest extents of land were alienated in Polonnaruwa, Badulla, Kalutara, Kurunegala and Trincomalee Districts. A further extent of 4,292 acres were alienated outside Land Kachcheries to 3,171 families who had encroached on Crown land or lived in areas where ample land was available. The Government also offered for alienation 767 acres of acquired land in districts such as Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Kalutara and Kurunegala where little Crown land is available. At these Land Kachcheries an extent of 582 acres was alienated to 1,523 families with residential allotments. Further 145 acres were alienated to 113 families outside Land Kachcheries. Thus, a total of 35,233 acres was alienated during 1956 to 22,223 families. In 1955, 28,787 acres were alienated to 21,142 families. These acreages do not include land alienated to peasants in colonization schemes which are dealt with later.

In preparing the programme for the accelerated alienation of land in Kalutara, Galle, Matara and Ratnapura Districts, it was decided that peasants should be encouraged, in areas where land is suitable, to grow rubber. Undeveloped Crown lands in the hinterland of the wet zone are known to be suitable for commercial crops such as tea and rubber.

(b) TO MIDDLE-CLASS CEYLONESE

Twenty-one Land Kachcheries for the alienation of 17,895 acres were held and 12,747 acres were alienated to 664 individuals. The largest extents alienated were—

- 4,911 acres in Jaffna District,
- 3,170 acres in Vavuniya District,
- 2,170 acres in Batticaloa District, and
- 1,320 acres in Badulla District.

In Kurunegala District, selections made at a number of Land Kachcheries held in 1954-55 were subject of query and were set aside because of local protests. In 1955, 8,670 acres were alienated to 508 individuals. During the year 285 permits that had been issued to middle-class allottees were cancelled—the main cause being non-development of the lands. 39 permits were cancelled for non-payment of annual payments. At the end of 1956, 80,505 acres were held by 5,716 middle-class individuals.

There was keen demand for middle-class land in the wet and semi-wet zones of Ceylon where commercial crops can be grown. A new feature during 1956 was the clamour for middle-class land in the Tamil-speaking areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces where people showed willingness even to accept unirrigable highland in the dry zone. In the wet and semi-wet zones there were protests against the alienation of land to middle-class Ceylonese as the land-hunger among the peasantry had not been fully met. There were also protests at middle-class Land Kachcheries that higher income groups, who, though coming within the definition of a "Middle-Class Ceylonese" were receiving preference as compared to the small middle-class man, such as the local school teacher and the small land owner. Government has decided that no land for middle-class Ceylonese should be alienated until the needs of the peasants have been met. Where middle-class Land Kachcheries are held, the needs of the small land owner resident in the vicinity of such land would first be met before more well-to-do classes living in distant areas receive consideration.

Some progress was achieved during the year in the construction of roads to provide means of access to areas where middle-class lands are situated. The construction of these roads has promoted rapid development of previously undeveloped allotments.

Land Development for Colonization

The development of land under Highland Colonization schemes which did not depend on irrigation as a basic pre-requisite for alienation progressed more or less satisfactorily. The programme of alienation under major schemes which were based on irrigation was however severely affected by the unprecedented drought that prevailed throughout the year and had, therefore, to be considerably curtailed.

The number of holdings provided for alienation by the Government during 1956 and the extents covered by them are given below—

TABLE 19-1 EXTENT PROVIDED FOR ALIENATION IN COLONIZATION SCHEMES, 1956

<i>Irrigation Schemes</i>	<i>No. of Holdings</i>	<i>Paddy Land acres</i>	<i>Highland acres</i>	<i>Reservations acres</i>	<i>Total acres</i>
Kantalai	205	615	410	102	1,127
Kimbulwana Oya	224	448	312	98	858
Abakolawewa	96	192	144	33	369
Palukadawela	68	136	102	24	262
Siyambalagamuwa	80	160	160	23	343
Soraborawewa	164	492	328	52	872
Kotiyagala	117	351	234	17	602
Periyapandivirichankulam	80	240	160	57	457
Periyathambanai	113	339	226	20	585
Chemmadukulam	67	201	134	86	421
Total	1,314	3,474	2,410	553	6,437

TABLE 19-1 EXTENT PROVIDED FOR ALIENATION IN COLONIZATION SCHEMES, 1956—(contd.)

<i>Highland Colonization Schemes</i>	<i>No. of Holdings</i>	<i>Paddy Land acres</i>	<i>Highland acres</i>	<i>Reservations acres</i>	<i>Total acres</i>
Madalagama	70	—	158	—	158
Delgoda	100	—	225	—	225
Mudalakuliya	110	—	550	32	582
Kadigawa	135	—	675	74	749
Hedigalla	77	—	231	29	260
Kiranchi	105	—	525	90	615
Puthuvedduvan-Manatkulam	90	—	250	23	273
Vehereyayakele	100	—	500	—	500
Katugahagalge	100	—	300	3	303
Dangala	80	—	180	7	187
Total	967	—	3,594	258	3,852
Grand Total	2,281	3,474	6,004	811	10,289

In the case of Irrigated Schemes the paddy allotment was uniformly 3 acres in extent except in schemes in the Kurunegala District where the unit was fixed at 2 acres. The garden allotment consisted of 2 acres except in those schemes where suitable highland within a reasonable distance of the irrigable land was difficult to find. These exceptions were Kimbulwana Oya Scheme where the garden allotment was only one acre in extent and the Mi Oya Diversion scheme (Palukadawela and Abakolawewa) where the garden allotment was $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

The unit of alienation in the Highland Colonization Schemes varied with the type of crops for which the scheme was intended. The standard unit for a Tea Scheme was $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, a Rubber Scheme 3 acres and for a scheme intended for coconuts 5 acres. In Tea and Rubber Schemes the housing allotment which varied between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre was generally separated from the planting allotment.

In Irrigated Schemes each colonist received at the time of settlement a type plan cottage and latrine and had his entire irrigable and garden land cleared of jungle. The Government subsidised the colonist after settlement for ridging, stumping and levelling his paddy allotment.

In Highland Colonization Schemes too allottees received land that was cleared of jungle, but the scheme of development was varied to permit alienation of the land immediately after jungle clearing operations were concluded and before type plan houses and other buildings were erected by the Government. This variation was considered necessary in view of the nature of the land involved in these schemes and the necessity to take adequate soil conservation measures immediately after the jungle is cleared. Colonists settled in these schemes were, therefore, provided with a subsidy for a temporary house until a permanent cottage and latrine were constructed by the Government. Subsidies for soil conservation measures, &c., were also provided.

In both Irrigated and Highland Colonization Schemes, communal wells are provided at the rate of generally one for every group of 20 colonists. Communities of approximately 200 colonists are provided with the public buildings required for the health, educational, co-operative and administrative needs.

The type plan cottage for a colonist under-went further changes during the year, the most significant being the use of aluminium corrugated sheeting in place of cadjans for the roof. The cost per cottage increased from Rs. 1,300 to Rs. 1,800 exclusive of supervision and overheads which averaged approximately 20 per cent. The use of cadjans for roofing colonists cottages was introduced

in 1953 as a result partly of the desire to curtail Government expenditure on Colonization Schemes as recommended by the World Bank Mission and partly, no doubt, because of the financial crisis that prevailed at that time. In view, however, of the recurrent expenditure on re-thatching that became a liability on colonists at the initial stages of their career, a return to permanent roofing material was considered urgent and inevitable.

Agricultural Corps

Clearing of land for agricultural development formed the main activity of the corps.

During the year 1956, the Agricultural Corps operated in the following Colonization Schemes :—

- (a) Huruluwewa Scheme.
- (b) Pavatkulam Scheme.
- (c) Periyapandivirichchankulam Scheme.
- (d) Periyathambani Scheme.
- (e) Kimbulwana Oya Scheme.
- (f) Padaviya Scheme.
- (g) Vavunikulam Scheme.

Work in the Huruluwewa and Periyathambani Schemes was completed in March and November, 1956, respectively and the camps at these places were closed down. At Kimbulwana Oya work was nearing completion. New camps were put up and work was commenced at Padaviya and Vavunikulam in January and March, 1956, respectively.

Work continued by the Departmental Tractor Unit at Srawasti Estate and Puthumurippu was stopped in February and March, 1956, respectively. Work was undertaken for the Aruvithoddam C. A. P. & S. Society ; and the Tractor Unit was shifted from Ratmale to Cheddikulam in July, 1956.

During the year 1956, approximately 3,522 acres of jungle was felled, 2,787 acres were burnt. Perimeter fencing of large tracts of land, clearing of secondary growth and excavation of field channels also were carried out. A total of 144,114 man days and 651 tractor hours was involved in the work done during this year.

Re-settlement in Colonization Schemes

Re-settlement of families from the thickly populated parts of the Island in scantily populated areas of the dry zone continued to be an important feature of the Government's programme for the development of new land during the year. As a result of the co-ordinated activities of the Survey, Irrigation, Forest and the Land Development Departments, 3,262 families were re-settled in colonization schemes of the dry zone of Ceylon. During 1956, the following number of families were settled in the schemes mentioned :—

District	Name of Scheme	No. of families	Extent alienated	
			Paddy	Highland
Badulla	Soraborawewa	161	483	322
	Mapakadawewa	38	76	76
	Kotiyagala	101	303	202
Polonnaruwa	Minneriya	234	702	468
	Giritale	1,163	3,489	1,163
	Gal Amuna	443	1,772	130
Kurunegala	Abakolawewa	96	192	144
	Palukadawela	68	136	102
	Kimbulwana Oya	213	426	312
	Siyambalangamuwa	72	144	144

<i>District</i>	<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>No. of families</i>	<i>Extent alienated</i>	
			<i>Paddy</i>	<i>Highland</i>
Trincomalee	Kantalai	204	612	408
Matale	Kandalama	3	9	6
Puttalam	Tabbowa	43	54	25
Vavuniya	Periyathamnai	113	339	226
	Periyapandivirichehan	80	240	160
	Chemmamadu	130	390	260
Mannar	Periyamadu	100	300	200
		3,262	9,667	4,348

There is keen demand for Colonization Schemes throughout the Island.

The failure of the North-East Monsoon in 1955-56 and in 1956-57 caused great hardship to settlers in all Colonization Schemes. Those who were settled in their allotments in 1955 suffered most. Many of them have not yet obtained a successful crop. Government was compelled to give them extended subsistence allowances and to organize relief. Peasants who migrated with their families, in the majority of cases, have stayed on. The educated youth who were settled, however, have not showed the same tenacity and many of them abandoned their allotments and returned to their homes. A new experiment in methods of colonization was tried with the new settlers under Giritale, Gal Amuna and Minneriya (Stages II and III) Schemes. In the past all colonists were provided with cleared land and completed houses. Persons selected for the above three schemes were migrants from the thickly populated areas who were living on encroachments on Crown land in Polonnaruwa District. Instead of giving them ready-made farms, the selected allottees were requested to clear their own allotments and to develop their lands with a Government subsidy of Rs. 100 per acre. These tenacious pioneers did a remarkably good job. Although they were not able to undertake the clearing of their allotments until the beginning of July, 1956, they were able to complete the clearing of nearly 9,000 acres and cultivate the land for Maha crop. Helped by a satisfactorily distributed rainfall, they were expecting a good harvest at the end of the year. Government is considering whether the cost of re-settlement of families in Colonization Schemes could be reduced by adopting a similar modification of work in other schemes.

A proposal had been made earlier to establish Colonization Schemes in the hinterland of the thickly populated areas of the wet and semi-wet zones where Crown land suitable for the planting of tea, rubber and cocoa is available. During the year, 1,260 families were settled on 4,751 acres of land in the following schemes :—

<i>Crop</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>Extent in acres</i>	<i>No. of peasants</i>
Coconut	Kurunegala	Kadigama	775	125
„	Puttalam	Mudalakkuliya	550	110
„	Jaffna	Kiranchi	520	104
„	„	Ponnaveli	500	100
„	Badulla	Veherayaya	500	100
Rubber	„	Katugahagolge	300	100
„	Kalutara	Hedigalle	231	77

<i>Crop</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>Extent in acres</i>	<i>No. of peasants</i>
Tea	Galle	Halwitigala, Stage I	125	50
"	"	Kottawa	125	50
"	Matara	Dangala	180	80
"	Ratnapura	Delgoda	225	100
"	"	Madalagama	158	70
Cocoa	Matale	Koswana Estate	312	104
Highland Crop	Jaffna	Puthuvedduvan Manathkulam	250	90
			4,751	1,260

Progress of the settlers in the Wet Zone Schemes where tea, rubber and cocoa have been planted has been very satisfactory. The coconut schemes have been seriously affected by the failure of the North-East Monsoon. At the coconut scheme established in 1955 at Serukelle in Puttalam District, Government was compelled to extend the subsistence allowance to allottees during 1956. Experience of these coconut projects started so far has led to the conclusion that settling people to grow coconut in the semi-wet zones will not prove successful unless each family has at least an acre of paddy land. It has been decided to provide settlers at Veherayaya in Badulla District with an acre of paddy land each under Handapangala irrigation project together with 4 acres of highland for the planting of coconut to enable the families to subsist until the coconuts come into bearing. At Puthuvedduvan-Manathkulam in the mainland of Jaffna District an experiment is being tried to encourage intensive cultivation of seasonal crops on highland in an area where sub-soil water has been discovered and lift irrigation is possible. Progress achieved so far has been encouraging. The soil is rich and if the settlers adopt the intensive methods that are practised in Jaffna Peninsula they should obtain rich harvests. Arrangements are being made to establish a fair close by in order to afford marketing facilities to the settlers.

Assistance to Peasant Allottees

The policy of providing assistance to peasants who receive land under the restricted tenure of the Land Development Ordinance was reviewed during the year. Assistance provided for the construction of a house was Rs. 700 ; a latrine Rs. 75 ; a well Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 (according to its depth) ; soil conservation measures at Rs. 2 per chain up to a maximum of 10 chains per acre and planting material is supplied up to a maximum of Rs. 50 per allottee. Roads were also constructed at Government expense to new lands. In the past, the greater part of the money provided for this assistance was spent on the construction of Type Plan houses on the assumption that once a person was provided with a house on his new allotment, he would undertake the efficient development of his land. In reviewing this policy, the view was taken that excessive concentration on house construction has resulted in insufficient attention being paid to the efficient development of the land.

The following statement shows the number of houses, latrines and wells constructed during the year and the number that were under construction at the end of the year together with the expenditure involved :—

	<i>Constructed during the year, 1956</i>	<i>Under construction at end of the year, 1956</i>	<i>Expenditure 1956 Rs.</i>
Houses	8,654	7,705	6,272,533
Latrines	3,400	1,627	240,710
Wells	2,938	2,492	1,331,645

In addition to these, 51 miles of road were constructed at a cost of Rs. 400,525. The total cost of assistance paid to L. D. O. allottees during the year was Rs. 8,430,608.

Loans to Middle-Class Allottees

According to regulations framed under the Land Development Ordinance loans can be granted to owners of protected holdings.

The Government makes available Rs. 400,000 each financial year for these loans. During the financial year 1955-56 loans amounting to Rs. 360,880 were granted to 60 applicants and there were no applications outstanding at the end of the financial year. Loans were granted in instalments to as many applicants as possible, and steps were taken to ensure that instalments granted were utilised on the development of the allotments. A careful scrutiny of applications has also ensured that loans are granted only to allottees in genuine need.

Acquisition of Land for Village Expansion

During the year an extent of 991 acres of private land was acquired for village expansion. Most of these acquisitions were strips of undeveloped and under-developed land and these were intended to relieve landlessness and congestion in rural areas by providing residential allotments for persons having employment in the area. Several strips of land in "plantation locked" areas referred to in the Kandyan Peasantry Commission Report were acquired for alienation in implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.

The total extent of private land acquired during the year provided about 1,400 allotments of land for alienation to the landless families.

Since the inception of the policy of acquisition of private land for village expansion a total extent of 29,102 acres has been acquired in implementation of this policy.

Land Commission

The Land Commission appointed on July 20, 1955, continued to function and tour the Island to record evidence at all District Headquarters. Its Report is being awaited. The Commission, however, had not submitted its Report at the end of the year.

Land Settlement

Under the Land Settlement Ordinance, No. 20 of 1931, as amended by Ordinance, No. 22 of 1932, and Ordinance, No. 31 of 1933, Settlement Officers inquire into and determine the claims between the subject and the Crown to land of the following description :—

- (a) Forest, waste, unoccupied or uncultivated land or chenas or other land which can only be cultivated after an interval of several years.
- (b) Cultivated or otherwise improved land within a period of 25 years.

Inquiries were held under the provisions of this Ordinance in Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Ratnapura, and Kegalla during the year.

The following statement shows the extent settled during the years 1955 and 1956 :—

TABLE 19-2 EXTENT SETTLED UNDER LAND SETTLEMENT ORDINANCE

Year	Total extent (acres)	Declared Crown (acres)	Declared private and admitted private (acres)
1955	54,323	43,473	10,850
1956	23,600	16,562	7,038

II—IRRIGATION

Ceylon has been blessed with an abundant rainfall, many rivers and streams and a climate and soil particularly suitable for paddy cultivation. This fact had been appreciated from time immemorial. One could trace the history of Irrigation in Ceylon through the period of the Sinhalese Kings back to the pre-Christian era. During the 12th century the country had reached the height of its prosperity and self-sufficiency in food. The irrigation schemes during the reign of *Maha Sena* and *Parakrama Bahu the Great* are amongst the most outstanding works executed.

The period of foreign rule that followed, however, was one of neglect. There is probably no form of Civil Engineering work that demands more constant and un-remitting attention to its maintenance than that connected with the control of water. It is therefore not difficult to imagine how the once great works, rapidly succumbed to the onset of the floods and the ceaseless in-roads of the jungle, resulting in the state of almost total desolation and ruin by the end of the 19th century.

It was only in 1856, about 60 years after the beginning of the British rule that the foreign ruler realised his obligations to right this great wrong. Action was taken to set apart a portion of the revenue towards the restoration of the abandoned works. Up to the year 1900 irrigation service was administered by a Central Irrigation Board assisted by Provincial Irrigation Boards under the Government Agents, the Public Works Department discharging the executive functions.

In 1900 the present Irrigation Department was constituted for the exclusive purpose of investigating, restoring, maintaining and operating the ancient irrigation schemes. Since then the activities of the Department were extended to cover the field of flood protection, drainage and salt water exclusion also. With the impact of the two World Wars, and with the transition from the stage of British Crown Colony to that of an independent country, the programme of work of the Department was stepped up considerably. Several new major projects were launched, under a planned scheme of development in the march towards self-sufficiency in food.

Under the current development programme, for the year 1955–56 work on the following major irrigation works progressed satisfactorily :—

- (a) Kandalama tank in Central Province to benefit 4,000 acres.
- (b) Pavatkulam tank in Northern Province to benefit 4,500 acres.
- (c) Vavunikulam tank in Northern Province to benefit 6,000 acres.
- (d) Kantalai Augmentation Scheme in Eastern Province to benefit 24,000 acres.
- (e) Allai Extension Scheme in Eastern Province to benefit 13,000 acres.
- (f) Mi Oya Diversion Scheme in North-Western Province to benefit 3,876 acres.
- (g) Usgala Siyambalagamuwa tank in North-Western Province to benefit 3,000 acres.
- (h) Hakwatuna Oya Reservoir Scheme in North-Western Province to benefit 4,000 acres.
- (i) Maha Willachchiya Scheme in North-Central Province to benefit 5,000 acres.
- (j) Padawiya Scheme in North-Central Province to benefit 14,000 acres.

In addition, good progress has been made on the Nalanda Oya Reservoir Scheme which will store and divert water to the neighbouring catchment of the Kalawewa.

During the period under review, under minor irrigation works, irrigation facilities were provided for 1,900 acres of new land and 4,500 acres of existing lands. In addition to this, under major irrigation works, 9,300 acres of new lands and 1,600 acres of existing lands were rendered irrigable and provided improved facilities respectively.

Gal Oya Valley Scheme

The year 1956 saw the completion of work on the development of the area coming under the command of the main Left Bank channel where 37 new villages have been created and settled together with three towns during the past seven years. The number of peasants to whom lands have been alienated in this area now total 5,560 and with their families they comprise a total population of 34,799 people.

In the sphere of capital works, the Ekgal Aru Detention Reservoir, with a capacity of 21,000 acre feet, was completed and water impounded in it during the year, while the excavation of the main Right Bank channel from the 4th mile to the 10th mile was done. Work on the Pallang Oya Detention Reservoir, with a capacity of 70,000 acre feet, continued and will be completed in 1958. 29,612 acres of paddy land were cultivated by the colonists alone in two seasons in addition to which the cultivation of cigarette tobacco was extended to 81 acres and the green leaf yield was 378,368 lb.

In the sphere of power and industrial development, 26 miles of high tension transmission lines and 9 sub-stations were constructed and Kalmunai, Sammanturai, Annamalai, Uhana and the Central Camp linked to the Gal Oya Hydrel Station. Work was in progress to link Batticaloa and Kathankudy to this system of the eastern coastal belt. The Rice Mill at Chavalakadai, with a capacity to mill 975,000 bushels of paddy per annum, was in the final stages of construction and will be completed during the next year. The plans for the establishment of a sugar industry in the Gal Oya Valley were finalised during the year. It is expected to produce 12,000 tons of plantation sugar in the first year of production in 1959 and to progressively increase to 30,000 tons in 1961. The cane plantation to feed the factory will comprise 10,000 acres under sugar cane.

Work in all other spheres of the Board's activities continued during the year.

III—LAND REGISTRATION AND VALUATION

Land Registration

There is no system of registration of titles to land in Ceylon. What is registered are deeds and other documents affecting land. For this purpose, every instrument presented for registration is required to embody an accurate and clear description of the land affected, its boundaries, extent and situation, specifying the district and the village, pattu, korale or other division of the district in which the land is situated. These instruments are registered at the Land Registry established for the district in the books maintained in that office. Each district is divided into divisions and a book is allotted to each division.

The present law relating to registration of documents is The Registration of Documents Ordinance (Cap. 101), as amended by the Registration of Documents (Amendment) Ordinances, Nos. 34 of 1939 and 13 of 1947. Under this law, registration is not essential to the validity of a deed but merely confers priority, i.e., an unregistered deed is void against any later registered deed adverse to it, if executed for valuable consideration.

Before a deed is tendered for registration it should be stamped in accordance with the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance. Registration of a deed which is improperly stamped or registered in a wrong folio will entail serious consequences to the public, such as loss of title to land.

The nature and number of deeds affecting immovable property registered during the years 1951 to 1956 are shown in the following table :—

TABLE 19-3 NATURE AND NUMBER OF DEEDS REGISTERED, AFFECTING IMMOVABLE PROPERTY 1951-56

<i>Nature of Deed</i>	<i>Number</i>					
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Transfers by Sale, Gifts, &c.	142,020	137,547	145,230	142,195	140,471	150,461
Mortgages	58,215	66,666	80,956	82,600	78,307	64,962
Discharges	29,692	27,919	32,684	30,999	30,555	48,014
Leases	14,521	13,249	15,654	15,769	13,962	14,117
Other deeds	7,664	8,785	9,939	15,300	14,169	13,009
Settlement Orders	21	30	37	48	—	21

Another class of documents registered in the Land Registries are grants issued under the Land Development Ordinance. These Grants are registered in separate registers. During the year 1956, 670 grants were registered.

Land Valuation

The Valuation Department is responsible for making valuations for Government as well as for Local Bodies and demi-official Institutions. The two main branches of work are—

- (i) Assessment of capital values of properties.
- (ii) Assessment of rental values.

Assessment of Capital Value—Assessment of capital values is done chiefly for the following purposes :—

(a) *Acquisition of land for a public purpose under the Land Acquisition Act, No. 9 of 1950.*—The number of acquisitions for public purposes is on the increase, primarily due to the large number of acquisitions for Village Expansion Schemes, Housing Schemes, Road Widening Schemes, Hydro Electric Scheme, Hospitals and extensions to them, &c.

The procedure with regard to valuation for land acquisition is that when notice of acquisition is given by the Acquiring Authority, namely, the Government Agent, the Valuation Department makes independent investigation and places before the Acquiring Authority expert evidence in regard to the amount of compensation to be awarded.

A total of 1,784 lots, in extent 2,544 acres valued at Rs. 10,875,504 were assessed during 1956.

In addition to these the Valuation Department furnished a large number of estimates of cost of proposed acquisitions to various Government Departments and Local Bodies.

(b) *Collection of Estate Duty under the Estate Duty Ordinance.*—Estate Duty work constitutes a major item of work of the Valuation Department, in spite of the fact that by arrangement with the Commissioner of Estate Duty, rural properties and properties in towns other than Colombo, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Galle are attended to by Revenue Officers without consulting this Department. During the year under review 1,300 lots, in extent 15,388 acres were valued, the official valuations totalling Rs. 31,461,014 as shown below—

<i>Nature of Property</i>		<i>Number of Properties</i>	<i>Extent</i>		<i>Declared Value</i>	<i>Official Valuations</i>	
			A.	R.	P.		
					<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	
House Properties	(a)	968*	122	3	06-23	8,449,861	12,459,475
	(b)	176†	19	1	16-84	—	1,987,190
Agricultural Estates	(a)	128*	10,893	2	21-21	8,472,007	12,170,854
	(b)	28*	4,352	0	35-00	—	4,843,495

(c) *Collection of Stamp Duty under the Stamp Duty Ordinance.*—When properties are gifted, it is not unusual for Stamp Duty to be fixed on low valuation and in such cases the Registrar-General, the Commissioner of Stamps and the Registrar of Lands consult the Valuation Department. With the steady increase of market value of properties the valuations in cases of understamped deeds have also increased in recent years. During the year under review 979 lots were valued for Stamp Duty, the total of official valuations being Rs. 15,814,708.

(d) *Miscellaneous Valuations for Local Bodies and Demi-official Institutions.*—Assessments of capital values, apart from the three main items mentioned above, are made for Local Authorities and demi-official institutions like the Savings Bank, Loan Board, Public Trustee, &c.

* Where declarants have furnished valuations.

† Where no valuations have been furnished.

Assessment of rental values is mainly done for the following purposes :—

(a) *Rating within Local Government Areas.*—The Assessment of towns for rating purposes involves revision of assessments, generally every five years, and also making fresh assessments in case of towns which have not been assessed by the Valuation Department hitherto.

(b) *Payment of rents for private property hired by Government.*—In Colombo as well as in outstations, Government rents out buildings from private parties, and in these cases the rental value is assessed by this Department. During the year under review 991 properties have been assessed.

(c) *Collection of rent for Crown property leased to private parties.*—Crown lands are leased out to various private parties and in these cases the Revenue Officers as well as the Land Commissioner consult this Department regarding the amount of rent that should be recovered.

Fees for Valuations

The Department recovers fees in cases where work is undertaken for Local Authorities and demi-official institutions whether for assessment of capital value or of rental value.

IV—LAND SURVEYS

No land can be alienated or otherwise dealt with by the Government until it has been surveyed and demarcated by the Survey Department.

Triangulation.—Records of systematic triangulation in Ceylon began with the measurement of a base at Negombo, on the west coast, in 1857, and the subsequent building up of a system of triangulation. Where this was impracticable especially in the flat parts of the Island, a framework of primary traversing was substituted.

In the year 1956, 3 Conformal Points were added to the Records and 23 Trigonometrical Points were added to the list of Trigonometrical Stations. 52 miles of primary traversing were surveyed.

Levelling.—The earliest recorded levels were taken in 1865, the average determination of mean sea levels being made at five tidal stations. Since then Primary and Secondary Levelling has been carried out serving in subsequent years the requirements of engineering surveys scattered over many parts of Ceylon.

During the year under review, 76 miles of Primary Levelling, 544 miles of Secondary Levelling and 62 miles of Tertiary Levelling were carried out.

Topographical Surveys.—The topographical survey of Ceylon commenced in 1897. A contoured topographical map on the scale of an inch to a mile, covering the whole Island, was completed in 1924. Systematic revision has, since then, been carried out and new editions of the maps issued.

One inch sheets of Murunkan and Talaimannar were revised during the year and work is in progress in Mantai.

Engineering Surveys.—Engineering Surveys are intended for engineering purposes, and the plans are not intended to be used for sale or settlement purposes. They show the relief of the ground by contours, or often in great detail by means by levels taken along sections, and by spot heights observed in a regular pattern or at specially selected points to facilitate the location and design of channels, roads, bridges, buildings, railway tracts, &c., and to prepare estimates of quantities, costs, labour requirements, and other necessary information.

221,430 acres were surveyed in connection with major irrigation projects and drainage schemes during the year 1956.

94½ miles of irrigation and drainage channels were traced, and 21½ miles of natural drainage streams were surveyed.

A further 8,375 acres were contour surveyed for the development of lands under 11 village tanks. *Block, Topo and Demarcation Surveys.*—Block and Topo surveys comprise the Survey of large areas of land for the final settlement of claims as preferred by private parties.

Block Surveys of 66,540 acres and Topo Surveys of 68,760 acres were completed.

Plans of 36 Demarcation Requisitions and 41 other requisitions were also completed and disposed of in the Block Surveyed areas. 198 Drafts Settlement Notices and Orders were checked and 34 Settlement Plans were prepared and sent to the Settlement Officer. 40 Final Village Plans showing Crown and Private lands were issued to the Revenue Officers.

Air Surveys.—The application of air survey methods for the production of medium scale contoured maps and the use of photographic mosaics was not attempted until 1952.

The medium scale contoured mapping of about 175 square miles of the Kotmale-Nuwara Eliya area which is the last of the pilot projects undertaken in 1952 to assess the potential to which air survey methods can be applied in Ceylon, has been completed. The accuracy of both the detail survey and the contouring were found to be very satisfactory.

A Canadian team from the Photographic Survey Corporation of Toronto under the Colombo Plan established a Resources Survey Centre and took up the survey of the Kirindi Oya Basin. Officers from the Agricultural, Irrigation, Forest and Mineralogist's Departments worked on the various problems assisted by and under the direction of the Canadian personnel both in the field and in office. The report on their studies is expected early in 1957. Special work, in addition, has been undertaken by members of the team in forestry and geology. The future of the centre as a permanent organisation is still under consideration by the Government.

Air photography of the whole Island has been completed on an average scale of 1 : 40,000. Certain areas such as Kirindi Oya Basin, Sinharaja Forest area, Kandy Town and environments and a few other areas have been photographed on scales varying from 1/5,000 to 1/20,000. Mosaics (uncontrolled) have been prepared for the whole Island on an approximate scale of 2 inches to a mile. Three officers of the Survey Department have undergone training under the Laboratory Technician of the Photographic Survey Corporation and a temporary Photo Laboratory has been fitted up in the Surveyor-General's Office premises. Contact prints of photos, mosaics and enlargements are being supplied to the public and other Government Departments.

Some trial photography has been done by the Survey Departmental operators using Royal Ceylon Air Force Aircraft fitted with cameras.

Land Development Surveys.—Land Development Surveys for Colonization and peasant proprietor allotments were continued in many parts of the country during the year under review.

The extent surveyed under this category on 104 requisitions was 13,306 acres.

Town Surveys.—Town Surveys dealt with during the year under review were as follows :—

Medawachchiya	Plans were issued.
Haputale	Plans were issued.
Kekirawa	Field work of skeleton and assessment surveys is complete. Plan work is in progress.
Polgahawela	Skeleton survey is complete and the assessment survey is in progress.
Kotte	Skeleton survey is complete. The assessment survey which is in progress is estimated to be completed by April 1957.
Colombo Town Revision	The third revision of the town started in 1948 was continued and an extent of 619 acres was revised.

Map Publication.—Among the maps published were reprints of one inch Topo sheets, Murunkan, Ambalantota, Puliyankulama, Hanguranketa, Galle, Polonnaruwa, Battulu Oya and Nalanda. The 8 mile Trunk Roads Map and the 8 mile Tamil Motor Map were printed during the year.

The one inch Topo sheet of Polonnaruwa in Sinhalese which was expected to be published during the year will be printed during 1957. Preliminary work on the Sinhalese editions of one inch sheets of Ambalantota, Kurunegala and Kandy has commenced.

One inch Administrative Area Series maps of Hambantota, Morawaka, Rakwana, Matara, Galle, Ambalangoda and Alutgama were printed during the year.

Two pilot sheets of the new National Map on the scale of 5 inches to a mile have been prepared in respect of Kotmale (hill country area) and Avissawella (low country area). The air survey work carried out in the Kotmale area greatly facilitated the preparation of the 5 inch Pilot Sheet of Kotmale. It is expected to publish as many sheets as possible of these 2 areas in the course of 1957.

Training School for Surveyors.—The Survey Department conducts a Training School for Surveyors in Diyatalawa. One batch of 21 students completed their course of training in this school in February. Another batch of 61 students who reported in March continued their training. This school also afforded facilities for officers of other Government Departments to be trained in field work.

V—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Administration of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance, No. 13 of 1946

To assist the work of the Central Planning Commission Advisory Committees and Sub-Committees were appointed for the preparation of planning schemes for the Dalada Maligawa and the 4 *devales*, Devinuwara, Tissamaharama, Mahiyangana, Kandy and Kataragama. It is proposed in these schemes to prepare sacred areas where no secular buildings will be permitted and from which existing buildings that are inconsistent with the function of sacred areas will be removed and to provide for facilities for pilgrims visiting these shrines.

An Advisory Committee was also appointed to draw up a planning scheme for 159 acres of Crown land at Maligawatte. The Committee has completed the plans for this scheme, the main provision of which is the utilization of St. Sebastian canal for the transport of goods to warehouses to be located in this area. Sub-Committees were appointed to report on roads in the Colombo Regional Development area, development of land round the Beira Lake, the Colombo Port Marine Drive and the location of industries in the Colombo Region.

The Colombo Regional Planning Scheme was finally approved by the Central Planning Commission and it is expected that this scheme will come into operation before the end of 1957.

Technical Assistance for the Planned Development of Urban and Rural Areas

During the year 238 applications were received for advice and technical assistance from the Department of Town and Country Planning. 154 of these were from local authorities direct or through the Commissioner of Local Government. They related to new roads, widening of existing roads, extension of limits of local authorities, selection of sites and preparation of plans for civic buildings and amenities, the lease or sale of land vested in local authorities and matters relating to the administration of the Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance. 84 applications were received from Government Agents and other Government Departments relating to the planning and disposal of Crown land, allocation of sites for Government buildings and the preparation of layout plans. Detail plans were prepared for a Government Centre at Anderson Golf Links. Several Government Departments were allotted land on this site and some of them have already begun the construction of buildings.

Housing Schemes

During the year the Department of Town and Country Planning assisted the Department of National Housing with plans for 25 housing schemes.

Several new type plans for low cost and middle-class houses were prepared by this Department for these housing schemes. The Department also provided plans for emergency houses on reclaimed land at Maligawatte and for a Bachelors' Hostel at the Anderson Golf Links, Colombo.

Slum Clearance Schemes for Local Authorities

During the year the Department prepared 18 new housing schemes for the Municipal Councils of Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Negombo; the Urban Councils of Ambalangoda, Anuradhapura, Dehiwala, Hambantota, Panadure, Avissawella and Moratuwa; the Town Council of Vavuniya and the Village Committees of Ratgama, Kosgoda, Perumkali Pattu, Maha Pattu, Weragoda, Makandura and Aturugiriya comprising in all 606 houses. 137 insanitary dwellings were selected for demolition to enable the local bodies to fulfil one of the conditions on which the grants were made in respect of Slum Clearance Schemes. The Department also examined and approved 8 housing schemes prepared by the Colombo Municipal Council for the erection of 352 flats for the purpose of rehousing families living in insanitary houses which are to be demolished.

The services of the Department of Town and Country Planning were fully engaged during the year by the local bodies for the preparation and execution of slum clearance schemes. These services included the giving of advice on schemes, inspection and selection of sites for new housing schemes, preparation of plans, specifications and estimates for the layout of housing sites and for the construction of houses, periodical inspection of housing schemes during construction and submission of reports to the respective local bodies.

Building Research

In the field of Research the Department made investigations for bringing down the costs of building by reducing the size of beams, lintols, timber sections, &c. After extensive tests on lintols, it was decided that pre-cast lintols could both economically and safely be used in the construction of building works. A brochure setting out details of the construction and placing of pre-cast lintols in building construction was printed and made available to the public.

A low cost smokeless fireplace was also invented by Mr. L. H. Sumanadasa, Research Officer, and 2 public demonstrations were given on the working and method of constructing this fireplace. In response to numerous requests from the public for component units of this fireplace, the Department is taking steps to turn out these component units at the Experimental Station for sale at nominal rates to the public.

The Department's programme of constructing low cost rammed earth wall houses in provincial towns is being continued and 2 low cost demonstration houses, built of earth walls were constructed at Galle. This method of construction is becoming popular and there have been numerous requests for details regarding the technique of rammed earth construction. Arrangements are being made to construct demonstration houses in Trincomalee, Badulla and Hambantota if Crown land is available.

Planning and Development of the New Town of Anuradhapura

Work on the development of the New Town continued under the general control of the Ministry of Local Government and Cultural Affairs. The greater part of the work comprised in Stage I of the New Town Scheme, which assumed great importance on account of Buddha Jayanti, was done in the year 1956. Shortly after the commencement of the Buddha Jayanti year nearly all the Government and private commercial activities were shifted from the Old Town to the New. Building development, particularly in the private sector, continued at a very rapid pace since then. Besides Governmental and commercial activities, various religious, educational and other functions commenced in the New Town during the year. Work on Stage II of the New Town Scheme was also commenced with the preliminary steps necessary for the construction of several new roads.

CHAPTER XX

ELECTRICITY, WATER SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORKS

I—ELECTRICITY

THE Department of Government Electrical Undertakings, besides maintaining generation, transmission and distribution of electricity at Norton Bridge, Nuwara Eliya, Diyatalawa, Bandara-wela, Haputale and Colombo, is responsible for all Government Installations in the country and also acts in an advisory capacity to the local bodies which operate their own supply of electricity. The department is also empowered by the Electricity Act, No. 19 of 1950, to inspect and report on Electricity Undertakings operated by licensees.

Generating Stations

The three main generating stations are Laksapana Power Station, Stanley Power Station and Pettah Power Station. The Power Station at Laksapana is a hydro-electric station and has three water wheel sets each of 8,333 kW capacity. The Stanley Power Station at Kolonnawa is a thermal station and has 3 steam sets each of 3,000 kW capacity. The Pettah Power Station situated in the Pettah has one steam set of 3,000 kW capacity and 3 Mirrlees diesel sets each of 2,000 kW capacity. The total capacity of these three stations at the beginning of the year 1956, was—

Laksapana P. S.	25,000 kW
Stanley P. S.	9,000 kW
Pettah P. S.	9,000 kW
	43,000 kW

The installation of 6 Mirrlees diesel engine sets each of 2,000 kW capacity totalling 12,000 kW is in progress at the Pettah Power Station. Two of these sets totalling 4,000 kW were erected and put into commission during the course of the year and the remaining 4 sets, it is anticipated, will be brought into commission by August, 1957.

Hydro-Electric Scheme—Stage IIA

Stage IIA of the Hydro-Electric Scheme envisages the production of a further 25,000 kW of power by the addition of two water wheel sets each of 12,500 kW capacity to the existing Power Station at Laksapana. The work is sub-divided into four sections : (a) the Civil Engineering Works of which the dam is the most important, (b) the Pipe Lines, (c) the Electrical and Mechanical plant, and (d) the Main Transmission Lines. The dam is being constructed at Castlereagh which is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles up stream from the present Norton Bridge Dam. When completed it will be 730 feet long and rise 130 feet above the present river bank. A reinforced concrete Bridge of 14 spans is to be built across the spillway and will carry traffic now using the Castlereagh bridge. The dam will create a lake of more than 900 acres in extent and store 1,900,000,000 cubic feet of water.

Progress on the Castlereagh Dam was a little retarded due to earthslips. However, the diversion canal was completed and already the base of the dam has taken shape.

The Civil Engineering Work for the Laksapana Pipe Line and about 80 per cent. of the installation work are complete.

The four sub-stations at Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kurunegala and Bolawatte will be ready for commissioning tests shortly. The main installations at Laksapana and Kolonnawa are expected to be started in January, 1957.

The Transmission Line from Badulla to Norton Bridge via Nuwara Eliya is complete. All towers on the Colombo-Laksapana Line have been erected and stringing is well in hand. On the Peradeniya-Kurunegala Line tower erection has been started. During the year 356 towers were erected and 6.05 miles strung.

Forty-nine step down transformer sub-stations with a total capacity of 6.81 MVA were commissioned during the year. Sixty-three miles of 33 kV and 3.5 miles of 11 kV lines were also erected.

Commercial Operation

The highest peak load reached during the financial year was 37,610 kW in May, 1956, which is 4,070 kW higher than that reached during the previous year. The highest peak load in the calendar year was 37,700 kW in November, 1956. Demand for electricity continued to increase among all classes of consumers.

The resulting increases in maximum demand and units consumed compared with the previous year are as follows :—

TABLE 20.1 ELECTRICITY : UNITS GENERATED AND CONSUMED

	1954-55	1955-56	Percentage Increase+ Decrease—
<i>Units Generated :</i>			
(a) Laksapana Hydro Station	131,091,529	130,003,000	— 0.83
(b) Norton Construction Power House	52,270	154,690	+196.0
(c) Thermal Stations (in Colombo only)	16,067,720	32,328,881	+101.2
(d) Total	147,211,519	162,486,571	+ 10.36
(e) Laksapana Station Load Factor	50.2%	56.0%	+ 11.45
<i>Units Consumed :</i>			
(a) Units sold (including Norton Bridge and Nuwara Eliya)	120,221,799	132,366,208	+ 10.10
(b) Installed Plant Capacity kW	43,890	46,690	+ 6.38
<i>Maximum Demand in kW :</i>			
(a) Maximum demand in kW	33,540	37,610	+ 12.15
<i>Supply Statistics :</i>			
(a) Miles of Transmission Lines and Distributors	1,009	1,124	+ 11.40
(b) Numbers of Consumers (excluding Norton Bridge and Nuwara Eliya)	23,005*	23,880	

Finance

The total income from all activities of the Department for the year amounted to Rs. 22,285,975, an increase of nearly 7 per cent. over the previous financial year. Net profit, however, dropped by 25 per cent. to Rs. 3,536,000.

* 525 temporarily disconnected.

Revenue and Expenditure figures for the years 1954-55 and 1955-56 are summarised in the table below :—

TABLE 20-2 ELECTRICAL UNDERTAKINGS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	1954-55	1955-56	Percentage Increase+ Decrease—
	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Gross Revenue	20,829,030	22,285,975	+ 6.99
2. Total Working Expenditure	11,853,422	13,665,695	+15.3
3. Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	8,975,608	8,620,280	— 3.9
4. Interest and Annuities	4,255,627	5,084,190	+19.46
5. Net Profit	4,719,981	3,536,090	—25.08

The expenditure on capital works during the year amounted to Rs. 32,545,926 bringing the total expenditure on capital works up to September 30, 1956, to Rs. 144,296,569.

The total sum to the credit of the Reserve, Extensions and Renewals Fund at the end of September, 1956, was Rs. 14,085,270 after incurring an expenditure of Rs. 4,222,456.

II—WATER SERVICE

The Colombo Water Supply

The Colombo Water supply is obtained from Labugama Reservoir which is situated in the Western Province, at a distance of 28½ miles from the City. The reservoir was formed by impounding the water of the Wak Oya, a tributary of the Kelani Ganga.

The catchment area, which is 2,500 acres in extent, is free from any habitation or cultivation, all the land as far as the summit of the watershed having been reserved with a strip, two chains in depth, along the adjacent water sheds. The top water level is 374 ft. above mean sea level and has a maximum depth of 73 ft. The area of the reservoir at the present top water level is 205 acres. The storage capacity of the reservoir is 1,960 million gallons. The estimated safe yield from this reservoir is 12½ million gallons per diem. Filtration works of the Jewell Rapid Gravity type are situated immediately below the reservoir dam. In addition to filtration the water is sterilised by the chloramine treatment.

The water has a very low alkalinity and is quite pure. It is conveyed to the two service reservoirs in Colombo, each of 8 million gallons capacity, through four separate pipe lines. There are approximately 372 miles of supply and distribution mains, varying in size from 30 to 3 inches in diameter. Water service is available to almost all premises within the City and also to shipping in Colombo Harbour. Seventy-four Deacon meters for the detection of waste have been fixed throughout the City. The average daily consumption is now between 19 and 20 million gallons, or 46 gallons per head of the resident population.

Kalatuwawa Water Supply Scheme

In order to augment the present supply of water from Labugama, the construction of another reservoir impounding the water of the Kalatuwawa Ela, another tributary of the Kelani Ganga, in the adjoining catchment was begun in 1949, and the work is now in progress. The construction of the Main Dam and the two subsidiary dams was completed in 1954 and it is expected that the Treatment Works will be completed by the end of 1958.

The catchment area feeding the new reservoir is 3,320 acres. The top water level is 370 ft. above mean sea level and has a maximum depth of 60 ft. The area of the reservoir at the present top water level is 480 acres. The storage capacity of the reservoir is 3,900 million gallons. The estimated safe yield from this source is 20 million gallons per diem.

The supervision of the work on the Kalatuwawa Pipe Line and Service Reservoir at Dehiwala was undertaken by the Public Works Department.

A contract was entered into in March, 1956, with a firm of French Contractors, Messrs. Socoman, for the First Stage of a comprehensive scheme of water supply to the towns South of Colombo, viz., Kolonnawa, Kotte, Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia, Moratuwa and Panadura. These towns will be supplied initially from the surplus water drawn from Kalatuwawa Reservoir, through a series of ground reservoirs and water towers sited at suitable points. As Colombo's needs increase and the supply available is reduced, pumping will be carried out from an intake on the Kelani Ganga and the water will be purified and supplied to these towns through the same reservoirs and water towers which will be provided in Stage I of the Scheme. The present estimated cost is Rs. 40 million approximately and the work will be completed in about 3 years.

Kandy Water Supply

The existing water supply to the Town consists of an impounding reservoir of 44 million gallons constructed in 1874. This reservoir is fed from a conserved catchment of 400 acres. There are three River Pumping Schemes using the Mahaweli ganga as the source of supply to augment the reservoir supply. Of these three pumping schemes, the Lewella Scheme completed in 1953 delivers the highest, about 420,000 gallons per diem of 19 hours pumping.

The rapid increase of population in the town has, however, obliged the Council to resort to the issue of lake water during peak periods and dry years. The execution of the Mahaweli Major Pumping Scheme, for which designs, detailed plans and specifications have been submitted to the Government by the French Engineers (Societe Eau et Assainment) is now an urgent need.

Among the Schemes under construction in outstation are the following :—

(a) *New Town, Anuradhapura.*—The supply to the New Town of Anuradhapura consists of an intake on the Nuwara Wewa and low lift pumps capable of delivering $\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons a day to a purification plant. After treatment, the water is pumped by high lift pumps to a water tower of 125,000 gallons capacity (incidentally the highest of its kind in Ceylon) from which it gravitates to the distribution lines. The work on the Purification Plant is nearing completion and the Town will be supplied with purified water very shortly. Untreated water after chlorination was supplied through standposts for the Buddha Jayanthi Celebrations in May, 1956.

(b) *Hatton.*—The work on the mass concrete dam 30 ft. 0 in. high on Darrawella Estate which when completed will form an impounding reservoir of approximately 12 to 15 million gallons ensuring ninety days' storage for the town was continued during 1956.

(c) *University Scheme.*—All work including the Purification Plant has been completed. The consumption per head per diem has increased to 85 gallons instead of 50 gallons allowed for in the design. The present sources are incapable of supplying such a heavy demand.

(d) *Purification Plants.*—Two fair sized towns, Tangalle and Hambantota, are being supplied with purified water of standard quality. The design and construction were undertaken by the Public Works Department and satisfactorily completed in June, 1956.

With the installation of Purification Plants in some of the Towns, it is necessary that the water supply should be scientifically controlled and maintained to ensure safe and potable water. A small beginning has already been made in the establishment of a Laboratory where elementary tests can be carried out.

III—PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is mainly responsible for the maintenance of the communications net work in the Island and the construction of public buildings. Apart from this routine work, the P. W. D. has other functions such as the investigations design and construction of water supply schemes, the maintenance and improvement of aerodromes and canals ; the design and construction of new bridges and roads ; and the planning and execution of major building projects such as the University at Peradeniya, the Army Cantonment at Panagoda, the New Town at Anuradhapura and several large Hospitals, Schools and Housing Schemes in various parts of the Island.

The following are some of the major achievements of the P. W. D. during the year :—

- (i) The new method of pre-stressed concrete construction of bridges was adopted effecting considerable saving in construction as well as maintenance. Some examples are, the New Kelani Bridge, Naragala Bridge and the Weragantota Bridge.
- (ii) A completely mechanised form of road surfacing is being progressively introduced resulting in better roads.
- (iii) A building programme for the University Scheme at Peradeniya has been carried out. The largest Hall in Ceylon capable of accommodating 8,000 people and one of the biggest of its kind in the East has been completed and handed over to the University authorities.
- (iv) An entire new Town complete with buildings, roads and water service has been constructed by the Public Works Department within a few months and handed over in time for the Buddha Jayanthi Celebrations at Anuradhapura.

Buildings

Some of the major works for which detailed drawings, &c., were prepared are the new offices for the Survey Department, extensions to Law Courts, Hulftsdorp, the Government Press and the Ratmalana Air Port, the new Market and Shops at Anuradhapura and the new two storey ward for the Hospital of Indigenous Medicine.

As against Rs. 2,159,794 in 1954-55 a sum of Rs. 2,596,416 was spent on the maintenance of buildings in 1955-56. The total number of buildings in charge of the Public Works Department increased by 262 from 3,955 in 1954-55 to 4,217 in 1955-56. During the year a very large programme of new building works falling within the scope of the Second Six-Year Plan was executed.

The total expenditure on the University Scheme for the year amounted to Rs. 3,969,842.

Government Factory

The Government Factory is responsible for the general overhaul, maintenance, repairs and servicing of all plant and machinery, instruments, &c., for various Government Departments in addition to the manufacture of a large variety of wooden, concrete, brass and iron articles for the Medical, Irrigation, Electrical, Telegraph, Government Stores, Agricultural, Public Works Departments and the Local Authorities.

The average total number of workers employed in the Factory during the year 1955-56 was 1,900.

The total expenditure during 1955-56 was Rs. 8,009,278 as against Rs. 8,028,475 in the previous years.

CHAPTER XXI

THE PRESS, INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

I—THE PRESS

THERE are three main newspaper groups in Ceylon. The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., the biggest group, owns five dailies and three Sunday papers in the three languages. The Times of Ceylon Ltd., the next biggest group, publishes three dailies and two Sunday papers in the two languages, Sinhalese and English. The third organisation—The Virakesari Ltd., Colombo, publishes one Tamil daily and one Sunday paper.

On a language basis there are two morning and one afternoon and two Sunday papers in Sinhalese : two morning, two afternoon and two Sunday papers in English and two morning Tamil dailies and two Sunday papers. Of the Sunday papers the “Silumina” (Sinhalese) and “Lankadipa” (Sinhalese) are supposed to have the largest circulation in South-East Asia.

The oldest of the Ceylon Newspapers is the “Ceylon Observer”, the next in age is the “Times of Ceylon”, each of them being over a century in continuous publication.

Most of the dailies are politically independent and are not officially controlled or censored.

The following shows particulars of the principal daily newspapers and their approximate circulation.

TABLE 21.1 DAILY NEWSPAPERS

<i>Name of Newspaper</i>	<i>Year Established</i>	<i>Language of Publication</i>	<i>Circulation*</i>	<i>Publishers</i>	<i>Address</i>
Ceylon Daily News	1918	English	44,489	Associated Newspapers of Ceylon	Lake House, McCallum Road, Colombo
Ceylon Observer	1834	English	21,153		
Dinamina	1909	Sinhalese	69,841		
Janata	1953	Sinhalese	32,107	Times of Ceylon	3, Bristol Street, Colombo
Lankadipa	1947	Sinhalese	n.a.		
Morning Times	1954	English	n.a.		
Times of Ceylon	1846	English	n.a.	Associated Newspapers of Ceylon	Lake House, McCallum Road, Colombo
Thinakaran	1932	Tamil	17,811		
Virakesari	1930	Tamil	24,681	Virakesari Ltd.	185, Grandpass Road, Colombo

II—INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Activities of the Information Department

The present Information Department came into existence in 1948.

The Department of Information is usually represented at Press Conferences of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, and Communiqués of Government Departments are expected to pass through its Press Room. The Department publishes information booklets and pamphlets for the

* Average daily net sales for 1956.
n.a. = not available.

various Government Departments. It publishes an illustrated monthly magazine in English entitled, "Ceylon Today", and monthly magazines in Sinhalese and Tamil respectively. It issues a weekly "Ceylon News Letter" mainly for overseas distribution and also "The Week in Ceylon" for distribution to the Ceylon Missions abroad. The Department reprints books of which the Government holds the copyright, and publishes new books of cultural value relating to Ceylon.

The Publication Bureau is the Government's bookshop. There is a sale centre at the General Post Office, Colombo, and one or more other such centres are contemplated.

The Government Film Unit has laboratory facilities for the limited output of documentary and instructional films. They are made with dialogue or commentaries in English, Sinhalese and Tamil. The Department has a number of mobile units for showing 35 mm. and 16 mm. films. The Department also affords limited facilities to private producers of films. The new Government proposes to review and re-orient the activities of this Department to ensure a fuller discharge of its educative functions.

III—BROADCASTING SERVICES

The Broadcasting Department runs a National Service and a Commercial Service.

The National Service which has a School Broadcasting Service as well, broadcasts its normal programmes in Sinhalese, Tamil and English. The Commercial Service broadcasts programmes to Africa, India, Pakistan and South-East Asia in addition to its local programmes.

Two journals are published by Radio Ceylon—"Radio Times" and "Tarangini" (in Sinhalese). The former carries particulars of the programmes for each fortnight in all three languages.

The total number of radio licence holders at the end of 1956 was 162,134. The licence fee in Ceylon is Rs. 15 per annum.

IV—GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU

Introduction

Ceylon's earnings from tourism in 1956 were Rs. 8.9 million, Rs. 6 lakhs more than earnings in the previous year. This too was despite the fact that, due to the Suez crisis, ships of a few shipping lines were diverted round the Cape of Good Hope and by-passed Ceylon on their way to the Far East, with a resulting great drop in the volume of traffic.

Ceylon Tourist Travel Trends

Volume and Value of Traffic.—In 1956, due to the factors mentioned above—the volume of traffic showed a decrease of 83,189 from the previous year. The volume of holiday to total traffic, however, rose from 13 per cent. in 1955 to nearly 16 per cent. in 1956—the highest yet recorded during the last seven years.

TABLE 21.2 VALUE OF TRAFFIC

<i>Year</i>	<i>Income Rs. million</i>	<i>Expenditure Rs. million</i>
1951	7.3	49.4
1952	10.9	37.6
1953	8.6	36.1
1954	9.9	29.9
1955	8.3	32.2
1956	8.9	31.06

TABLE 21-3 VOLUME OF TRAFFIC

<i>Year</i>	<i>Stop-over</i>	<i>Transit</i>	<i>Total</i>
1951	64,938	414,300	479,238
1952	66,185	416,236	482,421
1953	60,114	388,751	448,865
1954	59,111	354,332	413,443
1955	52,601	344,366	396,967
1956	51,156	262,622	313,778

Balance of Payments

The deficit in the balance of payments on Travel Account improved slightly during 1956, decreasing by Rs. 1.74 million from the previous year.

Development of Tourist Services

Resthouses.—Three more resthouses—Pomparippu, Hanguranketa and Kalkudah—were taken over by the Tourist Bureau in 1956, bringing the total number of resthouses under the Bureau's management to fifteen. The other twelve are : Ambepussa, Belihuloya, Bentota, Hikkaduwa, Tissamaharama, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla, Kantalai, Ella, Pussellawa and Habarana.

Advertising Campaigns

Publicity Campaigns were launched in U. K., U. S. A., Australia and Italy through the Bureau's advertising agents in those countries. The campaigns in U. K., U. S. A. and Australia were confined to advertising in the leading magazines and newspapers in those territories. The campaign in Italy was devoted to the production of folders, booklets, posters and plastic pliables all with the text in Italian. The bulk of these was distributed in the Ceylon stands at the Milan Fair and the Mediterranean Fair (Palermo) ; the remainder was distributed in fashionable resorts throughout Italy.

Literature and Posters

The Bureau published a 12-page folder in colour on the Island's attractions. It compares very favourably with the best folders turned out by the leading tourist countries of the world. 250,000 copies of this folder were printed by the Toppan Printing Co. of Tokyo.

Copies of two new posters by the well known artists Aubrey Collette and Ivan Peries were printed at the Government Press and distributed.

Films

Three copies of Victor Ratnavale's film "Pearl of the Orient", four copies of the Shell Company's film "The Royal Visit to Ceylon" and eight copies of their other film "Ruhuna National Park" were added to the Bureau's library of films. All these were loaned to the various Ceylon Missions abroad.

Fairs and Exhibitions

The Bureau's stall at the entrance to the Royal Agricultural and Food Exhibition attracted considerable attention. Every feature in it was entirely the work of the officers of the Department. In collaboration with the Tea Bureau, the Tourist Bureau participated in the Summer Exhibition, London.

Editorial Publicity

Last year the famous American magazine "Holiday" published a feature article on Ceylon by the well known writer Shantha Rama Rau, illustrated by colour photographs taken by "Holiday" photographer, Ewing Krainin who was given facilities of the Bureau.

The West German magazine "Westdeutsche Wirtchaff" featured a special article on Ceylon tourism in its issue of May-June, 1956.

The Tourist Bureau co-operated actively with leading airlines and shipping lines in Australia in a competition sponsored by the Ceylon High Commissioner in Australia for a fortnight's holiday in Ceylon. The leading Australian magazine "Women" gave this competition invaluable publicity.

The winner of the "Girl of the Golden Beaches" contest, sponsored by the "Brisbane Telegraph", was Miss Gail Selby. Her prize too was a fortnight's holiday here.

V—TEA PROPAGANDA BOARD

As in previous years, activities were maintained to promote the consumption of Tea in Ceylon through the media of (a) The Tea Caravan Service, (b) The Tea Service in Schools, (c) Resthouse and Advisory Service, and (d) General Publicity.

The Tea Caravan Service

The Tea Caravans were stationed in regional centres so that the areas in and around these centres could be intensively covered during the stay of the Caravan Units in their respective centres. While in the previous year there were five Caravan Units, during 1956, three were stationed in Mannar, Jaffna and Batticaloa and one was stationed in Colombo. The units participated wherever possible at events of local, national or religious importance.

Tea Caravan participation in the major religious festivals in Ceylon has now become an annual feature and the Caravan Units were present at the Kandy Perahera and Madhu, Talawila and Katarama festivals. Special mention has to be made of the advent of the Buddha Jayanthi celebrations when there was a re-awakening of religious fervour and an unprecedented number of pilgrims mainly from the rural areas felt the impact of the tea-message at various Buddhist temples.

Tea Service in Schools

Free supplies of tea were sent only to those schools which were found to be able to obtain sugar under their own arrangements. It was ascertained that organisations such as Parent Teachers' Associations, Teachers' Guilds, Local Councils, &c., were willing to accept the responsibility for these arrangements and just over 200 schools benefited under this revised scheme as against 275 schools which had been covered during the previous year under the full scheme.

Resthouse and Advisory Service

The illustrated folder "Tea Tips—Calling all Resthouse Keepers and Hoteliers", which was brought out during the previous year, aroused much enthusiasm not only among the resthouse keepers but also among the tea firms that were desirous of supplying established brands of tea to resthouses and retail shops. With the continued increase in tourist traffic and visitors to most resthouses in Ceylon, there was greater activity in the tea service at hotels and resthouses. Advice and guidance were freely given by the Board's visiting staff as well as by the Caravan Units and the resthouse keepers' response was noticeable.

The resthouses taken over by the Tourist Bureau were regularly visited by the Ceylon Campaign executive staff and with the close co-operation received from the authorities concerned a high standard in the tea service was maintained.

General Publicity

"DRINK MORE TEA FOR GOOD HEALTH" was the accepted slogan of the campaign in Ceylon and emphasis on this was placed wherever the Caravans worked. Leaflets containing the golden rules of tea making and exhorting people to drink more tea for good health, were freely distributed.

The National Service of Radio Ceylon began and ended their Tea Time Programme with the song "Anytime is Tea Time" recorded by Petula Clark. Advertisement posters and Ceylon Tea map in colour together with other publications totalling over 3,000 and photographs depicting the Ceylon Tea Industry were distributed in response to requests received by the Board. Copies of the film-strip "Tea Growing in Ceylon" with lecture notes in the three languages were sent to the Education Department for circulation in schools under their audio-visual education programme.

The Royal Agricultural Exhibition held in Colombo during February provided an opportunity for tea publicity, and the Board assisted the Tea Research Institute in setting up an attractive exhibit in the stall allocated to the Tea Industry. The Board's working model of a tea-factory and several of its display panels were exhibited in the stall and formed a useful part of the display. In the liquid tea service field, the Board co-operated with leading tea firms and caterers participating in the exhibition in order to ensure the highest possible standards in the service.

Tea for visitors to Ceylon

The service at the Board's four tea counters in the Colombo Passenger Jetty, the Trincomalee Naval Yard and the two airports at Ratmalana and Katunayake was maintained during the year.

35,057 lb. of the Board's tea were sold at these counters and 12,457 lb. despatched abroad under the Gift Parcels Scheme.

In October, Horizon Pictures Ltd., arrived in Ceylon for filming "Bridge Over the River Kwai" and the Board assisted in establishing a satisfactory tea service for the staff engaged in the film work.

Figures of Tea consumption in Ceylon

The consumption of Tea in Ceylon was estimated at 15 million lb.

CHAPTER XXII

MUSEUMS, ARCHÆOLOGY AND FINE ARTS

I—NATIONAL MUSEUMS

THE Department of National Museums comprises the Colombo, Kandy, Ratnapura and Jaffna Museums which are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all days except Fridays.

They contain the national collections pertaining to paleontology, zoology, prehistory, archaeology and antique Art. Apart from the official bulletin "*Spolia Zeylanica*", numerous monographs, mostly dealing with Ceylon's fauna, have been published recently.

The Colombo National Museum contains not only one of the finest zoological libraries in Asia but also the largest known collection of Sinhala palm leaf manuscripts which are now being published in book form. All these publications are available at the various museums. It also possesses an educational section which conducts a regular series of free lectures throughout the year while its two guide lecturers cater to visitors.

The series of special exhibitions of loan exhibits have been revived and two important ones have already been held during the past year.

Field work has yielded various interesting finds especially in paleontology, prehistory and zoology and has brought to light both new facts pertaining to these sciences and species new to science.

In view of the rapid spread of man and his destructive effect upon the fauna, the department is now taking steps to conduct a Zoological Survey of the entire Island which will at least record for posterity one of the most remarkable faunas of the world which is now being rapidly exterminated.

The department has on sale a number of publications at the various museums.

II—ARCHAEOLOGY

The Archaeological Department is entrusted with conservation and maintenance of Archaeological remains throughout the country.

Publications

620 copies of the reprint of Mediaeval Sinhalese Art by Dr. A. K. Coomaraswamy were received from Pantheon Books Inc. of New York. 100 copies were distributed free to scholars, institutions and distinguished visitors to the Island, the balance are placed on sale at Rs. 55 per copy. Up to date more than 100 copies have been sold. A new edition of the English Guide Book to Panduwasnuvara was printed in October, 1956, and is available at 50 cents per copy.

Excavation

The graveyard on the 21st mile on the Puttalam-Marichchikattu Road yielded the remains of 4 large pots. The largest contains a more or less complete human skull, together with the fragment of another and other human bones. Certain symbols common to pre-Christian Sinhalese script occur on the smaller pot. These pots are not dissimilar to some found in Southern India. Further work will be carried out.

The ruined stupa which is about a mile to the East of the cemetery yielded an 8th century donation inscription of a slab in the "*maluva*". It referred to this site as *Valivehera*. It would be recalled that according to the *Mahavamsa* King Subha erected the Vali Vehera in the 1st century B.C.

in the vicinity of *Uruvela*. Among the objects discovered in the debris of the stupa were a few early silver punch marked "purana" coins together with a corroded Roman coin and two copper coins displaying the maneless lion.

The work around the "Kuttam Pokuna" was also completed and the stones that were from the smaller pond were discovered and refixed in their proper positions.

Several new sites were also discovered and will receive attention in due course.

The Dedigama Museum secured several interesting exhibits—

- (a) Copies of the Mahiyangana paintings, the originals of which are exhibited in the Anuradhapura Museum.
- (b) Two decorative copper plates from Karandana.
- (c) Two spouted vessels from Talagana.
- (d) An inscribed potsherd about one thousand two hundred years old.
- (e) A copy of the slab inscription of Bhuvaneka Bahu VI now set up near the Bo-tree in the Buddhist Temple at Dedigama.

The work of restoring the "Mahasaya" has been entrusted to a contractor. Gadaladeniya vihara and devale have been declared protected monuments.

III—FINE ARTS

The pictorial tradition of Ceylon goes back to the 3rd century B.C. when Buddhism was introduced from India in the missionary enterprise of that sub-continent's greatest Emperor, Asoka. Painting came, with other aspects of culture, as a dower of the new religion. When religious buildings were reared to the glory of the Buddha, paintings formed part of the scheme of moral edification and less aesthetic decoration. The themes of these paintings were selected from the 550 Jataka Stories which were connected with the life of the *Bodhisatva* and were visual aids to bring home the value of *Paramitta* or strivings towards perfection.

The remains of these ancient paintings, we know through notices in ancient books as well as from the researches of the Archaeological Department. The earliest paintings of any note extent are however datable no earlier than the 5th century A.D. They are known as the Sigiriya frescoes but are not patently religious. In the 12th century we still find the classical school, samples of which are found in Polonnaruwa and in desolate rock caves of the forests. The Kandyan school and its counterpart in the South evolved its own method of painting technique.

In the opinion of an Indian expert Ceylon's remnants of paintings are more numerous than in India. The folk art of the Island, known as *Sittara*, is peculiarly of Ceylon. This type of art persists to our day. During the Kandyan times, i.e., 16th to 18th centuries, this art received its best expression. With the coming of the first Europeans (Portuguese) with vested interests in Ceylon, a new trend in art appeared which became most noticeable in British times.

Modern Ceylon art may be classified into two broad groups the Folk Arts and the Fine Arts.

Folk Arts.—The tradition in folk arts is what has been handed down from the Middle Ages of Ceylon. The Golden age of Sinhala folk arts was the Kandyan age of Ceylon History, with the system of service tenure which ensured the economic self-sufficiency of the artisan. The stimulus was so profound that it took shape in the *Kottal Badde*, the Department of Folk Arts, one of the fourteen departments of the Kandyan Public Services.

Among the most colourful of the folk arts, are the Masks of Ceylon—the artistic expression of the folk mind, as distinguished from the "fine arts" the art of the sophisticated. Ceylon masks are of two categories—those used in the ritual dances—the *Yak Natun*, and those featuring in the *Kolam*. In the ritual dances, the myths and legends of the past are vigorously danced out to the

singing of the deeds of the supernatural. The *kolam* is the popular masquerade of the South. Actors don masks suited to the several roles. Disguised by the masks, short episodes are enacted giving free scope for the comic. The art of the mask is a highly realistic art, emphasizing the idea conveyed most effectively. The art of the Ceylon mask ranks among the highest expressions of the art of simple folks.

A folk art of mediaeval Ceylon was the *Rukada*, or the art of puppetry, dramatising stories with the use of figures in the round, gorgeously coloured, and manually operated.

Fine Arts.—The Ceylon Society of Arts is the premier art organization of the Island. Under its auspices periodical exhibitions are held of all types of art, indigenous and foreign.

Another influential art organization of the Island is the “43 Group”, created as the expression of a new urge in fine arts. Among the “43 Group” are George Keyt, Harry Peiris and Justin Deraniyagala, and L. T. P. Manusiri whose work is well recognized at home and abroad.

Among the more noteworthy of this renaissance in art and culture is a consciousness of the place of the Kandyan dance art in the life of the nation. Kandyan dance art finds its expression today in the *Ves Natuna*, the *Naiyandi*, *Udekki* and *Pantheru* dances. These dance forms are spectacular displays of artistic excellence and possess great entertainment and educative value.

Government College of Fine Arts

The Government College of Fine Arts which is the only institution of its kind in Ceylon provides courses of instruction at an advanced level in Drawing and Painting, Sculpture, Art Crafts, North Indian Music and Kandyan Dancing. No tuition fees are charged for any of these courses. The standard of work at this College compares very favourably with that of similar institutions abroad.

Important References :—

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- (3) Paranavitana, S.—Sinhalese Art and Sculpture (Journal of the Royal Society of Arts, Lond. Vol. XCVIII No. 4822, June 1950).
- (4) Rowland, Benjamin—The Art and Architecture of India, &c. (Pelican History of Art Series).
- (5) Saratchandra, E. R.—The Sinhalese Folk Play (The University of Ceylon).
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- (7) Annual Reports of the Director of National Museums, Ceylon.

CHAPTER XXIII

POLICE AND PRISONS

I—POLICE SYSTEM AND CRIME STATISTICS

THE Police Service of Ceylon was established and is governed by Ordinance No. 16 of 1865 as amended by subsequent Ordinances from time to time. However, there was a Police Branch of the Administration dating as far back as the early 19th century. Before the Police Service was constituted these duties were performed by Village Headmen who still do so in some parts of the Island which are not policed as yet. Even in policed areas, particularly in rural areas, the Headman plays a useful part in detection and investigation of crime.

At the end of the year 1956 there were 233 Police Stations in the Island and the strength was 9,097. Financial considerations have slowed down the Department's plans for taking over the unpoliced areas.

Causes of Crime and Preventive action

Under the Head of Grave Crime are included the offences of abduction, arson, burglary, cattle theft, exposure of children, grievous hurt, attempted homicide, homicide, hurt by knife, rape, unnatural offence, riot, robbery, theft over Rs. 20, theft of bicycles, and receiving stolen property. There has been an increase of 3,181 cases compared with the previous year. But to some extent this is offset by a proportionate rise in population. 75 per cent. of the violent crime was caused by the lack of self-control over disputes over one thing or another and highlights the urgent need for setting up Conciliation Boards on a proper footing. The anti-crime crusade launched last year (and which helped to reduce crime by over 1,500 cases) was pursued with unabated zeal and an all-round effort is being made to stem the march of crime.

TABLE 23·1 CRIME STATISTICS, 1950-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population at mid-year</i>	<i>Total Crime</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>Convic- tions</i>	<i>Percent- age</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Cases per 100,000 of population</i>
1950	7,544,000	20,129	13,632	5,134	37·6	3,141	266·8
1951	7,742,000	18,090	12,110	5,007	41·3	2,833	233·6
1952	7,942,000	17,911	11,940	5,135	43·0	3,158	225·3
1953	8,248,000	18,016	11,690	5,152	44·0	3,489	218·4
1954	8,385,000	19,704	13,004	5,701	43·8	3,815	234·99
1955	8,589,000	18,163	12,296	5,431	44·17	3,205	211·47
1956	8,792,000	21,344	14,024	5,295	37·76	4,670	242·76

Rural Development Societies and Rural Patrol Movements

Both the State and the people have now recognised that the steady growth of the Rural Development Movement is one sure way to prevent poverty and unemployment and of making up for the dearth of leadership in village life—factors which are such potent contributory causes of crime in this country. The Rural Volunteer Movement continued to render valuable service towards the reduction of Crime

by making up the lack of Police for patrolling. They have also been useful in Preventive Action, in settling disputes and family feuds, giving information, checking up on strangers and assisting the Police in Crown and Traffic control.

Vehicular Traffic

A total number of 86,986 detections of Traffic offences were made by the Police in 1956. In 14,079 cases, warning tickets were issued to offenders for instruction in lieu of prosecution—the accent being more on correction than punishment. In the remaining 72,907 cases prosecutions were launched under the Penal Code and other laws.

In 1956 there were 15,234 accidents with 8,483 persons seriously injured and 313 killed. The following table shows accident figures over the last ten years.

TABLE 23-2 ROAD ACCIDENTS, 1947-56

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of accidents</i>	<i>No. of persons seriously injured</i>	<i>No. killed</i>
1947	6,266	3,875	210
1948	8,265	4,806	230
1949	9,566	4,104	157
1950	10,310	5,091	286
1951	10,722	5,734	286
1952	11,570	6,474	214
1953	14,099	7,385	334
1954	14,172	7,600	300
1955	14,912	7,930	311
1956	15,234	8,483	313

II—PRISONS

The Department of Prisons is responsible for the administration of all Prisons, Fiscal's lock-ups and Borstal Institutions in the Island.

There are thirteen Prisons and two Training Schools in the Island providing accommodation for about 4,500 prisoners. The four largest of these institutions are those at Welikada (Colombo), Mahara, Kandy and Jaffna. Smaller Prisons are situated at Galle, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa and Matara. In addition, there are two separate Remand Prisons, one in Colombo and the other in Kandy, and an Open Prison Camp at Kundasale near Kandy. Each Prison has a separate female section entirely in charge of female officers.

All prisoners capable of being trained in industrial work are given training in selected trades. At Welikada and Kandy Prisons there are large-scale industrial establishments providing up-to-date training in carpentry, tailoring, laundry, shoe-making, blacksmith and tinsmith work, rattan work, weaving, mat making and printing. In those institutions where land is available for agricultural work, small groups of prisoners are trained in gardening, horticulture and agriculture. The output from prison workshops is mainly supplied to Government Departments and local bodies.

The total value of industrial and agricultural operations is as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Value</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>		<i>Rs.</i>
1950-51	1,175,109	1953-54	1,198,046
1951-52	1,074,188	1954-55	1,551,920*
1952-53	1,037,744	1955-56	1,557,256

Education and Recreation

Besides vocational training, every effort is made to give prisoners who require it some form of basic education. Educational classes are held in all the larger prisons, including evening classes by voluntary workers.

Provision has also been made for moral and spiritual guidance for prisoners of all denominations. The work of spiritual ministration is carried out by ministers of all religions and voluntary workers. At some prisons, attendance at outside churches or temples is allowed to specially selected prisoners on particular occasions. Regular recreation, apart from cinema shows and concerts, has been provided for and is a regular feature of prison routine. Prisoners are also encouraged to take up hobbies in their spare time.

Health

At Welikada Prison there is a centralised well-equipped Prison Hospital with accommodation for 120 beds for general cases and 60 for infectious cases. There is also an operating theatre and dental and eye clinics are held regularly. There are separate hospitals in each of the other prisons and full-time Medical Officers are attached to the institutions at Welikada, Mahara and Kandy.

Young First Offenders

Special mention should be made of the Welikada Prison Rover Troop, which is a unique feature in prison administration. A number of prisoners are selected for training on scout lines from well-behaved, young offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 with long sentences.

A very successful venture, recently introduced in Ceylon, has been the Open Prison Camp established at Kundasale, in the Kandy District. Here about 100 specially selected prisoners, who have served a fair proportion of their sentences in prison, are given a training with an agricultural bias under conditions of trust and freedom.

Borstal Institutions

There are two Borstal Institutions in Ceylon for the training and treatment of offenders between the ages of 16 and 21. The one at Wathupitiwela is of the Open Type and provides accommodation for about 250 inmates. It is run on the lines of a residential school and is divided into a number of "Houses", each house in charge of a House Master and Assistant House Master. In addition to industrial training, provision exists for training in agriculture and animal husbandry. There is also a Scout Troop where training on scout lines is given to selected inmates. The institution at Negombo is a closed Borstal and accommodates about 200 inmates. Here provision exists for industrial training only. The training at these institutions includes education, indoor and out, door games, hobbies, camps, hikes, &c.

* Revised figure.

Statistics

Statistics for the years 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956 appear in the following table :—

TABLE 23-3 PRISON STATISTICS, 1953-56

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of admissions on conviction—				
Total	8,764	9,914	9,546	9,102
Males	8,597	9,721	9,353	8,894
Females	167	193	193	208
Number of admissions on conviction from Supreme Court and District Court	467	305	556	532
Convictions for murder and culpable homi- cide not amounting to murder	193	150	285	261
Number of persons sentenced to death	52	56	98	91
Number executed	20	35	40	7
Number pardoned and released	—	—	—	—
Daily average population (convicted and unconvicted)—				
Total	5,003	4,925	5,166	4,726
Males	4,942	4,858	5,098	4,665
Females	61	67	68	61
Number of reconvicted prisoners	4,441	4,687	3,838	3,698
Admission for non-payment of fines	2,796	3,238	3,585	3,481
Imprisonment for statutory offences	3,407	4,046	3,684	3,610
Race :—				
Europeans	9	9	1	4
Burghers	744	213	269	271
Sinhalese	17,306	17,623	16,099	17,333
Tamils	6,278	5,459	5,311	4,542
Moors	1,905	1,887	1,763	2,032
Malays	91	159	165	156
Others	173	5	11	65
	26,506	25,355	23,619	25,403
Religions—				
Christians	3,085	2,357	1,777	1,919
Buddhists	15,899	16,037	15,264	16,296
Hindus	5,295	5,013	4,606	4,900
Muslims	2,106	1,935	1,903	2,232
Other	121	13	69	56

III—PROBATION SERVICE

The Island is divided into 6 administrative areas with a Chief Probation Officer in charge of each area.

The Probation Service has 34 Probation Units, with a staff of 91 full-time and 30 Voluntary part-time Probation Officers. On an average, these officers undertake the investigation of over 2,000 cases per year, and are responsible for the supervision and rehabilitation of about 1,000 cases per year.

With the separation of the Probation Service from the Department of Prisons, and the formation of the new Department of Probation and Child Welfare Service, in October 1956, Children's Work has been expanded and, in addition to the already existing Probation Service, Juvenile Courts, Remand Homes, Certified and Approved Schools, provision is now being made for the recruitment of additional Childrens' Officers and the setting up of more Certified Schools, Remand Homes and Childrens' Homes. The services of a Childrens' Expert from the U. K. (Mr. Cyril Hamlin) has been obtained to plan and organise the expansion of these Childrens' Services.

Arrangements are also being made to co-ordinate all voluntary work in relation to Children and Youth through a National Co-ordinating Council, so that a more effective Childrens' Service can be provided.

CHAPTER XXIV

CENSUSES AND SURVEYS

I—DIETARY SURVEY

A Dietary Survey of Upper Income Households in the City of Colombo

THIS survey was undertaken jointly by the Department of Census and Statistics and the Medical Research Institute as a result of a request made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The purpose of the survey was to study the dietary habits of the various income groups in the Island for purposes of planning food production and distribution. The idea was to find out (a) the adequacy of consumption of the various nutrients by each household, (b) by all the households as a group, and (c) the main sources of food from which the nutrients were obtained.

The survey was conducted during the period January 16, 1956 to February 6, 1956.

Though in the case of dietary surveys, a common method of obtaining information regarding the food consumption is by weighing the foods as cleaned and prepared for the pot, this was not practicable in the present survey and therefore the Inventory method was adopted to collect the data.

Before the results of the survey are given, it should be mentioned that there are certain limitations to this survey that should be noted. The survey lasted only a week and therefore the food consumption during this period cannot be regarded as representative for all times of the year. For example, the seasonal variations in the availability of foods such as vegetables and fruits would affect consumption and this is not revealed in this survey. The survey dealt with families having incomes of Rs. 500 and over which is a wide range of incomes with an indefinite limit at one end. Therefore the group is likely to be heterogeneous. Also, in computing the nutrient values, approximations were applied in some instances, as for example with prepared foods of uncertain composition; and when foods were grouped in one category and average group values were used.

General Observations

The survey revealed that of the total quantity of rice consumed per family per month of 30 days, 36 per cent. was the highly milled raw variety which is poorer in thiamine, riboflavin and nicotinic acid than the highly milled parboiled and lightly milled varieties. Among the fifteen varieties of leafy vegetables which appeared in the dietaries, the one eaten in largest amount was cabbage. Fat as such was mainly coconut oil with butter a close second.

The actual consumption of each nutrient is well above the requirements for all the households taken as a whole as shown in Table 24-1.

TABLE 24-1 ACTUAL CONSUMPTION (PER CAPUT DAY) AS COMPARED TO THEORETICAL REQUIREMENT OF ALL HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Nutrients	Unit	Per caput day		
		Theoretical requirement	Actual consumption	Percentage of adequacy
1. Calories	g	2,202	3,271	149
2. Proteins	g	63	84	133
3. Calcium	mg	619	762	123
4. Iron	mg	9	20	222
5. Vitamin A (pre-formed)	I. U.	2,592	3,210	124
6. Thiamine (Vitamin B)	mcg	1,041	1,395	134
7. Riboflavin (Vitamin B ₂)	mcg	1,121	1,409	126
8. Nicotinic Acid	mg	13	16	123
9. Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C)	mg	25	122	488

Although the households as a whole are adequate in their nutrient intakes, the individual families show deficiencies in one or other nutrient. Table 24-2 shows the proportions of families having deficiencies with respect to each nutrient and the extent of the deficiencies.

TABLE 24-2 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO LEVELS OF ADEQUACY

Nutrients	Households whose consumption is below requirements Percentage of adequacy					Total
	20-40	40-60	60-80	80-100		
1. Calories	—	—	1	8		9
2. Proteins	—	—	5	15		20
3. Calcium	1	6	10	19		36
4. Iron	—	—	—	3		3
5. Vitamin A (Pre-formed)	—	10	20	11		41
6. Thiamine (Vitamin B ₁)	—	3	11	18		32
7. Riboflavin (Vitamin B ₂)	—	3	8	19		30
8. Nicotinic Acid	—	7	12	13		32
9. Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C)	—	—	—	—		—

Nutrients	Households whose consumption is above requirements Percentage of adequacy					Total	
	100-125	125-150	150-200	200-300	300 and over		
1. Calories	22	21	38	7	3	91	100
2. Proteins	21	25	25	6	3	80	100
3. Calcium	20	11	22	11	—	64	100
4. Iron	8	8	28	36	17	97	100
5. Vitamin A (Pre-formed)	22	13	12	8	4	59	100
6. Thiamine (Vitamin B ₁)	16	14	29	6	3	68	100
7. Riboflavin (Vitamin B ₂)	22	18	20	10	—	70	100
8. Nicotinic Acid	21	22	17	7	1	68	100
9. Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C)	1	—	3	21	75	100	100

It is of interest to note that a deficiency of every nutrient except ascorbic acid occurs. About 9 per cent. of the families appear to be deficient in calories, about 3 per cent. in iron, and above 20-40 per cent. in the other nutrients.

It is also interesting to note that only 42 per cent. of the households have an adequate consumption of all nutrients.

Deficient intake of—	Households	
	No.	Per cent.
One nutrient	12	17
Two nutrients	5	7
Three to five nutrients	16	22
Six to eight nutrients	9	12
No nutrients	30	42
	72	100

The important part played by the cereals of which the greater portion is rice, in supplying calories, vitamins of the B complex, iron and protein is evident. (Table 24-3).

TABLE 24-3 SOURCE OF NUTRIENTS AS PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL CONSUMPTION

Source	Nutrients								
	Calories	Protein	Calcium	Iron	Vita- min A (Pre for- med)	Thia- mine (Vita- min B)	Ribo- flavin (Vita- min B ₂)	Nicoti- nic Acid	Ascorbic Acid, (Vita- min C)
1. Cereals	41	37	5	29	—	38	21	49	—
2. Beverages	1	1	1	1	—	1	5	6	—
3. Vegetables	2	3	11	13	20	10	6	4	47
4. Roots and tubers	2	2	8	3	11	6	2	4	10
5. Dried pulses	3	9	5	11	1	11	5	5	—
6. Fruits	3	1	3	3	8	6	3	2	33
7. Nuts and seeds	12	4	3	7	—	8	8	3	—
8. Oils and fats	11	—	1	—	15	—	—	—	—
9a Fish	2	14	8	3	2	2	4	10	—
9b Meat and meat pro- ducts	2	10	1	7	15	6	10	14	1
10. Spices and condiments	1	2	9	12	9	—	—	1	8
11. Milk, milk products, eggs, &c.	8	14	40	3	19	9	33	—	1
12. Miscellaneous	12	3	5	8	—	3	3	2	—
All Sources	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The concentration of protein and iron in cereals is much less than in many other foods but cereals, as the staple article of food are eaten in larger quantities thus contributing appreciable amounts of the two nutrients to the diet. It is noteworthy that the cereals do not supply any Vitamin A or ascorbic acid, and only very little calcium. Milk, milk products and eggs are the main sources of calcium, supplying nearly four times as much as any other food category. It is also clear that they are also important sources of riboflavin and Vitamin A.

II—SURVEY OF MILK CONSUMPTION IN THE CITY OF GALLE

Objects of the Survey

This is the third of a series of surveys conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics at the request of the Chairman of the Milk Board. The survey was carried out in June, 1956, and the purpose was primarily to estimate the present consumption of cow milk in the City of Galle.

Coverage

The survey covered all households and milk consuming institutions within the Municipal Limits of Galle. The milk consuming institutions consisted of Tea Kiosks and Eating Houses, Hotels and Restaurants, Canteens, School Hostels and Lodging Houses, Hospitals and Nursing Homes and Milk Feeding Centres.

Scheme of Survey of Households

A complete list of all households required for the survey was obtained from registers maintained at the Galle Municipal Office. From this a sample of 325 households was selected. The selection was systematic within each ward of the Municipality. The number of households selected in each ward was proportional to the population in the ward. The interview method was used in the survey.

Scheme of Survey of Institutions

A list of Institutions required for the survey was obtained from registers maintained at the Galle Municipal Office. For the investigation of tea kiosks and eating houses, a systematic sample of every fifth in the list was selected. The interview method was used for Tea kiosks, Eating Houses and Canteens, while the Hotels, Restaurants, School Hostels, Lodging Houses, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Milk Feeding Centres were surveyed by sending mailed questionnaires.

Quantity of Fresh Milk Consumed in Households

Only 43 per cent of the households consumed fresh milk. It is of interest to note that the proportion of households consuming fresh milk increases with rise in income, (Table 24.4). One exception is the income group Rs. 300-Rs. 400.

TABLE 24.4 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS CONSUMING FRESH MILK

<i>Income Group (Monthly)</i>			<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Rs.</i>		<i>Rs.</i>	
0 and less than	100		17
100	do.	200	40
200	do.	300	65
300	do.	400	50
400	do.	500	65
500	do.	750	69
750 and over			80
All Incomes			43

Table 24.5 shows the distribution of households according to the quantity of fresh milk consumed.

TABLE 24.5 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN EACH INCOME GROUP ACCORDING TO THE QUANTITY OF FRESH MILK CONSUMED

<i>Quantity of fresh milk consumed per day in bottles</i>	<i>Rs.</i>							<i>Rs.</i>
	0-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	400-500	500-750	750 and over	<i>All incomes</i>
NIL	83	59	34	50	35	31	20	57
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	7	—	6	—	—	5
$\frac{1}{2}$ and less than 1	9	26	22	15	12	13	7	17
1 do. $1\frac{1}{2}$	1	8	22	26	18	38	20	13
$1\frac{1}{2}$ do. 2	1	—	12	—	17	12	20	4
2 do. 3	—	—	3	3	6	—	20	2
3 do. 5	—	—	—	6	6	6	13	2
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 24-6 shows the average consumption of fresh milk and milk production in each type of Institution.

TABLE 24-6 AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF FRESH MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS IN INSTITUTIONS PER MONTH OF 30 DAYS

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Fresh milk in bottles</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Condensed milk in 14 oz. tins</i>	<i>Other milk products in lb.</i>
	<i>Cow*</i>	<i>Buffalo</i>			
Tea Kiosk and Eating Houses	67	—	67	96	1-1
Hotels and Restaurants	90	—	90	133	8-8
School Hostels and Boarding Houses	108	—	108	67	7-3
Canteens	26	—	26	78	0-4
Hospitals and Nursing Homes	2,469	—	2,469	30	190
Milk Feeding Centres	—	—	—	—	49-8

The estimated total consumption within the Galle Municipal Limits per month of 30 days is 103,182 bottles of fresh milk, 43,751 tins of condensed milk and 26,753 lb. of other products. The make up of this total from the household sector and the different types of Institutions is shown in the following Table :—

TABLE 24-7 ESTIMATED TOTAL CONSUMPTION OF FRESH MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS IN HOUSEHOLDS AND INSTITUTIONS PER MONTH OF 30 DAYS

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Total Number</i>	<i>Fresh milk in bottles</i>	<i>Condensed milk in 14 oz. tins</i>	<i>Other milk products in lb.</i>
Households	8,319	78,744	16,200	22,370
Tea Kiosk and Eating Houses	264	17,767	25,396	2,904
Hotels and Restaurants	2	180	265	18
School Hostels and Boarding Houses	11	1,185	740	80
Canteens	14	368	1,090	6
Hospitals and Nursing Homes	2	4,938	60	380
Milk Feeding Centres	20	—	—	995
Total	—	103,182	43,751	26,753

* It is possible that some supplies of fresh milk reported as cow milk contained an admixture of buffalo milk as in the case of Colombo and Kandy.

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