

Hot Spring

Vol. 4

02nd January 1994

No. 12

Blowing in the Wind

How many deaths will it take till he knows that too many people have died?

The answer my friend is blowing in the wind.

The answer is blowing in the wind.

Bob Dylan

Courtesy: 'Patrician Sunshine'.

PUCCAROS ATTACK CHAVAKACHCHERI

Nine Killed - Over 60 Injured

Nine civilians were killed and over 60 injured, when Sri Lankan Air Force planes attacked the Chavakachcheri town on Thursday, December 30.

About 5.00 p. m. on Thursday, December 30, Sri Lankan Air Force planes attacked the centre of Chavakachcheri town where the market, shops, Driberg's College and the C. S. I. Church are situated. Over 15 rockets were fired from the planes.

As the planes flew into Chavakachcheri the rockets were fired in quick succession giving no time for people to escape.

Six persons died on the spot and three on admission to hospital. Over 60 persons were injured. All are civilians.

The Church in the centre of the town adjoining Driberg's College came in for the attack and was badly damaged. Mrs. Pamela Indrani-Lawrence, wife of the Vicar of the Church, who was in the vicarage, was killed by the attack. Her husband who had gone out

to Varany at the time escaped, as he was not there. The Church building and the Vicarage were badly damaged. Two rockets were aimed at the Church.

Driberg's College which is the oldest English school in Thenmaradchy, also was attacked and heavily damaged. The Principal's Office and a number of other school buildings were damaged.

Killed by Army

Four married Tamil men have been shot and killed by the Sri Lankan Army at Vakara in the Batticaloa District.

The victims have been identified as K. Krishnamoorthy, A. Sivarajah, K. Chanthiran and K. Nagarajah

The first named is the father of 5 children.

The area being the market centre of Chavakachcheri, heavy damage was caused to shop buildings. The

Thirukanitha Press which prints Almanac, was burnt. Having aimed over 15 rocket attacks, the planes vanished. The people around and Tamil Eelam Police rescued the injured and despatched them to hospitals in carts and bicycles.

List of Persons Killed at Chavakachcheri

Name	Sex	Age	Occupation
1. R. Arumugam	M.	60	- Goldsmith
2. P. Balakumar	M.	12	- Student
3. R. Balan	M.	60	- Cobbler
4. Valli	F.	55	- Gramseller
5. Pamela Indrani Lawrence	F.	48	- wife of vicar of church
6. K. P. Perambalam	M.	40	- Shop employee
7. Munusami	M.	53	- Labourer
8. Mohan	M.	34	- Farmer
9. S. Krishnapillai	M.	70	- Farmer



This picture shows the battered bodies of 4 persons who were instantly killed near the Model Market, Chavakachcheri, in a rocket attack by S. L. Air Force planes on 30.12.93.

AERIAL BOMBING - KUMILAMUNAI Young Woman Killed - Houses Destroyed

Sri Lanka Air Force plane bombed Kumilamunai. A young woman was killed and two houses razed to the ground.

At 10.15 a. m. on Friday, December 31, a Sri Lankan Air Force Puccaro bombed Kumilamunai in the Manal Aru district. Four bombs were thrown in all.

A young woman named Sutsuthanathy Thiruchelvam was killed on the spot. Two houses were razed to the ground.

Another Flood Victim

A child aged 3, Kanathy Nagatharsan, who fell into a trench cut for protection against bomb attack

sed because of the heavy rain and flood. The incident happened on Tuesday, December 21, at Kachchai in Kodikamam.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR TREASON

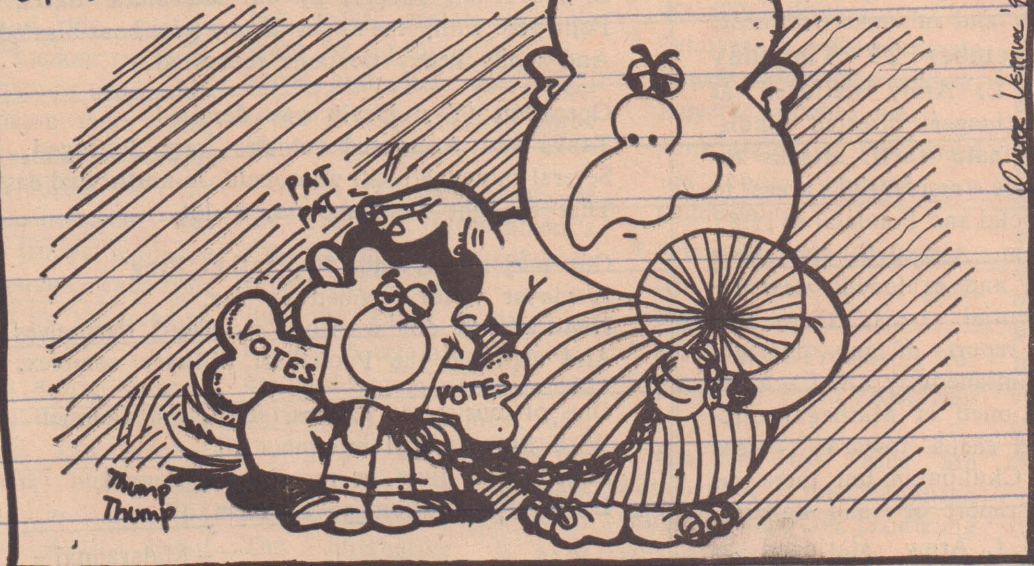
Nine persons have been sentenced to death after careful investigation and inquiry for engaging in espionage activities. This was revealed by Mr. Potko of the LTTE at a Press Conference held on Sunday, December 19. According to Mr. Potko these 9 persons had supplied information about LTTE camps and cadres to the Sinhala Army. Mr. Potko also gave the names of the nine and details of the treacherous activities they were engaged in.

Another Bomber Victim Dies

A woman named, Asseerwatham Ranee, aged 43, of Gurunagar, Jaffna, died on Wednesday, December 29 at the Jaffna Hospital.

Twenty Five civilians were killed and over 70 injured in the bomber attacks carried out by Sri Lankan Air Force on December 5 (reported in Hot Spring of December 12) at Gurunagar and Passaiyoor.

THE TAMIL'S VIEW OF SINHALA POLITICIANS.



Aerial Bombing at Alampil



VOL: 4 Sunday 2nd January 1994 ISSUE: 12

NO NEED TO DESPAIR

Mr. Gamini Fonseka, the Deputy Speaker in Sri Lanka's Parliament, has made an 'impassioned' appeal to the Sinhalese members - especially to the Leader of the Opposition - even contrary to parliamentary convention - when he spoke in Parliament as reported in THE ISLAND of 21. 11. 93.

During the course of his speech made partly in English and reported verbatim in THE ISLAND, Mr. Fonseka has given vent to his feelings which many Sinhalese hide.

Mr. Fonseka claims that they 'supply' food and 'fuel' to the enemy.

The word "supply" is a deliberate substitute for the word "sale". And how does this sale work in terms of cost to the Tamil? A litre of kerosene which costs Rs. 12/- or thereabouts all over the Sinhala country, costs Rs.25/- to the Jaffna Tamil. Is it freely available to the Jaffna consumer? No. It is being rationed! The distribution is made through the Co-operatives established by Government and functioning under the Co-operative Department. The Government Agent purchases the kerosene and every other item claimed to be "supplied" by Mr. Fonseka. That the "supply" is totally inadequate has even recently been conceded by no less a person than Minister Dayaratne.

Why has this situation arisen? Isn't it because the government itself has imposed a blockade? The Tamils are unable to obtain anything freely. Who has blocked the entry of goods into Jaffna? Isn't it the Govt. which wants the people to consume only what they would dole out at their price? But still they say that their country is the only one in the world that 'supplies' food and 'fuel' (a general term to hide the fact only kerosene is sold in grossly inadequate quantity at very high price).

Perhaps they are also unique in another respect. They are the only people who call the Tamils - enemies and expect the enemies to suffer their rule.

One thing must be made clear. Whatever commodities are sold in Jaffna via the Government Agent in Jaffna are being sold to the civilian population on a ration system decided upon by the Government Agent. So when the Sinhala politicians pride themselves as being unique in 'supplying food and fuel' to the enemy they clearly mean that they are identifying the Tamils as their enemy. Of course Mr. Fonseka had chosen not to hide the real thinking of the Sinhalese.

Perhaps because Mr. Fonseka had spoken so openly (like the President, D. B. Wijetunge!) THE ISLAND has editorially opined that 'since Deputy Speaker Gamini Fonseka has been consistently campaigning for giving greater coherence to the war effort, he might be seriously considered as a possible nominee' for the post of State Minister for Defence (should be Offence) 'to give purposeful political leadership to the war effort'.

The Tamils are now fully aware of the Sinhala mind though they were fooled once in the first half of this century. Even those Tamil leaders who trusted the Sinhala politicians lived to bemoan their misplaced trust. But that does not mean that the Tamils believe or regard the Sinhalese people as their enemies. But they regard the Sinhalese and their land as a different and separate people and country from their own and both can never be yoked under a single polity by false pretences like 'unity' and 'sovereignty'.

If the Sinhalese peaceably agree to let the Tamils mind their own affairs in their homeland without taking upon themselves the burden of ruling (or misruling) the Tamils, they will have no need even to imagine the Tamils and Tamil Eelam to be their enemies and enemy country.

Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Alampil in Manal Aru killing three persons.

On Monday, December 28, at 8.40 a. m. two Sri Lankan Air Force bombers and a Puccaro Bomber dropped five bombs in Alampil, a village in the Manal Aru area.

Five houses were damaged. The MPCS building in the area was completely damaged.

Three people died. Two of them are sister and brother. The sister Siyamani Komala (aged 04) and her brother Siyamani Theepan (12) were killed. Another young girl Priya (18) also was killed.

The Government's mass media - the Colombo Radio - claimed that the Sri Lankan Air Force destroyed Tiger camps in Manal Aru!

Later reports said that Siyamani Jayaranjani, (aged 08), a sister of the deceased Komala and Theepan, succumbed to her injuries at the Kilinochchi hospital.

Donation of Poultry

Ten families with income below poverty line from Karanavai were given a donation of 25 chicks, poultry food and other required implements under the TEEDOR programme of village uplift.

Palmyrah Planting

The Poonakari MPCS union has planted 50,000 seedlings in villages such as Sunnavil, Pallavarayankattu, Kariyalai, Nagapaduwan, Mulankavil and other villages with the active participations of its branches and Village Production Committees organised by the TEEDOR.

TEEDOR NEWS

Plant Nursery

A plant nursery was inaugurated at Manipay on November 25 by the TEEDOR. Improved varieties of vegetables and other plants and trees are being reared at this nursery.

Woods bordering lagoons

Under the TEEDOR scheme of growing woods in uninhabitable lands along areas bordering lagoons, 750

plants like casuarinas, coconuts etc. were planted at Velankadu in Vatharawattai. The programme was begun on 23. 11. 93,

Woods in Kakkaitivu

The bare uninhabitable land at Kakkaitivu has been planted with trees and fenced along the public road for purposes of protection against animal trespass. The work is proceeding under the auspices of TEEDOR.

Palmyrah Planting at Oddisuddan

TEEDOR has planted 7000 palmyrah seedlings at Oddisuddan.

News in Brief

December 21 - Tuesday

Artillery shells were directed towards Alaveddy, Vilan and Pandaiteruppu areas from Sri Lankan positions in Palaly and Kankasanturai about 11.00 p.m. There were no reports of any damage.

Palacholai village in the Batticaloa District was rounded-up by the S. L. Army, stationed at Palaiaddiveddai. The Army arrested many people who were released after being severely assaulted, excluding two. They were Kanapathipillai Rasiyah (35) and Saravanamuttu Tharmalingam (19) who were taken to the Army Camp. Both are residents of Palacholai village.

December 22 - Wednesday

Sri Lankan Army stationed at Palaiaddiveddai, rounded-up people at Palacholai village at 9.30 a. m. and assaulted pedestrians. Two persons who were taken to the Army Camp were released, after being subjected to torture and inhuman treatment.

December 23 - Thursday

S. L. Army stationed at Karainagar directed indiscriminate shell attacks towards residential areas in Moolai and Ponnalai at 11.55 p. m. Although the shells fell and exploded near residential areas, there was no report of any damage. Simultaneously, S. L. Army stationed at Mathagal directed shells towards areas in Chulipuram but there was no report of any damage.

S. L. Army stationed at Mandativu directed shells

towards Jaffna town at 10.45 p. m. Two houses were damaged. The inmates escaped injuries, as they were away from home.

December 24 - Friday

S. L. army camps based at Palaly and Mandativu carried out intermittent shell attacks towards Jaffna town from 5.00 p. m. to 11.00 p. m. These shells fell and exploded in coastal areas and there was no report of any damages. No major damage was caused, when shell were directed towards areas around Araly South, Areas in Ponnalai and Nel-

lian were also targets for shell attacks. The house belonging to Chelvan at Nellian was damaged.

December 25 - Saturday

S. L. Army stationed at Mandativu directed artillery shells between 10.30 p. m. and 11.30 p. m. towards residential areas in the Safety zone of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital under ICRC control. The shells caused severe injury to a little girl named Sivakumar Thanuja (6) and Mariadas Jemin (23). The little girl later succumbed to her injuries at the Hospital. The house of Subramaniam was badly damaged. This attack caused panic and residents moved out of the Safety Zone.

A BRIEF LOOK-1993

The year's close at end
Let's recollect the victories we gained,
In the path of our freedom,
To celebrate the bloom of Tamil Eelam.

Operation named 'Ithaya Poomy I'
Which taught our enemy, a rigid lesson,
The entire camp was destroyed,
And arms and ammunitions recovered.

Two of the Navy's boats were wreck'd and split,
In the Kilali stream, by our sea black tigers,
Followed with, the Super Dvora gun boat blasted,
And many heavy weapons recovered.

Operation 'Yarl Devi' was derailed,
Tanks and Armoured vehicles were destroyed,
Several minor attacks were held in north and east,
That brought mere success, a lot,

Our major onslaught 'Operation Frog'
A major victory gained so far,
Hundreds of our warriors sacrificed themselves
And captured the Poonakari Military complex.

One of our great leaders, Kittu the Colonel
With his peaceful mission, All
Ended their lives in the Bay of Bengal,
Let's pay our homage to them all.

- Malarannai -

'MADE IN TAMIL EELAM' PRODUCTS HIT THE SHELVES

While the battles continue on the military front, another sort of battle, more quiet, rages on the pages of Jaffna's dailies. The battle of the soft drinks. No, No. Not the Cocoa Cola Vs. Pepsi Cola war in the Sri Lankan papers. Here a series of press ads announce 'Surabi' Vs. 'Tasty' Vs. 'Refresher'. What does this mean? It means that not only is there a Beverage Industry here but that it has grown to a point where advertising and competition have become the norm. Not just beverages. Jams, sauces, tooth powder, cordials, chocolates, toffees... scores of products made in Tamil Eelam are available to the local consumer. In other words, Industry is alive and well in Tamil Eelam. Did someone say that there was an economic blockade going on?

Long term blockade

Industrialists in Jaffna have long felt an economic blockade. Politically, the Sri Lankan Government has discouraged any business man setting up major industries in the North and East of the Island. This has been a common policy of both UNP and SLFP led Governments since the 1950's - throttling development for forty years.

Of the three main state-owned industries, only the Kankesan Cement Works produced profits and generated sufficient employment. The Elephant Pass Salterns (if you can call it an industry) and the Paranthan Chemical Works were just limping along. At the time of writing, all these three industries have been 'shot dead' by the Sri Lankan army.

The private sector was limited to a mere handful. Mascons (Asbestos - cement products), Arasco (tinned foods), Milk White Soap and Anna Coffee (Household consumables) are the main ones. Of these only Anna Coffee remains active today. Some other firms with Head offices in Colombo did establish themselves here - e.g. Samuel & Sons.

With the transformation of the Tamil Liberation Struggle into an Armed Struggle, and the deployment of Sri Lankan troops to crush it, whatever little industrial expansion there was, began to curtail. A major factor contributing to the fears of businessmen, was the Sinhala troops' tendency to turn to arson, each time they were hit by the freedom fighters.

There was a brief upsurge of industrial expansion here in late 1983. The reason: Many Tamil businessmen lost heavily in Colombo during the Anti-Tamil pogroms of July, 1983. A

BLOCKADE BUSTERS

lot of them started industries in Jaffna. But what the Sinhala thugs started in Colombo in 1983, the Sinhala soldiers finished. A lot of entrepreneurial talent left the Island.

by Our Economic Affairs Reporter

It may be prudent at this juncture to point out this: If the Sri Lankan governments had not insisted on their policy of starving the Tamils' homeland of economic and industrial development there would have been little unemployment amongst the naturally hard-working Tamil youth. However, unemployed youth soon became frustrated and angry. Along with other Sinhala ruling policies and actions, this situation helped to create man-power for Tamil freedom groups.

Standing on our own feet

The Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation - TEEDOR - functions on the economic front. 'We should always be able to stand on our own two feet, economically. We should not have to rely on any outside help' said a TEEDOR spokesman in a conversation with this reporter, at the TEEDOR Head Office in Jaffna. 'Events such as the collapse of the USSR have only underlined this basic truth. It's no point reclaiming our homeland, if we are then unable to feed ourselves'. After a few seconds of thinking, he continued: 'What we seek to do mainly, is to instil in our people (The Tamils) the self-confidence they need to support themselves as a nation. TEEDOR can help out by providing technical help, information, employment on pilot projects etc. TEEDOR even runs its own factories, offices and projects. But in the long run, the Tamil people have to learn to do things for themselves and not to expect things to come from Colombo all the time.'

When I asked him, if Sri Lankan Government's tough economic blockade in effect since 1990, had not hurt the Tamil people, he smiled. 'Certainly our people are undergoing tremendous hardships', he pointed out, 'but it has driven home the point that we have to adapt and develop our own skills. The alternative is slow death.' The Tamil people

have realised that and have responded well. This 'never-say-die' attitude of the people is a great morale-booster.

Manufacturers

Today in Jaffna, Private sector industries can be classified under two broad categories.

(1) Home Industries

As the name suggests, these are family-based efforts, based at home. Products range from toffees, sweets, soft drinks to apparels. A lot of these have been started by people displaced from their original native villages and previous occupations. This is a method of self-employment to generate money to keep the hearth burning and the stomach satisfied. Initial capital may have been supplied by various funding schemes operated by various Non-Governmental Organisations. Marketing the products is often done through word of mouth and often limited in area serviced.

(2) Firms

These are either partnerships or limited liability companies. The organisation is as per any other, say Colombo-based private sector manufacturer. Production is often by hand or semi-mechanised. The present fuel embargo places severe limitations on going for fully automated production. Some major firms include:

- * Mascons (asbestos-cement building products) presently not functioning.
- * Anna Industries (coffee, foodstuffs and household consumables).
- * Tasteline Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. (chocolate, soft drinks, jams, sauces, pickles and other processed foods).
- * Thinesh Bakery (Bread & confectioneries)
- * Milk White Soap (presently not functioning)
- * Subramaniam Soda Factory (soft drinks)
- * Palmyrah Development Board (Palmyrah arrack, jaggery, baskets, mats)
- * Andriesz & Co. (processed sea foods) presently not functioning.
- * Palm Products Co-operative (soft drinks, glue, jaggery)
- * Surabi Food Processing Co.
- * Thenthuli Food Processing Co.

The last two firms are commercial manufacturing units of TEEDOR, producing soft drinks, cordials, jams, sauces, pickles, sweets etc.

All these manufacturers have developed marketing networks at various levels. For example, Surabi & Palm Products Co - op. have a very wide dealer network spread across the Jaffna Peninsula and the Northern mainland. They have vans & landmasters (two-wheeled tractors) to distribute their products, Tasteline, on the other hand, targets select areas, using specially built tri-shaws. Other soft drink producers, such as Subramaniam 'Baby soda' of Valvettiturai and 'Santhiras' of Chundikuli stick to their home turf.

CAN THE GOVERNMENT BE MOVED?

A Solidarity Front of Citizens in South Ceylon has suggested to the Sri Lankan government that the new year 1994, to be born in a week's time - should be declared an Year of Peace.

The Citizens' Solidarity Front has further stressed that not only an Year of Peace should be declared but also that a cabinet should be formed comprising people from a multitude of parties who would be able work with their full hearts to achieve peace, if militancy is to be wiped out.

The suggestions of the Front are said to have been placed on the basis of the views of associations of professionals, commercial and Industrial Associations, Political Parties and Religious and Cultural Associations.

The suggestions seem to be good to read and hear. The Front's third suggestion, that the way to disarm anti-government groups is to enter into peace agreements with them also seems so.

But the question is whether the Government will pay any heed to these. If the UNP government's actions and approaches are carefully examined, it will be crystal clear that it has no desire not only to find a solution to the Tamil problem but also that it has no desire even for peace. On the one hand it had never by thought or action tried to achieve peace. It has also to be borne in mind that it knocked-out purposefully the many chances that presented themselves to achieve peace.

Though there were local political heads & religious leaders who were prepared to work to achieve peace, the Govern-

Trials and Triumphs

K. Nandakumar is the Managing-director of Taste-line Industries. Trained as an accountant, he taught himself food technology and now runs a factory of around fifty staff in a Jaffna suburb. In his mid-30's, Nandakumar is very optimistic about the future despite present day - to-day troubles. This reporter talked to him in his office. Nandakumar's smile is as wide as his waistline. He's the ideal advertisement for his own products.

'We're doing well fairly well, despite all the problems that crop up,' he says. You are constantly kept on your toes. The economic blockade means restriction on fuel and certain raw materials. This results in massive and rapid price-fluctuations. It's very difficult to plan for any long period.

(Continued on page 4)

ment did not care to obtain their services. Instead it ignored their efforts. Minister Thondaman and Anglican Bishop Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando can be mentioned in this regard.

Peace can only be achieved by finding a reasonable solution to the problems of the Tamils. It is not possible for peace to blossom without finding a solution which would fulfil the political aspirations of the Tamils of Eelam.

But the government is not ready even to grant the bare minimum that they could accept. It spends all its attention, energy and resources only to do away with whatever rights that

are already there. For example the Government is moving heaven and earth to divide the united Northeast. It is leaving no stone unturned in this regard. Isn't this one example enough to show the intentions of the government?

Therefore whether it be a Year of Peace, Peace-time Cabinet or Peace Agreement whatever it is-it should be accompanied by a scheme spelling out a reasonable solution to the problem of the Tamils. It should be given priority and stressed with the government.

Mere stress is insufficient. The Government must be compelled to implement it, must be induced to implement it. If on this matter people like Dr. Nath Amarakone can have the government moved, good results can flow.

Is it possible? Shall we have it?

Uthayan Editorial:
24. 12. 93

MEDIA VIEW

STF RUNS AMOK AT AMPARAI

News from Amparai says that Tamils are being terrorised by indiscriminate round-up and arrests by the Special Task Force there. Masked members of Tamil gangster groups are reported to be actively engaged in assisting the harassment, arrest and assault of Tamils. The villages of Akkarai-pattu, Alayadyvembu, Panankadu and adjoining Tamil villages are rounded-up and search operations carried out twice every week.

The Tamils have been ordered to stay in doors after 7.00 p.m.

The report also said that the STF rounded-up Division 7 of Amparai on December 14 and arrested over 500 Tamils for inquiry. It is not known whether the arrested persons have been released after the usual assault or are still being kept.

Sabotage of Ordinary Mails

According to reports, the Postal Department intends to adopt a fresh approach in the despatch of postal mails to Jaffna.

Arrangements are to be made to give priority to official letters from Government Departments, Corporations and Commercial Banks in the despatch of mails to Jaffna. Official letters being despatched with ordinary letters have caused inordinate delay. Following complaints of delay, arrangements are being made to receive official letters for despatch to Jaffna at the G. P. O. Mails Sorting Office at D R. Wijewardena Mawatha during normal working hours. 'Is this perhaps a devious method by the Postal Authorities in Colombo to sabotage the despatch of ordinary mails to Jaffna in violation of the International Postal Rules?' asks the man in the street.

Mr. Nesiah Passes Away

Mr. K. Nesiah, veteran educationist and social worker, passed away peacefully, on the early morning of Thursday, December 30.

Mr. Nesiah was 93 years old.

A veteran educationist, Mr. Nesiah also was influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and took an active part in the work of the Jaffna Youth Congress in the thirties.

His funeral which took place on Friday, December 31, was well-attended.

The following spoke at his funeral service:- Rt Rev. Ambalavanar, Bishop C.S.I., Acting Vice Chancellor, of the Jaffna University, S. Balasunderampillai and the Rector Emeritus of St. Patrick's College Rev. Fr. Michael Joseph.

Thirty Tanks Breached In Mullaitivu

Thirty tanks including three major tanks are reported breached due to the heavy rains and flood last week.

The major tanks breached include U Jayar-Kattukulam and Mathurankulam.

Over 13,000 families are reported to have been badly affected by the floods. 1352 houses have been completely brought down.

The report also said that over 10,000 cattle have died in the Mullaitivu District.

BLOCKADE BUSTERS...

(Continued from page 3)

Leaning forward in his chair, he becomes serious for a moment. "One day the preservative may not reach us in time. So, we have to cut back on production. Then once that problem is sorted out and we think we can relax suddenly the price of kerosene or firewood may rocket, throwing our finances out of gear. Then, we may face a problem finding packaging materials such as plastic or bottles or aluminium foil or even jam jar lids! All this, not to mention the bombing and shelling and the firing from helicopters". He smiles and shakes his head. "But, in spite of everything, we're still carrying on and producing quality products. We take it as a challenge."

The reader by now, will have noticed that most of the products are either food items or household products. "Most of our products are purchased by housewives for household use," explains S. P. Nadarajah of Anna Industrials (Anna Coffee). "That's the main market here in Jaffna".

Tasteline's Nandakumar concurs. "Food item always have a market. A lot of Colombo items are also available here but in spite of the competition, we can

still hold a place in the market'. What about Jaffna consumers? The Jaffna man and his money are not easily parted!. "True, but Jaffna people are willing to pay a reasonable price for quality products", explains Nandakumar, "in the past some firms have started out producing good products but later on down-grade the quality. This has made the Jaffna people a bit suspicious of products made in Jaffna. They are afraid the quality may go down. We are careful in our factories to maintain quality".

Quality

I asked the TEEDOR spokesman about this trend. "As I said, we want people to be confident about locally produced products, so quality is paramount", he insisted. "Also remember that a lot of Jaffna people have friends and relatives abroad. They have tasted Swiss chocolates, Danish biscuits as well as the Colombo products, so they know what quality to expect. You can't try to fool people and stay in business". "Using patriotism to sell local products works only up to a point. Quality is what one wants in the end". He adds, "I think our manufacturers do have

learnt that. Most of the manufacturers are operating today, under these hardships - they are obviously serious about their future and are not going to be silly to compromise on quality. We all have to work together to maintain standards."

Efforts are under way to set up standards for various products. TEEDOR stipulates all soft drinks to carry the date of manufacture and expiry on the bottle itself. This is being adhered to. In addition to this, an Institute of Standards for Tamil Eelam is also on the cards. In order to focus on these problems and to encourage more local talent, TEEDOR has set up a 'Think-tank' semi-autonomous body called the 'Industrial Development Organisation' (IDO.)

All manufacturers whether they be firms or home-based producers, are required to be registered with IDO. "There is a danger that the smaller producers, home-based, family trades may think them exempt from the standards required" explained the TEEDOR spokesman. "This is not so. As long as they're selling to the public, the public has the right to be protected. We can't just say, there's war going

"TAMILS ARE OUR ENEMIES"

"This is the only country in the world that keeps on supplying food to the enemy. This is the only country in the world that keeps on supplying fuel to the enemy. This is the only country in the world that is so damn scared at public opinion and international opinion that they keep on feeding the enemy giving them strength to whack us."

— Gamini Fonseka, Deputy Speaker, in Parliament of Sri Lanka.

Quoted in THE ISLAND of 21-11-93.

The Government of Sri Lanka sells some provisions and Kerosene (the only fuel) to Jaffna at exorbitant prices costing the Tamil more than double the price such items of equal quantity cost in Sinhala country. The goods are sold to the civilian population on a ration system through the Co-operatives by the Govt. So when Mr. Gamini Fonseka speaks of "supply" (deliberately omitting the word "sale") to the enemy, he means the Tamils and gives the lie to the claim of those who say that the war is not against the Tamils.

6300 families Affected in Jaffna AGA's Division

Six thousand three hundred families have been badly affected by the recent floods in Jaffna AGA's Division (Town Division) and have been displaced from their homes.

Most of the people rendered homeless within the

town area are from Aththiyady, Ariyakulam, Tharakulam, Sirambiyady, Pomaiveli and Suriyaveli.

Cooked meals for these people were provided for three days and now they are being provided dry rations.

on and this is the best we can do under the circumstances. You can't expect us to meet these standards.' Well, we do expect them to meet the standards. A lot of their products are consumed by children'.

Resources

So what of the future? 'We have all the resources we need here in our homeland', TEEDOR spokesman points out. 'We have the raw materials, we have the manpower. Tamils living abroad can help by bringing their skills and putting them to work, when they return. At the present the major problem is energy - fuel'.

He further explained that at present most of the products were being manufactured from materials available within the Jaffna District. These are mainly fruits. The Northern mainland offers much more - Milk in abundance, honey by the litre. Further South in Batticaloa, the pickings are even richer.

Tasteline's Nandakumar agrees. 'The problem now is transporting things from Vanni area to Jaffna. There is plenty of good milk there. We can do wonders with it. But the main market, population-wise, is here in the Jaffna Peninsula. We have big plans'.

Apart from food processing industries, other major

schemes include salt production and distilleries. The Elephant Pass Salterns are under army occupation. But production has been boosted at Chemmani and Varani in the Jaffna District. 'Locally produced liquor account for 90% of our sales,' says a liquor shop manager in Jaffna. 'Colombo products such as Mendis Special are also available but at a higher price. The customers are satisfied with the Jaffna produced arrack'. The profits are high. There are even plans to make beer too.

'As far as Tamil Eelam is concerned, the main resource we have, which has been tapped is sea food. Our seas are a treasure trove of foods for both local and international consumption. It's a major potential source of foreign exchange,' expounds a TEEDOR spokesman. 'Deep sea trawling and factory ships are things we have not used yet. Fresh fish or processed foods - there's no limit. At the moment, there is a factory producing chicken-feed from fish products. Sea-foods, Dairy products, Palm products, Fruit products - there's no limit to what we can produce!' And no one can stop us.

New Era Publications, Luckshmi building, Dutch Rd, Kalviyankadu, Jaffna.