

# SRI LANKA

Special  
Independence Day  
Issue



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## HARD WORK AT ALL LEVELS VITAL

*P.M. calls for national effort  
to ensure prosperity*

"TODAY we are celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of our Independence in the Sacred City of Anuradhapura, a city in which our civilization and culture once flourished and which, in due course, was overwhelmed by the jungle tide which left only ruins of ancient buildings to remind us of a great past," said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, in a broadcast to the nation today.

"Just so over four centuries of foreign domination left our people bereft of all that was once valued and cherished. All the more reason why we should endeavour to zealously protect our newly regained Independence. In an inter-dependent world, Independence cannot be protected and maintained through a cloistered and isolated existence. A few weeks ago, after the Colombo Conference when I left on a mission to China and India, there were unthinking elements in this country and interested parties abroad who were critical of my mission and wanted to know why I should seek to solve others' problems when there were problems in our own country.

"Every country in the world, however big or small, has its problems and problems keep ever arising. But in the world in which we live today it is not possible for any country to live in 'splendid isolation.' Events in some remote part of the world have their repercussions in other parts. For instance, our own commodity prices, on which this Island depends so much, are often influenced by events abroad over which we may have no control at all. Events in the neighbouring sub-continent could have the greatest impact in this land. The granting of Independence itself in 1948 was largely influenced by the Freedom Movement in India in those days. A War in the neighbourhood would not only imperil our Independence but it may well mean our total destruction. The Afro-Asian Powers, which have all newly re-emerged into Freedom after three or four hundred years of colonial rule and which met at Colombo, were determined to see that a way is sought for India and China to settle their disputes through negotiations.

"I am now confident that, as a result of our efforts, the policy of non-alignment, which came in for so much ridicule in the recent past, will be completely vindicated. I am also confident that we would have proved to the world that the policy of neutralism which our late Prime Minister so resolutely adhered to, is not something that is a mere negative and passive attitude, on the contrary, that it is something very positive and dynamic that Peace could be achieved and international disputes settled through negotiations and peaceful means, and that neutralism is in the interest not only of our own countries but of mankind as a whole.

### Economic Freedom

"Political Independence alone would have little meaning to the people of this country. In fact, it could even be lost unless economic Independence is also achieved. This could only be achieved by the development of our own country and its resources. We have received aid from many nations and we are very grateful to those who have

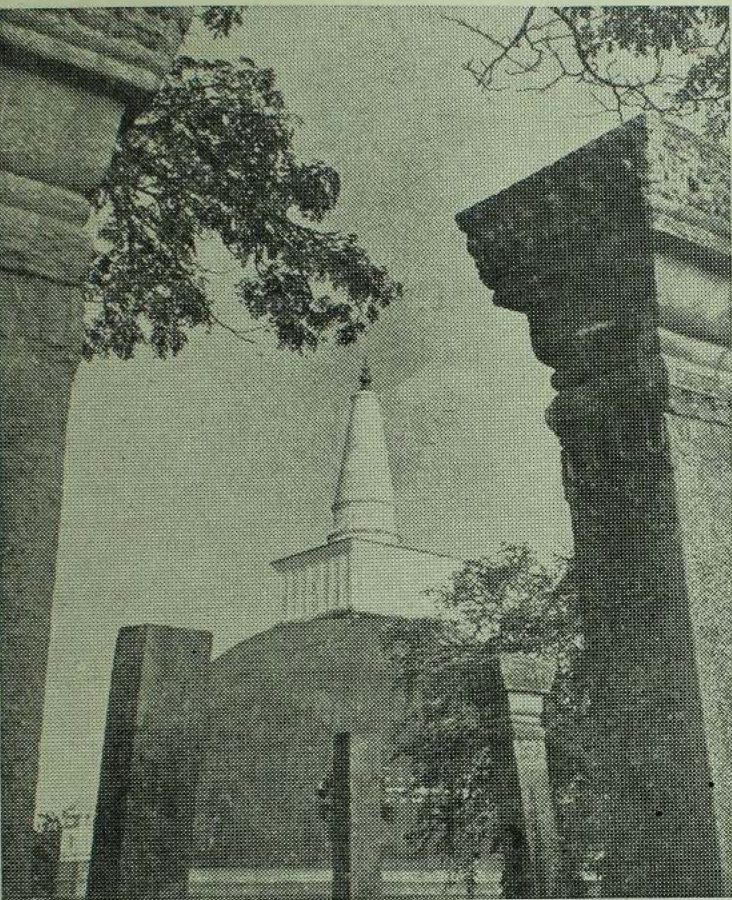
### HARDBOARD CORPORATION:

Re-examination of the entire proposal. Technical economic report on process and raw material. Decision made to utilise rubber wood after considerable experimentation.

### IRON AND STEEL AND RUBBER TYRE AND TUBE:

Completion of Contracts with USSR. Preparation of designs and working

(Continued on Page 8)



RUWANVELISEYA, ANURADHAPURA

## Industrial Development Makes Headway

WITH a view to the industrial development of the country the Iron and Steel Corporation, the Rubber and Tube Corporation and Ceylon Engineering Corporation were set up by the present Government.

Steps were taken to re-organise the State Industrial Corporations.

The Boards of the D. I. Leather Products Corporation, Ceylon Plywoods Corporation and Ceylon Hardboard Corporation were amalgamated.

In addition, the Boards of the Paranthan Chemicals Corporation and National Salt Corporation were amalgamated.

The Boards of the National Small Industries Corporation and Industrial Estates Corporation were also amalgamated.

These amalgamations were made with a view to utilising the existing managerial skills, as far as possible, and reducing the overhead expenses of Corporations.

### EXPANSION SCHEMES

Expansion schemes were also drawn up for the following industries:—

**CEMENT:** Finalisation of programme for KKS expansion, Puttalam factory and the clinker Grinding Plant. Capacity to be increased from 85,000 tons to 450,000 tons in 1966 and 950,000 tons in 1968.

**PAPER:** Expansion scheme for writing and printing paper from 4,750 tons to 9,000 tons. Examination of schemes for:

- (a) Board mill—9,000 tons—1965.
- (b) Newsprint.

**CERAMICS:** Finalisation of Kaolin Refinery programmes at Boralesgamuwa, Second factory at Boralesgamuwa and completion of works in regard to duplication of existing kaolin refinery at Negombo.

### D. I. LEATHER PRODUCTS:

Finalisation of expansion scheme to produce 300,000 pairs of shoes per annum. Completed in October, 1962.

**PLYWOODS:** Examination relating to expansion of factory is presently under investigation.

### PARANTHAN CHEMICALS:

Complete evaluation of existing plant at Paranthan. Report from Casson and Crane. Determination of sale prices for caustic soda.

**CHLORINE:**—Export markets investigations.

### MINERAL SANDS:

Investigation into export markets presently being carried out independently by the Corporation as well as through the Ministry of Commerce.

### INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION:

Completion of the first stage of 20 units.

### Work on preservation of Sacred City expedited

WORK on the development of the new town of Anuradhapura and also the preservation of the Sacred City has been expedited by the present Government.

It is the intention of the Government to remove all lay activities and complete the preservation of at least the Mahavihara area within its present term of office thus achieving one of the vital objectives of the scheme.

A Statutory Board which is under the Prime Minister, has been entrusted with the speedy execution of the work.

The main functions of the Board are:

- (1) the development of the New Town including the provision of all civic amenities;
- (2) the removal of all establishments other than the ancient shrines from the preservation area to the New Town;
- (3) The preservation and maintenance of places of religious, historical and archaeological value in the sacred cities of Anuradhapura and Mihintale;
- (4) the restoration of such ancient shrines as may be approved by the Government;
- (5) the provision of facilities to pilgrims and visitors.



# Agricultural Development makes steady progress

*Big increase in paddy production:  
More acres under cultivation*

SINCE 1956 there has been a big increase in paddy production and the acreage under cultivation has also gone up.

In the year 1956-57 Maha the acreage yield in bushels per acre was 32.69 but in 1960-61 it had risen to 35.93. A similar progressive upward trend was noticed in Yala too.

A fact not generally known is that the average yield of milled rice per acre in Ceylon has exceeded the acre yields of India, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia Indonesia and the Philippines.

The yield per acre of milled rice in Ceylon is 9.9 cwt. The South East Asian country coming nearest to Ceylon is Indonesia with a yield of 9.0 cwt. per acre.

The increase in yield in recent years has been attributed to several factors, first heavy fertilization; the use of pure-line seed and hybrids possessing high fertilizer response and on the adoption of improved cultural practices such as transplanting and row-sowing.

Meanwhile a steady increase in the acreage cultivated and the total production of paddy production has been maintained.

Whereas in 1956 the area under paddy was 1,203,621 acres and the production was 27.5 million bushels in 1961 the area cultivated was 1,471,983 acres and production rose to 43.2 million bushels.

The acreage cultivated and production has kept on increasing steadily. Meanwhile the Department of Agriculture has also noticed that the quantity of subsidised fertilizer made use of by cultivators had also increased steadily. For instance the amount used right now is double the quantity used in 1956-57.

## Improved Methods

The use of improved technique of agriculture and pest control and the increasing use of modern agricultural implements, mechanized farming have all contributed to the increase in paddy yields. The Agricultural Implements Factory sited at Welisara produces various Agricultural Implements which have in no small measure contributed to successful agricultural farming in Ceylon.

Considerable progress has also been made in the cultivation of other non-export agricultural products.

Potato cultivation was resuscitated as a Research project in 1957 as the first attempt at potato growing in the Welimada area was a failure due to bacterial wilt.

Nine production stations were opened up in 1958 at elevations where the incidence of bacterial wilt was almost nil. Within one year the Department of Agriculture had an extent of 400 acres under potato which produced 1,000 tons.

A subsidy scheme for planting marginal rubber lands in cacao in the Kandy, Matale and Badulla districts is in progress.

A similar subsidy scheme for coffee cultivation with a view to self-sufficiency in this commodity is being considered. A proposal to set up a State plantation of coffee is also being examined.

The production of local cigarette tobacco is not equal to the demand. Further increase in local production is to be undertaken as soon as an export trade is developed and improved varieties produced for blending. The time is not too far when all the country's requirements of beedi tobacco will be produced in the Uva Province alone.

Two other projects under the agricultural sector are the National Milk Board and the Kantalai Sugar Corporation, which are doing valuable work.

## Cotton Cultivation

Cotton cultivation is being expanded in the Hambantota district and in the North Dry Zonal areas of Thunukai and Mannar. Two ginneries are to be set up with aid from the USSR. Steps are being taken to intensify research on the control of citrus virus disease which is the most serious limiting factor to the extension of citrus cultivation in lower Uva. Meanwhile areas permanently damaged are to be planted with coconut.

A plant to manufacture condensed milk at Wekkanda and a Rice Research Institute at Peradeniya are to be set up shortly.

Poultry production has been substantially developed and self-sufficiency is in sight. The recent import restrictions imposed on Indian eggs has acted as a stimulus to local egg production. In fact scarcity of grain which comprises 40 per cent. of poultry food is at the moment a limiting factor to the expansion of egg production and quick action has been taken by the Agriculture Department to undertake the production of grains used for poultry food. Meanwhile, a well integrated animal production drive has been launched aimed at self-sufficiency regarding meat requirements.

Of course, right now almost the entire machinery of the Department has been placed at the disposal of the National Food Drive which is aimed at stepping up paddy production and the increased cultivation of subsidiary food crops which have hitherto been imported. This drive is already in full swing and indications are that the entire nation is responding to the grow more food drive.

Government farms, Practical farm schools, Young Farmers' Clubs, the electorate basis farms, school farms are all in the forefront of this national effort. The urgency of the situation has drawn in the private mercantile sector too.

## AGRARIAN REFORMS

THE Department of Agrarian Services was established in 1957 and entrusted with the organisation of supplies and services required by cultivators to improve agriculture.

Naturally, the production of paddy has taken the pre-eminent place in the activities of this Department.

The activities of the Department can be classified under the following heads:—

Tenurial reforms for paddy lands in Ceylon and the operation of the Paddy Lands Act which has been hailed as the paddy cultivation Charter.

Development of irrigation facilities under minor irrigation schemes.

The provision of agricultural credit. The issue of subsidised paddy fertilizer.

The operation of the Guaranteed Price Scheme which provides the all important price support to the farmer.

The operation of the recently launched Crop Insurance Scheme.

This Department is now preparing to operate the Paddy Lands Act throughout the country. This Act, which became law in February, 1958, was amended in 1961 to rectify some defects.

The improvement of the existing irrigation and drainage facilities under minor irrigation schemes are all performed by the Agrarian Services Department.

### Loans to Cultivators

This Department grants loans to cultivators through co-operative societies for practically the entire range of cultivation purposes including ploughing, purchase of seed material and fertilizer, transplanting, row-seeding, harvesting, purchase of agricultural implements, barbed-wire fencing, construction of go-downs, rice mills, purchase of land, transport, water pumps. During 1960-61 Rs. 11,406,210 were given as loans for the purposes enumerated.

This year the Department will take steps to make agricultural credit available to a larger number of cultivators by rectifying defects of the co-operative organisations.

Further a drive will be organised at the rural level to induce farmers to apply more fertilizer and thereby step up yields.

Effective steps are also to be taken to improve the efficiency of the Guaranteed Price Scheme by increasing storage and milling capacity.

## FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

THE primary aim of the Fisheries Department is to implement a programme of development enunciated in the 10-Year Plan and directed at the attainment of self-sufficiency in fish and fish products.

Government has viewed with concern that though there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of fish, fish production has lagged behind and Ceylon has been forced to rely more and more on imports which amount to nearly 75 to 80 million pounds of fish and fish products almost yearly. Having taken into consideration the rapid increase in consumption of fish which is estimated to be in the region of 4,263,000 cwt. by 1964 an integrated plan has been launched by the Fisheries authorities aimed at—

more and more and speedier mechanization of existing traditional fishing crafts like vallams, teppars following which these crafts could increase their fishing range and increase fishing hours, introduction of more and more of ton mechanized fishing boats and easy loan schemes for fishermen and even others to obtain these for fishing,

introduction of more trawlers to the existing trawler fleet. Five trawlers are to be obtained in the near future,

introduction of more deep sea fishing vessels,

construction of a network of fisheries harbours and shelters all over the sea coast and provision of cold storage and ice plants,

speedy development of marketing facilities,

the authorities are also planning socio-economic and welfare activities of other fishing community,

foreign missions and organizations too have been consulted on how best they could help to develop the fishing industry and put it on a sound economic footing,

a Fisheries training centre has been set up at Negombo as a Japan-Ceylon project to train local fishermen on improved techniques.

## LAND FOR THE LANDLESS

THE Land Commissioner's Department's functions are mainly concerned with the administration of Crown land in which alienation of Crown land to peasants plays a very important part. Whilst the needs of local peasants for Crown land have been regularly met according to the availability of Crown land, the needs of those in thickly populated areas, where Crown land is scarce, have been met to a very appreciable degree through Colonization Schemes and by the acquisition of suitable private land.

When land is alienated the peasants are assisted with subsidies for house construction, latrines, and wells on their allotments and soil conservation measures. In addition, communal requirements in the shape of communal wells, water supply schemes, and roads providing access are also met. Planting material, obtained mainly from the Coconut Research Institute and the Agriculture Department, is issued in order to enable the allottee to develop his land.

From 1956 up till the end of September 1961 a total extent of 10,400 acres of land was alienated to 21,500 persons under acquired estates schemes of the Land Commissioner's Department.

During this period 47,000 acres of paddy land and 25,000 acres of high land were alienated to 17,270 colonists under Major Colonization Schemes. The extents of land alienated under Highland Colonization Schemes during the period 1956 up to September, 1961 was as follows:—

For tea planting schemes 5,000 acres were distributed among 2,270 allottees.

For rubber 2,100 acres were distributed among 645 allottees.

For coconut 13,150 acres were distributed among 3,360 allottees.

Some of the tea schemes have come into production and the yields in the first year of production have averaged 700 lb. of made tea per acre. From 1856

up to September, 1961 an extent of 48,000 was alienated to 4,150 allottees in units of 10 to 25 acres.

More schemes of this nature with subsidies aimed at encouraging the commercial cultivation of cash crops like cashew, &c., are being put into operation.

## Exploitation of Forest Wealth

The utilization of our Forest resources, reafforestation, their management and development and scientific exploitation is now being done on a sound basis.

While on the subject of Forests it is pertinent to discuss wild life as the existence of wild life is impossible without scientific forest development and exploitation.

Ceylon is a country endowed with a bountiful supply of various species of wild life and some exotic bird life too. It is to be regretted that only the elephant, a truly magnificent heritage left for us by our forefathers, is in some fear of extinction. But mindful of this, the Government is taking energetic steps to conserve our elephant wealth and serious note is taken of wilful destruction of this noble animal. In fact there is a ban on the capture of wild elephants.

Our two game parks, Yala and Wilpattu, are now internationally famous like our Zoological Gardens, and the new park opened out at Gal Oya has proved to be a harem for elephant herds which have been forced deeper and deeper into jungles reservations to give way to the increasing needs of man.

## Export Agricultural Sector

The plantation industries continue to play a vital role in the country's economy.

In 1961 the total value of all Ceylon's exports was Rs. 1,680 million. The products of the three major plantation industries contributed 1,617 million or a little over 95 per cent. of this total.

Tea contributed Rs. 1,114 million or 66 per cent. Rubber contributed Rs. 260 million or just over 15 per cent. and Coconut products Rs. 253 million or just under 15 per cent.

If we examine Ceylon's gross national income from all sources we will find that 30 per cent. was directly derived from the three major plantation industries. A considerable part of the rest was derived from trade and transport arising out of these industries.

The tea plantation industry has maintained an increase in production during the last few years mainly due to—

liberal use of fertilizers both in the big estates and tea small holdings which now receive large quantities of subsidised fertilizer under Government's Tea Rehabilitation Scheme;

The Tea Research Institute which, as the name suggests, carries out research into various agricultural aspects of the industry does yeomen service to the country;

The Tea Replanting Subsidy Scheme helps estates to embark on regular and systematic replanting programmes.

Besides, a keen drive is under way to find out new markets and new outlets for increased production. It is with the object of breaking into these new markets that the Government has recently sponsored the manufacture and marketing of Instant Tea.

In respect of rubber, a Replanting Subsidy Scheme and for coconut, a coconut rehabilitation scheme have been sponsored to help these two plantation industries.

**Ceylon State Plantations Corporation**  
Besides, the Government itself has launched out into the Tea producing industry with the State sponsored Ceylon Plantation Corporation under which an extent of 725 acres of a total extent of 1,000 acres is already under production. This corporation estate is one of, at least, four other similar projects already mooted.

## Gal Oya Development Board

The Gal Oya Development project which was one of independent Ceylon's biggest projects is now nearing completion. Certain developed areas which were under the Board's administration has already been placed under the Central Government.

## Electrical Department

The main proposal of the J. G. Park Commission of 1957 was the establishment of a Central Authority for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity on the lines of the Central Electrical Authority in the United Kingdom.

These proposals are being given effect to in the Ceylon Electricity Board Bill now before Parliament.

Already the Government Electrical Department has introduced a more equitable revised tariffs scheme for consumers as a result of which domestic consumers with small floor areas have benefited most in that they are paying reduced tariffs for the supply of electricity.



# Re-orientation of entire educational structure

## Equal opportunities for all students

**THERE** has been a rapid increase in school enrolment during the last five years. The school going population which was 1,714,000 in 1956 increased to nearly 3,000,000 at the end of 1961.

This increase was due mainly to the fact that, during this time, nearly 1,000 new schools were put up.

Before 1957, that is in 1955 and 1956, the increase in attendance in schools was only 3.1 per cent. and 4.4 per cent. respectively. However, in 1957 the increase shot up to 8.6 per cent. This trend has continued and the average increase in attendance for the last five years has been about 7 per cent.

During this period about 20,000 new teachers were appointed to the various schools. As a result today the schools are far better staffed than they were ever before.

With the exception of Japan, Ceylon is the only country in Asia today where over 76 per cent. of children, within the school going age of 5-14 years, attend school.

Qualitatively too, there have been vast changes in the sphere of education during this period. In 1956 there were only 78 Government schools which provided avenues to higher education. Today there are 509 such institutions. The large number of students who enter the University from rural schools bear witness to the fact that higher education has been brought to the door of the rural child. Over 5,000 scholarships were granted to Central schools during the last six years and 187 scholarships were granted to the University during this same period.

One of the achievements of the Government in the realm of education during this period, however, was the granting of University status to the two principal Pirivenas in Ceylon—Vidyodaya and Vidyalankara.

## National system initiated

During the period under review steps were also taken by the Government to introduce a national system of education throughout the country. As a first step in this direction an Act was passed in 1960 bringing all schools under the management of the Director of Education. By a second Act introduced by the Minister of Education in 1961 the vesting of Director-managed schools in Government was started. Already nearly 2,000 schools have been vested. This very responsible work has been done so far without any additional cost to Government.

Between 1956 and 1962 approximately 1,100 schools buildings have been constructed providing additional accommodation for about 220,000 new pupils. Nine hundred and fifty schools buildings were provided to replace buildings which were in a dangerous condition. During this time 530 teachers' quarters were also constructed in schools where quarters were not available.

## Stress on Science

A notable feature was the provision of a large number of science laboratories and workshops for promoting technical education. Seventy-seven laboratory buildings have been completed up to date and 20 more science laboratory buildings are in progress. One hundred and three workshops have been completed by the Education Department.

The provision of library buildings and agricultural science units were also undertaken during the period. Seventeen library buildings and 19 agricultural science units are in hand. Emphasis was also given to physical education by providing a large number of playgrounds in schools where such facilities were non-existent.

Apart from these projects the main task of the Department of Education is the formulation of a national system of education based on the recommendations of the National Education Commission, in order to ensure to every child in the Island an equality of educational opportunity regardless of his economic position or social status.

With a view to assessing public opinion as well as to obtaining expert

advice on the problems of education the Government appointed three Commissions, i.e. :—

- (i) The National Education Commission, consisting of 20 eminent educationists of the Island, to report on all matters pertaining to school education,
- (ii) The Technical Education Commission, consisting of five distinguished men in the spheres of technology and science to report on the ways and means of improving the system of technical education, and
- (iii) A Commission on University Education.

The National Education Commission issued an Interim Report in October, 1961, and its final report was received in July, 1962. An implementation committee which was appointed by the Minister of Education has already made their observations on the recommendations of the National Education Commission.

A Third Education Bill which the Minister proposes to introduce will embody those recommendations of the Commission which are acceptable to the Government.

Some of the other matters that received the attention of the Education Department during this period were—

**The teaching of science :** The progress made in this field can be assessed by the fact that the number of students who offered science subjects at the last G. C. E. examination was more than double the number of students who sat for science subjects at the G. C. E. examination in 1956. At the beginning of 1962 the number of schools teaching science at the G. C. E. level had risen to 340. About 15,000 pupils appeared for the G. C. E. examination with science subjects in 1962.

**Promotion of swabhasa teachers :** Steps were taken to remove the disparity between swabhasa and English qualified teachers with similar qualifications. Now swabhasa teachers are qualified for promotion as Special Post holders. Experienced Headmasters of Swabhasa schools have been recruited as Inspectors of Schools.

## FRESH BOOST FOR AYURVEDA

**SINCE 1956** the development of Ayurveda in this country has received a new impetus. During the past seven years the Government has been taking various measures aimed at raising this system of medicine to the same high standard and position which it enjoyed in ancient times.

One of the important steps taken for the development of Ayurveda was the passing of the new Ayurveda Act which was brought into operation from 1st October, 1962. The Act provides for the establishment of a Department of Ayurveda under a Commissioner and the setting up of three bodies—the Ayurvedic Medical Council, the Ayurvedic College and Hospital Board and the Ayurvedic Research Institute.

The Ayurvedic Medical Council will register Ayurvedic practitioners, ayurvedic pharmacists and ayurvedic nurses and deal with matters relating to their professional conduct.

The Ayurvedic College and Hospital Board will advise the Minister of Health on the administration of the College of Ayurvedic Medicine, the Central Hospital of Ayurveda and the dispensary attached to it.

The Ayurvedic Research Committee will advise in regard to the carrying out of research in all branches of Ayurveda.

Under the New Act the College of Indigenous Medicine and the Hospital of Indigenous Medicine at Borella have been named the College of Ayurvedic Medicine and the Central Hospital of Ayurveda.

### Clinical Research

The development of Ayurveda in this country was given another boost when

**Training of teachers :** The number of teachers who passed out in 1962 is almost double the number that passed out in 1956. In 1962 the Department spent over Rs. 9 million on the training of teachers compared to Rs. 2 million spent in this connection in 1956.

The number of training colleges too has increased to 26. Nearly 2,700 teachers passed out of training colleges at the end of last year. An important project in this field is the new science training college to be established at Veyangoda at a cost of Rs. 7 million.

**Vocational Guidance :** Vocational guidance has been introduced by the Department of Education to assist senior pupils and their parents to understand the relationship between abilities and aptitudes which children possess on the one hand and the needs of the world of work on the other. Cumulative records of achievement are compulsorily maintained for every school-going child in the Island. Teachers are being trained to give information from those records to both parents and pupils in order to help them to plan their educational and vocational future.

**Mid-day meal :** The free mid-day meal which had been stopped by the previous Government was reintroduced in 1956. The consequences of this

popular measure were a great improvement in school attendance, and a general improvement in the health of children. Over 1,200,000 children profit by this meal.

### Administrative Reforms

**Re-organisation of schools :** In order to avoid wastage in both effort and money, a programme of reorganisation was introduced. The scheme which has been introduced in a few locations has proved beyond doubt that an Island-wide programme whereby the supply in facilities was avoided will not only reduce the wastage in education but also improve the efficiency of teaching.

**Teachers :** From 1,561 a new transfer scheme on point system has been operative. During the first phase of the scheme, about 6,000 teachers have been given transfers. During the second phase 6,000 more teachers will qualify for transfers under the scheme.

**Decentralisation :** With the decentralisation of the work of the Department of Education, another grave defect in the administration was rectified. With the decentralisation delays in correspondence has been substantially reduced and decisions on education matters are made with a greater amount of local knowledge and with more frequent consultation with Members of Parliament and local authorities. The trek to Colombo is also no longer necessary.

## SWITCH-OVER TO SINHALA

THE Ministry of Justice was, in October 1960, allocated the subject of official language and thus became responsible for implementing one of the most important pieces of legislation of the Government, namely, the Official Language Act.

In implementing this Act the Ministry has taken steps to hold examinations to enable public officers to acquire proficiency in the official language. It is expected that by the end of this year all public servants (both new entrants and old entrants) would have acquired such proficiency as to carry out their official duties in the official language.

Almost all correspondence between departments and Ministries, except in certain purely technical and legal matters, is now done in Sinhala. Nearly every office throughout the country has been provided with sufficient number of officers proficient in Sinhala to enable correspondence to be carried out in Sinhala. Sinhala typewriters, typists and stenographers have also been provided. A large number of Departments minute their files in Sinhala.

The Official Language Department has prepared a number of glossaries

which have been distributed among government departments. The Publications Branch of the Official Language Department has translated into Sinhala a large number of textbooks, even textbooks required for university studies.

The Language of the Courts Act was enacted in 1961. This Act empowered the Minister of Justice to order that Sinhala should be used for pleadings filed of record and for recording the proceedings in any court. Twenty-seven Headquarter Rural Courts and 151 Circuit Rural Courts have already been directed to work in Sinhala.

Over 200 Legislative Enactments have been translated into Sinhala. Sinhala translations of the Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code, the Penal Code, the Evidence Ordinance and the Courts Ordinance have been printed and distributed among the various courts.

Sinhala stenographers and typists are being trained to record court proceedings and when it appears that they are sufficiently trained to record correctly the proceedings in any complicated case, one would envisage the use of Sinhala in all Magistrates and District Courts at a not too distant date.

### New Courts

For the convenience of the people District Courts have been established in Gampola, Kuliyapitiya and Hattton. An additional District Court was established at Panadura and a combined District and Magistrate's Court was set up at Kalmunai. Additional Magistrates were appointed to Galle and Gampaha to assist the Magistrates as the work in those districts was heavy. Circuit Magistrates' Courts were established at Maho, Kalawana, Elpitiya, Kadugannawa, Hanguranketa and Madugoda. A Court of Requests was established at Colombo South, Mt. Lavinia with the same territorial jurisdiction as the Magistrate's Court, Colombo South.

New rural courts were established at Blackpool, Kadawatte, Elayapattu, Dummalasooriya, Badulu Oya, Mandativu, Tirappena, Amalativu, Amparai, Adampan, Nanadann, Metgahatenna and Bakamuna. At Kandaketiya a circuit rural court was established.

### Conciliation Boards

The Ministry has also set up 23 Conciliation Boards under the Conciliation Board Act No. 10 of 1958. Preliminary steps have also been taken for the appointment of Panels of Conciliators for twenty-five more areas.

The Conciliation Board Act was passed with the idea of providing an inexpensive and speedy means of promoting harmony among persons estranged by civil disputes or breaches of certain penal laws by amicably settling those disputes and compounding the offences arising out of those breaches.

This provision has made the Conciliation Boards a real boon to the rural population.

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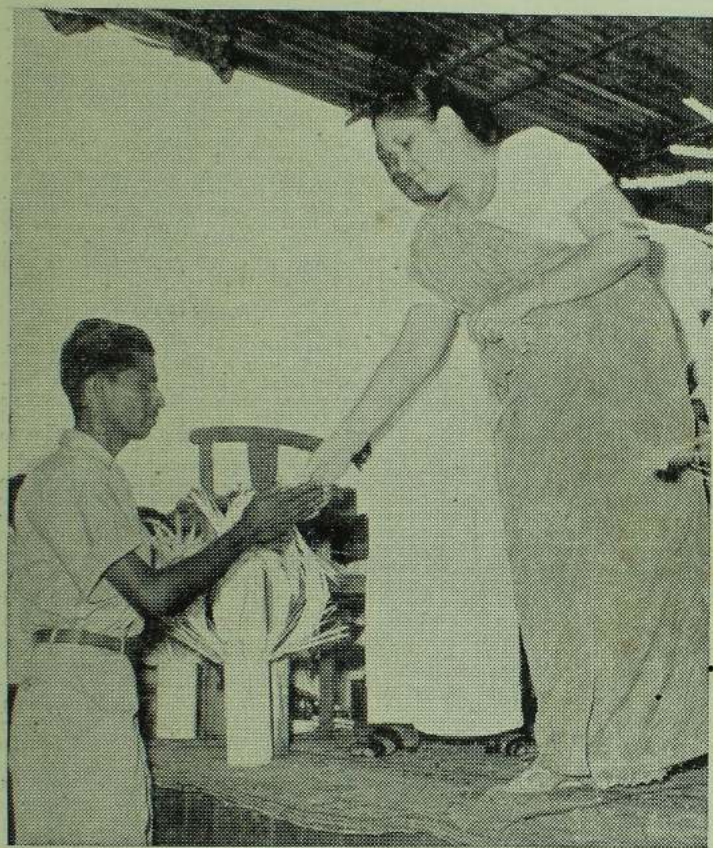
# PEOPLE'S ERA



Some of the highlights of the past six years in pictures: (1) The late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, inaugurating the Employees' Provident Fund. (2) The inauguration of stage IIA of the hydro electric scheme. (3) The late Prime Minister presiding at the ceremony marking the nationalisation of the Port of Colombo. (4) One of the most significant events during this period in the field of education was the granting of university status to the Vidyalankara and Vidyodaya Pirivenas. The Vidyalankara Pirivena also celebrated its 80th anniversary in 1958. The ceremony in progress, (5) The Minister of Lands, Mr. C. P. de Silva, watching operations in progress for drilling a girder for a sugar cane factory. (6) The new Ayurvedic Hospital at Colfa Road which was completed in 1958.



One of the biggest socialist measures of the Government of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike was, the nationalisation of the bus services. (Right) The scene at Galle Face Green on January 1, 1958, when the bus services were nationalised amidst tremendous popular enthusiasm. Two of the biggest socialist measures of the present Government were the opening of the People's Bank and the inauguration of the Petroleum Corporation. (Below right) The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, addressing the gathering after declaring open the People's Bank. (Below left) The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, inaugurating the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation



The Indian Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, unveiling a commemorative plaque after declaring open the new Ayurvedic Research Institute at Navinna

The Ceylon delegation led by the Prime Minister at the six-nation conference held in Colombo to find ways and means of bringing India and China together to settle their border dispute peacefully



# PROMOTION OF TRADE WITH ALL COUNTRIES

THREE MAJOR  
SOCIALIST MEASURES

THE Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping in accordance with the foreign policy of non-alignment and neutrality enunciated by the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, seeks to promote trade with all countries irrespective of their political ideology. The Ministry seeks to buy products at the lowest prices in world markets and to obtain the best prices for export products. In pursuance of this policy, trade and payment agreements have been concluded with countries like U. A. R., Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran and Eastern Germany. At the same time, every effort has been made to promote good trade relations with the traditional markets like the U. K., India and the United States.

Until recently Ceylon had an open-door policy regarding imports. Any trader in this country could import any goods he wanted from any country he liked. This had two adverse results: (1) it led to a drain on our foreign exchange which could have been conserved for economic development and (2) it discouraged any local industrial investment.

From the time the present Government came into power, it has taken a number of important measures to reduce imports, conserve foreign exchange and protect local industries. With the result that the rate of decline of external assets, which was about 200 million in 1960, came down to about 60 million in 1961, indicating the effectiveness of this policy. From 1962 there have been more import controls on luxury and semi-luxury goods as well as on those which could encourage production of substitutes in the country. This problem is now handled by a special committee appointed by the three Ministers—the Minister of Industries, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce. The Import Policy Committee consists of representatives of the three Ministries and the Central Bank, and makes recommendations to the Government regarding exchange restrictions, import controls, traffic, etc.

## CEYLONISATION OF TRADE

During colonial days little or no attention was given to the encouragement of Ceylonese to take to import and export trade. The import and export trade of the Island was mainly in the hands of non-Ceylonese and the few Ceylonese nationals who took to trade had to be content with a minor role or else close down altogether as they could not compete with non-Ceylonese traders who had enormous resources and better experience at their command. The position was so grave that by the end of 1948 it was estimated that 90 per cent of the import trade of the Island was in the hands of non-Ceylonese who comprised only 10 per cent of the population. This position which is certainly without parallel in any other country is gradually being rectified.

It is a matter for satisfaction for the Government that with few exceptions Ceylonese importers have succeeded in delivering the goods. It has been realised the Ceylonisation of the Trade should be proceeded with in the best interest of the country even at the expense of a little hardship, till Ceylonese importers have entrenched themselves.

The Government also realises that Ceylonese traders should be given every assistance.

## Co-op. movement makes big strides

CEYLON'S history shows that Co-operative endeavour and mutual help was an integral part of the life of our people. The building of tanks, the use of water and cultivation centered around co-operative practices. Since the first Co-operative Society was registered in November, 1912, the Co-operative Movement has made enormous strides. The second world war forced Government to organise more societies. State assistance increased with the formation of C. A. P. and S. Societies and the grant to Co-operative Societies of agencies for the purchase of produce under the Guaranteed Price Scheme.

More recently the Co-operative Movement undertook the conversion of single purpose societies into multi-purpose societies so that there would be in each village one multi-purpose society catering to all economic needs of the village and actively associating itself in all stages of economic planning and development. The distribution of rationed foodstuffs, the purchase of commodities under the Guaranteed Price Scheme, credit and the grant of subsidies for fertilization are some of the activities of these societies.

The retail distribution of food is shared between the Co-operatives and the private traders. There are 5,084 retail selling points of the Co-operatives to which are attached 6,505,347 ration books. The retail sales from Co-operative Stores to the public was Rs. 500 million. The retail societies made a profit of Rs. 1.3 million.

As regards the wholesale activities of Co-operative Unions, their wholesale turn-over last year was Rs. 487 million. The co-operative Unions have increased their own capital from Rs. 14 million to Rs. 16.6 million and their net

A scheme was started in April 1959, to encourage Ceylonese newcomers to take to the import trade while established Ceylonese importers were encouraged to expand into new lines. As a result of this scheme over 1,200 new importers were registered by the Import Control Department and they were assisted in obtaining a foothold in this sphere by the reservation of quotas to them for a large number of commodities. A variety of consumer goods from sources such as Japan, Switzerland, Belgium, Portugal and Germany were reserved for Ceylonese importers. Certain commodities which did not enter into the budget of the poorer classes were deliberately retained under control in order to divert the trade in these goods into the hands of Ceylonese importers.

Export trade has also been progressively Ceylonised by reserving more and more countries to which exports may be made only by Ceylonese traders. In the case of Ceylon's major agricultural products like tea, rubber and coconut and its products, however, it has been necessary to accommodate non-Ceylonese as well in the interest of Ceylon's Export trade.

profit were 4.9 million in 1961. Eighty-six Unions had profits of over Rs. 10,000 each. The Unions sales of commodities other than Rice, Flour and Sugar increased by Rs. 25 million to Rs. 101 million. The Unions are widening the range of goods offered to the public.

As regards marketing, recently an organisation closely linked up between the producer and consumer sections of Co-operatives was started to enable agricultural producers to get an adequate price for their produce and for consumers to get such produce at reasonable prices. Thirty retail selling points have been established in Colombo and other parts of the country and a new wholesale Co-operative Vegetable Market has been opened in Colombo. Societies have shown great interest in this venture and federated themselves into an all-round agricultural producers union. During the nine months of its existence the newly formed union sold over 4.6 million pounds of vegetables valued at Rs. 1,070,000 to the Co-operatives.

Government recently decided to give Co-operative Societies the opportunity to undertake contracts of Government Estimates without tenders being called where the value of the contract was under Rs. 1 lakh. Within six months Co-operative undertook Rs. 11½ million worth of contracts and already Rs. 1½ million worth of these contracts have been executed. Steps have also been initiated to improve the conditions of service of Co-operative employees who number over 17,000. These measures will improve the efficiency of the Co-operatives.

The Marketing Department is pursuing a vigorous policy of giving a fair deal to both consumer and producer and of helping to bring down the cost of living. The Department has opened 28 Vegetable and Fruit Collecting Centres and 40 Ceylon Products Shops. The produce collected at the centres is transferred from surplus to deficit areas for sale through Ceylon Products Shops and the stalls of the Department.

Steps are being taken to establish cold storage plants in all important towns like Kandy, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Galle, Matara, Batticaloa and Jaffna for the purpose of storing excess vegetables and fruits in season so that they could be made available at reasonable prices during off seasons.

The manufacture of many varieties of products has been intensified. The quality products sold at reasonable prices are a boon to housewife. Packeted chilly powder, curry powder, canned fruits, like the popular pineapple rings and slices, jams of five varieties, fruit juices of six varieties, sauces, chutneys, pickles and treacle are some of them.

In the near future, fruits and vegetable processing will be expanded further, especially citrus processing and jaggery and treacle making.

## ★ Opening of People's Bank Setting up of —

## ★ Petroleum Corporation ★ Insurance Corporation

THREE of the biggest measures taken by the Government in its march towards Socialism was the setting up of the Petroleum and Insurance Corporation and the opening of the People's Bank.

The People's Bank too has been a great success. The People's Bank although it has been in existence for only for about 14 months has established eighteen Branches and one Agency. Branches were opened at Hambantota, Galle, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Kandy, Matara, Gampaha, Badulla, Bibile, Balangoda, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hingurakgoda, Mulaitivu, Dehiwala, Minuwangoda, Gampaha, Avissawella, Hanganaketa, Kalmunai and Puttalam.

The total deposits of the People's Bank are about Rs. 130 million, and outstanding loans and advances at present amount to about Rs. 33 million. In the first year of its operations, the People's Bank has made a profit of about four lakhs. The pawn-broking business of the People's Bank is also doing very well.

## Shipping Corp

Besides these three Corporations, there is another Bill before Parliament to establish a Merchant Shipping Corporation. This will reduce Ceylon's dependence on foreign shipping and save the country millions of rupees in foreign exchange.

The object of the Government in setting up this Corporation is to acquire and manage a fleet of cargo vessels for the carriage of goods by sea. Primarily, the freight which this Corporation will supply will be for imports into Ceylon and exports from Ceylon made on Government account. Coastal freight around Ceylon is also included. As an initial step the Corporation, as soon as it is created, will become the sole procurers of freight for all Government imports and exports. For this purpose, the Corporation will act as Charter Brokers or Agents and obtain charters for the Government either on a voyage basis or on a contract basis for a definite period. The Corporation will charge the Government an agreed brokerage or agency commission for such chartering work.

The Petroleum Corporation today controls 50 per cent of the petroleum market in this country and in the first two months of its operation it has made a profit of 1½ million rupees. The vast amount of money which would have gone abroad in the form of profits and dividends and also in the form of higher prices for imports have been saved to this country by this Corporation.

The Insurance Corporation, which has the monopoly of life insurance business in this country, has given the death blow to unscrupulous mushroom insurance companies. The Corporation has made steady progress since its inception and is at present doing much better than all the private insurance companies put together. The life premium income of the Corporation in the first eleven months of last year—January to November—was Rs. 117,023,850. Unlike the private Insurance Companies, all this money is being invested in Government Securities to promote the country's economic development. The Corporation has also done very well in non-life business.

The Insurance Control Act has been proposed for this country for the last two or three years or so, but no previous Government had taken any interest in it. With the Insurance Control Act, all the questionable activities of the private life and non-life insurance companies will be brought under the control of the Government. Offenders will be brought to book and unsound companies will be wound up.

## BETTER BUS SERVICES FOR THE NATION

GOOD communications are vital for progress. In a developing country like Ceylon, therefore, the transport services have a very important function to perform by assisting in this process and this is precisely what the Ceylon Transport Board has been endeavouring to do during the five years of its existence. The contribution made by the Ceylon Transport Board towards development could be gauged from the following figures. The average operated mileage has since 1958 increased from 285,000 a day to the present figure of 330,500 a day. During the same period the number of passengers carried has increased from 1.3 millions to 1.8 millions a day.

In other words the Ceylon Transport Board has since Nationalisation, increased its daily mileage by thousands and today carries five lakhs of passengers more a day than in 1958. This is no mean achievement. In the face of heavy odds the Ceylon Transport Board has extended its services to areas unserved before and at the same time endeavoured to make its services more efficient, attractive and economical by introducing more express services and linking routes. Further improvements are now being planned with a view to providing Colombo with a network of efficient bus services, some of which have already been introduced.

The poor condition of the fleet of buses taken over in January, 1958 is

common knowledge. Maintaining in the fleet these old buses has been most difficult and costly. In spite of these difficulties as many of the old fleet as possible were made to run, even though the cost of repairs and maintenance has been high. The fleet was also strengthened by the addition of over 2,000 new vehicles purchased since nationalisation. As a result of these measures the Board has been able generally to meet the present time table requirements of 2,650 buses per day. It is planning to increase its services further during the course of 1963 by running over 3,000 vehicles a day. For this purpose the programme of overhauling of buses and units like engines, &c., is being stepped up and further additions to the fleet will be made shortly.



# FREE AND EFFECTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE

**CONSIDERABLE** progress has been made in raising the standard of the health of the people since 1956. The Department of Health and the Department of Ayurveda under the Ministry of Health have been carrying out the task of providing free and effective health services to the people with commendable results.

The results achieved since 1956 are clearly reflected in the vital statistics of the country. According to the latest available figures the crude death rate has been reduced to 8.6 per 1,000 of the population from 10.1 in 1957. The infant mortality rate which is the most sensitive index to the state of a nation's health has fallen from 68 per 1,000 live births to 57 while the maternal mortality rate has come down to 3.0 per 1,000 live births from 3.7 in 1957.

What is still more heartening is that a child born today can reasonably expect to live to the ripe age of 66 while only 40 years ago the life expectancy was 31 years.

All this has been achieved as a result of the expansion of the health services and the efforts made by the Government for the promotion of health and the prevention of disease.

Today there are 769 Government medical institutions to look after the sick in this country. These institutions consist of provincial type hospitals, base hospitals, district hospitals and complete peripheral units besides cottage hospitals, maternity hospitals, special hospitals and central dispensaries. For those who require indoor-treatment there are 32,000 beds provided in these institutions. This

shows an increase in the number of beds from 28,994 in 1957.

The public made full use of these facilities as indicated by the fact that in 1961 a record number of 1,426,655 patients were given indoor-treatment while the out-patients services handled 21,484,925 visits for medical attention as compared with 1,352,720 indoor and 21,245,125 cases in 1957.

The Government has provided full specialist services at all provincial hospitals and the four basic specialities of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and paediatrics in most base hospitals. The Ministry of Health proposes to extend these specialist services to other hospitals too and with this aim in view a training scheme has been drawn up for specialisation.

## More Medical Personnel

Government's efforts to provide even a better health service to the people have been handicapped by the shortage of trained personnel such as doctors, nurses, and auxiliaries to man the Government's medical institutions. Measures have therefore

been taken by the Government to train more and more of these personnel. The intake to the medical college in Colombo has been increased and a second medical school has been opened at Peradeniya. In the field of nursing there are at present seven schools situated at Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Kurunegala, Ratnapura, Welisara and Jaffna. Another school is under construction at Anuradhapura and will be opened towards the end of the year. There are about 1,200 trainees in these schools and about 300 of them pass out as fully qualified nurses every year.

In the field of public health emphasis has been placed heavily on the prevention of conditions that are responsible for diseases. Special health facilities have been provided to vulnerable groups such as mothers, pre-school and school-going children and other categories. Over 420,000 mothers and 800,000 children receive attention every year at special clinics.

## Control of Major Diseases

Considerable progress has also been made by the special campaigns that have been set up to fight major diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, filaria, venereal diseases and leprosy.

The Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign is carried out through six chest hospitals, 55 chest clinics and branch clinics and special wards in General Hospitals and other hospitals. A rehabilitation centre set up at Talagolla is doing useful work training patients in various occupations such as tailoring, carpentry, typewriting,

poultry farming, etc. which helps the patients to rehabilitate themselves when they are cured.

One of the spectacular achievements has been the successful control of malaria which at one time was Public Enemy Number One in this country. The authorities who were able to successfully control malaria are now carrying out a Five-Year drive to eradicate the disease. In the first three years of the drive malaria cases have decreased in a marked manner. In the first year of the eradication drive in 1959 there were 1,596 cases, in the second year the figure dropped to 422 and in the third year the incidence came down further to 110.

Filaria has become a new threat in the South-Western coastal belt from Chilaw to Matara. The Ministry of Health has decided to bring this disease under firm control and a plan has been drawn up.

On the preventive side of health the Epidemiology Unit of the Health Department has been reorganised to fight outbreaks of communicable diseases. This Unit played a big part in controlling the outbreak of polio and the unusual incidence of small-pox last year.

## Health Education

It is a matter of concern that about 40 per cent. of the patients treated in our medical institutions suffer from preventable diseases such as dysentery, typhoid, and diarrhoea. The Department is carrying out health education work to make the people realise these health problems and to induce them to observe good personal hygiene and proper environmental sanitation.

## FRESH BOOST FOR.....

(Continued from page 3)

The College of Ayurvedic Medicine at Borella is also to be expanded and the Government has provided 14 acres of Crown land opposite the existing institution for this purpose. When this building scheme is completed it will be possible to increase the student population which is now 300 to 500.

This institution gives 30 scholarships and 40 bursaries and from the last financial year the amounts payable were doubled so that a scholarship holder is now paid Rs. 40 per month and a bursary holder Rs. 20 per month. In addition to this, ten annual prizes of Rs. 150 each have also been established.

The Government has also been able to obtain six scholarships from India under the Colombo Plan for students of Ayurveda.

The Government is also constructing an ayurvedic hospital at Anuradhapura. The first stage of this hospital is now almost complete and it will be declared open early this year.

It has also been decided to establish an Ayurvedic Drugs Factory. The Ministry of Health has made arrangements with the Ministry of Industries for the National Small Industries Corporation to establish this factory. Some headway has already been made on this drugs factory which is being constructed on two acres of land belonging to the Ayurvedic Research Institute at Nawinna.

### More dispensaries

Another measure that the Government has taken to provide ayurvedic treatment to the population is to increase the grants given to ayurvedic dispensaries run by Local Authorities. The new Scheme of enhanced grants was brought into operation from the last financial year and at present about 90 dispensaries run by Local Authorities benefit under it. Last year a sum of Rs. 350,050 was given as grants to these dispensaries. In addition to this, dispensaries run by voluntary organisations also receive grants from the Government.

During the past few years the Government has paid attention to the translation and publication of important Sanskrit texts on Ayurveda which is a boon to students and physicians. These texts are being translated into Sinhala by the Official Language Department at the request of the Department of Ayurveda. The first of these texts to be translated was the "Charaka Samhita" which was published in 1960. The second was the "Sushruta Samhita" which was published in October 1962. The "Vagbhata Samhita" has also been translated and will be published soon. The "Saranga Dhara" is also with the printer.

# MODERNISATION OF THE RAILWAY

**THE Railway's modernisation program made considerable progress during the period, 1956-62.**

The installation of colour signals between Colombo Fort and Bambalapitiya was completed and is now in operation. It is proposed to commence work in the extension of the system to Veyangoda and Panadura shortly.

Forty-five diesel power coaches have been introduced on the suburban routes. These coaches were used in conjunction with trailer coaches to form train sets. A train set consists of one power coach and three trailer coaches.

The power coaches combined with the Colour Light Signalling Scheme will provide a faster and more efficient service in the suburban area.

The modernisation of the railway rolling stock also made headway. The programme was given a big fillip by the gifting of rolling stock worth Rs. 25 million by the Chinese Government. The first shipment of 202 goods wagons, 13 tanker wagons and 8 passenger coaches arrived last September. Under the agreement Ceylon will get 653 wagons and 70 passenger coaches from the People's Republic of China.

The main proposal for the improvement of the long distance services is the re-laying of the railway line to Batticaloa and Trincomalee with heavy section rails as used on the main line. Owing to the light-rails used on this section loads have to be reduced and specially designed steam locomotives have to be employed. This is both expensive and slow. Diesel locomotives will be employed when the scheme is completed.

## Railway to Puttalam

Another project that is now in hand is the re-laying of the line from Bangadeniya to Puttalam which has been closed since the war. This work is being given the highest priority in view of the Government's decision to open a second cement factory in Puttalam.

Improvements to railway stations are also being carried out. Some of these stations were built to meet the traffic conditions of 50 years ago and the passenger amenities provided at these stations was most primitive.

The new station buildings at Kandy and Anuradhapura have been completed, while work on the Jaffna and Nawalapitiya Station buildings is in progress.

With the modernising of its rolling stock the Railway has been able to introduce fast passenger trains and fast goods services since 1955 and this has resulted in an increase of revenue of nearly Rs. 11,000,000.

The Railway anticipates an increase of at least Rs. 5,000,000 in passenger revenue when better facilities are provided. This will also relieve congestion on the roads. The Railway and the C. T. B. are hoping to evolve a fully co-ordinated passenger service system ultimately providing the most economic form of transport to the public.

## Road Construction

The Public Works Department made good progress in implementing its road building programme. The Aluthnuwara-Padiyatalawa road and the roads under the Kandyana Peasantry Rehabilitation Schemes were two of main road projects carried out by the Department. With a view to improving the lot of the people of the Kandyana area a road construction scheme was initiated in 1955-56. So far 312½ miles of road have been constructed by the Public Works Department and investigations on 13 miles of road have been carried out. Out of the 312½ miles of road constructed 132 miles have been metalled and tarred.

Prior to Government undertaking the construction of the Aluthnuwara-Padiyatalawa Road, the distance between Kandy and Batticaloa was 187 miles and it was necessary to go through Nuwara Eliya, Badulla and Bibile to reach Batticaloa.

With the opening of this road which is approximately 20 miles, the distance between Kandy and Batticaloa will be shortened by 74 miles.

The full length of the road has been formed and all major bridges have been completed. It is expected to complete the road by the middle of this year.

Of the major road widening schemes undertaken, mention must be made of the Colombo-Galle Road widening. The first stage consisted of widening the road up to Dehiwela-6th mile. Under the second stage the work was carried out up to the 9½ mile post. The third stage which was completed last year was the widening of the road up to Moratuwa Town, i.e., 11½ milepost.

From the 8½ milepost up to Moratuwa a carriageway has been provided.

The P. W. D. now proposes to widen that section of the Galle Road running through Kalutara Town to a width of 100 feet.

Another important road which is nearing completion is the access road to the Ilmenite Factory at Pulmoddai.

Pulmoddai is a village on the East Coast where a factory has been established to extract ilmenite sand. As no satisfactory road transport was available for Pulmoddai, it was decided to improve the existing Madawachchiya-Kebitigollewa road and construct a new road from Padawiya to Pulmoddai.

## Traffic and Planning

Under the American Aid Programme the Traffic and Planning Section of the P. W. D. was organised. The purpose of the creation of this section was mainly to find out methods of improvement in the construction of Roads and Bridges so as to cut down the costs.

A survey was carried out to study the characteristics of the traffic entering and leaving the city of Colombo. Monthly reports were prepared by the Contractors Wilbur Smith & Associates. They have prepared Traffic Survey Progress charts showing the manual classification counts, vehicles counted in P. W. D. Districts (already counts have been made in 18 districts). These charts show the number of vehicles using the roads daily. Percentage charts have also been prepared showing the population by revenue districts and how motor vehicles are distributed. This geographical distributions is very useful for purposes of improvement to existing roads and proposals for new roads.

It is expected that the Traffic and Planning Organisation will do a splendid job of work in the construction of better roads in the Island.

## Better Postal Facilities

THE period 1956-1961, has seen considerable progress in the provision of an adequate postal service for the whole island, particularly the rural areas. For this purpose nearly 1,000 postman have been appointed, 850 sub-post offices opened and 2,750

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# HOUSES FOR THE LOWER & MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS

## Housing loans for as many people as possible

THE Housing Department has made considerable progress in the provision of houses for the lower and middle income groups.

One of the major schemes of the Housing Department which has been initiated is the construction of 1,000 flats at Wanathamulla for those in the lower income group.

Arrangements have also been made by the Department to construct 4,000 flats at Anderson Golf Links, at Maligawatte at Ratmalana and on the outskirts of Nugegoda for lower and middle income groups.

It is also proposed to set up a house building industry for the mass production of house building material.

Work is also in progress on middle class and lower income group schemes at Ratmalana, Kiribathgoda and the Battaramulla-Nawala area.

Arrangements are also being finalised by the Department for the setting up of a housing estate in the form of a satellite town on the outskirts of Colombo.

In the provincial towns, too, work on a number of housing schemes has either been completed or is in progress.

In Anuradhapura, 195 houses have been constructed for flood victims and those dehouseed as a result of acquisition of land for new town development. Sixty-four houses are under construction in Galle. Lower income group housing schemes are also being completed at Dehiwita, Mawannella, Kegalle and Ratnapura.

Loans of under Rs. 2,000 have been allocated by the Department to a large number of applicants. The commitment of the Department in regard to these loans up to May last year was Rs. 222,250.

THE following items of expenditure have been incurred each year from the National Housing funds since 1956-57:—

|                                    | 1956-57      | 1957-58     | 1958-59     | 1959-60     | 1960-61     | 1961-62   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
|                                    | Rs.          | Rs.         | Rs.         | Rs.         | Rs.         | Rs.       |
| 1. Loans to individuals ..         | 14,412,950.. | 8,547,943.. | 7,723,748.. | 7,971,374.. | 6,517,419.. | 3,070,227 |
| 2. Building Societies ..           | 5,551,127..  | 4,288,131.. | 2,255,523.. | 3,102,624.. | 3,222,192.. | 1,205,241 |
| 3. Departmental Housing Schemes .. | 3,049,961..  | 5,109,080.. | 5,931,839.. | 3,018,022.. | 4,140,459.. | 2,765,986 |
| 4. Acquisition ..                  | 535,084..    | 2,388,577.. | 1,645,983.. | 917,605..   | 981,420..   | 819,091   |

The number of houses constructed by the Housing Department by Building Societies and by individuals on housing loans is as follows:—

|                            | 1956-57 | 1957-58 | 1958-59 | 1959-60 | 1960-61 | 1961-62 up to end of May |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1. Departmental houses..   | 418 ..  | 499 ..  | 427 ..  | 732 ..  | 660 ..  | 294                      |
| 2. Building Societies ..   | 12 ..   | 66 ..   | 205 ..  | 205 ..  | 277 ..  | 127                      |
| 3. Loans to individuals .. | 250 ..  | 356 ..  | 318 ..  | 470 ..  | 472 ..  | 230                      |

The Housing Department also helps people to acquire houses by other ways:—

- (1) **Redemption of mortgages.** When a property is under mortgage and the Court has given an order in favour of the mortgagee,—the Housing Department steps in and takes over the mortgage and helps the owner to redeem the mortgage on easy terms.

- (2) **Acquiring land for those who need it for the construction of houses.**

With regard to the granting of loans it is the policy of the Department to give loans to as many people as possible. Before 1956 big loans were given to a few people. The result was that certain privileged persons received big loans to put up palatial houses.

Since 1956 it has been the policy of the Department by cutting down the loans to a maximum of Rs. 15,000

possible so that more people, particularly the lower and middle class could benefit.

## KATARAGAMA

### RESERVATION SCHEME

ANOTHER important function performed by the Ministry is the preservation of sacred areas. This it does through the Town and Country Planning Department. The Kataragama Preservation Scheme is one of most important projects undertaken by this Department.

The Kataragama Planning Scheme seeks to control development within an area of approximately 10 square miles situated on both the left and the right banks of the Menik Ganga. Located within this area are three important places of worship: at Kataragama, Wedihitakanda and Sella Kataragama.

The importance of the shrines contained in these places of worship in the national life of the country demands that strict control should be maintained over the development taking place around them. In order to achieve this end the Kataragama Scheme provides for the declaration of these three centres of worship as sacred areas within which no buildings other than the ancient shrines and buildings ancillary to them will be permitted to remain. All lay activities within these sacred areas will be removed to the right bank of the river where provision has been made for a new Development Area carefully planned with zones for public buildings, pilgrims' rests, residential development, commercial establishments,

and culverts on the right bank of the Menik Ganga have been constructed.

During the financial year 1962-63 it is proposed to construct a Pilgrims' Rest at a cost of Rs. 250,000, initiate acquisition proceedings in respect of private lands and buildings and also construct roads on the left bank of the Menik Ganga. The Pilgrims' Rest will consist of 16 single rooms with amenities, eight other units with amenities including verandah and toilet and two dining halls.

For the Kelaniya Preservation Scheme a sum of Rs. 477,950 has been set apart in the estimates 1962-63 so that a start could be made on the scheme.

## CONTROL OF SEA EROSION

The Ministry is also taking steps to control sea erosion on a national scale.

For this purpose a Rs. 2½ million scheme has been drawn up.

The scheme is based on the recommendation of Mr. R. O. Eaton, Chief Technical Adviser, Beach Erosion Board of the U. S. who was in Ceylon recently.

## MODERNISATION...

(Continued from Page 7)

letter boxes installed during the past 5 years. In addition nine more post-offices have been opened during this period in Anuradhapura, Chilaw, Puttalam, Gampola, Kurunegala, Bibile, Katugastota, Dehiwela and Ragama. A new post office is also under construction in Jaffna.

There has also been a big increase in the number of sub-post offices and postmen. While in 1956 there were only 1,325 sub-post offices, in 1961 there were 2,125. The number of postmen has increased from 2,764 in 1956 to 3,783 in 1961.

Meanwhile, with a view to providing better savings bank facilities for the people, a new Post Office Savings Bank building was constructed at Kollupitiya. Work on the building was started in 1958 and has been completed.

The Bank makes a valuable contribution to the development of the national economy. Its influence and activities reaches out to the remotest village areas. In 1956 the number of depositors in the Bank numbered 2,732,234 and the amount standing to the credit of depositors was Rs. 275,639,957. In 1960, depositors in the Bank numbered 3,102,600 and the amount lying to the credit of depositors was Rs. 337.5 million.

Considerable progress was made by the Department in carrying out trials in Sinhala Teleprinter equipment gifted by Japan. The trials between the CTO and Kandy have been very satisfactory and the trials at Matara have already commenced.

Arrangements have also been finalised for the training of telegraphists in the Sinhala Morse Code.

The issue of new postal orders printed in composite form in Sinhala, Tamil and English was inaugurated in 1961. Postal orders which were introduced by the G. P. O. in 1877 had up till that year been printed in English only. In order to assist those who did not have a knowledge of English it was decided to issue postal orders in Sinhala and Tamil as well. This will be a great boon to the rural masses, particularly the Sinhalese and Tamil worker and peasant.

All forms used by the public are now in Sinhala and English and a large percentage of them are also available in composite form in all three languages.

### Telecommunication Services

One of the major development projects undertaken by the Department is the development of Telecommunication services in the Greater Colombo Area.

This project provides for the development of telecommunication services in Colombo and its suburbs lying within a radius of approximately 15 miles from Colombo. The need to start development in this area earlier

The scheme will be financed mainly by foreign aid and an application has already been made to the Economic and Planning Division of the Treasury by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing to obtain aid for this purpose. Foreign aid will be sought to obtain the plant and machinery and to train officers abroad in modern methods of coast protection.

The Ministry is also in charge of water supply schemes.

## Water Supply Schemes

The biggest scheme completed is the Town South of Colombo Water Supply Scheme, Stage 1.

This scheme provides 30,000,000 gallons of water per day for the densely populated 25 square miles in which the towns of Kolonnawa, Kotte, Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia, Moratuwa and Panadura are situated. It would be adequate without further extension or duplication for at least 20 years by which time the population of this area is expected to reach 440,000. Allowance was made in the design for supplying certain additional areas which will bring the ultimate population served to 515,000.

The next biggest scheme, the Negombo Water Supply Scheme, has also been completed. It is meant for an expanded population of 54,000 at 50 gallons per head per day. In this scheme, provision has also been made to extend the supply to the towns of Kochchikadde and Katunayake.

than in other parts of the country was occasioned by the heavy congestion in the main exchanges in Colombo and the fact that Colombo being the Chief Commercial Town with a high degree of telephone potential required an efficient telephone service.

## INDUSTRIAL.....

(Continued from Page 1)

drawings and preliminary work. Determination of acquisition of sites and clearing of sites.

### CEYLON OILS AND FATS CORPORATION:

Expansion of plants in operation to maximum capacities. Examination of prospects for commissioning of chlorine, sweet-water concentration plant and fatty acid plants.

### NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION:

Commencement of work on the second stage of the Weaving Mill and the expansion of the first stage of the Spinning Mill. The first Spinning Mill went into operation in June, 1961. Production has remained above targets.

### SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION:

Programme for Tile Factories:—

1. Completion of existing 5 factories scheduled for 1963.
2. Drawing up of plans for additional 5 factories.
3. Mechanisation of carpentry workshops at Moratuwa.
4. Commencement of work on the Ayurvedic Drugs factory. Selection of site and determination of processes completed.

## SWITCH-OVER TO.....

(Continued from Page 3)

These Conciliation Boards have already proved a big success and according to returns submitted to the Ministry by 17 of these Boards, 1,700 cases out of a total of 1,900 cases referred to them have been settled and attend to their more important and reliable work in the villages.

### Legislation

Among the new legislation enacted the Ministry has taken steps to amend some of the important statutes like the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to keep in step with the present conditions in the country.

The Criminal Procedure Code has also been amended.

The Minister of Justice has appointed a Consultative Committee on Crime to study the incidence of crime and make recommendations for its prevention. This committee has made a study of crime in the Southern Province and has submitted a report of the proceedings to the Minister. This report which is a detailed study of this subject is at present in the hands of the publishers.