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BIG INCREASE IN RICE PRODUCTION

*Corresponding reduction
in imports*

MORE BOOKS IN SWABASHA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

THE Official Language Department published 41 books during the last financial year.

According to the latest figures, during the last five years, the Department has issued 204 titles and of these 59 are glossaries of technical terms. A number of books on science have also been published, as well as 11 books on history, 11 on geography, four on economics, seven on higher mathematics, two on physics, three on chemistry and one book on botany. All these books are for higher education.

Besides these, the Official Language Department has published six books on Western medicine, two on ayurveda, six on general science, four UNESCO books and a number of books on normal school subjects.

NEW INDUSTRIES TO BE STARTED

Work can be found for 30,000 persons

THE Development Division of the Industries Department, has approved the commencement of a number of new industries. When these industries are in full production, employment will be provided for some 30,000 additional persons in both the public and private sectors. This information was released in a Press communique issued by the Cabinet Sub-Committee which met on February 13th to discuss the import policy of the Government and its possible impact on the problem of unemployment.

Some of the main points made in the communique of the Cabinet Sub-Committee are:

(1) In spite of the fact that possible retrenchment in the private sector was attributed to the Government's import policy, employers were unable to cite that any specific ban has been responsible for contemplated retrenchment measures. The Cabinet Sub-Committee had accordingly decided to direct an officer of the Labour Department to ascertain the specific causes for such retrenchment to enable the Government either to eliminate such cases or to find alternative employment for such persons who found themselves out of work.

(2) That the Import policy of the Government was in actual fact not so restrictive as is feared. In respect of certain imports advance allocations by January, 1963, had been made up to the level of 80 per cent of the 1961 imports. Additional permits were also to be granted after scrutiny of import documents thus adequately meeting the import requirements of all employers.

(3) The problem that faced old established industries was also examined in relation to the growth of new industries. A committee of officials will be appointed to examine the question of increasing the coir yarn production and for finding increased employment in this field for persons along the South West Coast of the Island. A Committee also was appointed to cover production of wooden chests for tea and desiccated coconuts. The Conservator of Forests was also authorised to issue permits to persons or organisations desiring to collect beedi wrappers from jungle areas.

(4) An annual subsidy of one-and-a-half million rupees is to be made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power to enable tea estates to purchase baskets (Buta Kuda) in place of polythene bags which are now being widely used. The subsidy will be at the rate of 5,000 rupees per acre.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Employment comprises the Minister of Labour and Nationalised Services, Mr. M. P. de Z. Siriwardene (Chairman), the Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva, the Minister of Finance, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalla, the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, and the Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake.

RETIRING ROOMS FOR RAIL PASSENGERS

THE Retiring Rooms at the new Railway Station at Anuradhapura, which were opened by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, on February 3, were thrown open for the use of the general public yesterday.

The Retiring Rooms, comprising of 8 double rooms, 4 single rooms and a lounge with telephone facilities, are furnished with modern amenities. They are available for use of rail passengers only, irrespective of class of travel, on payment of an occupation fee per day of Rs. 8 per single room and Rs. 16 for a double room. Children accompanying adults will pay only Re. 1 per head per day.

THE cumulative effect of all forms of state assistance in regard to rice production, has been a substantial increase in rice productivity during the last few years.

The total production in 1962, amounted to as much as 47 million bushels or approximately 670,000 tons of rice. Just five years ago, i.e., in 1957, the corresponding figures were 31.5 million bushels of paddy or 450,000 tons of rice.

This represents an increase of nearly 50 per cent in production during the last five years.

A corresponding reduction has been observed in the quantity of rice imported into Ceylon. In the financial year 1961-62, total imports of rice as recorded in the Customs Returns amounted to 427,000 tons as against 453,000 tons in 1960-61, 548,000 tons in 1959-60 and 578,000 tons in 1958-59.

Meanwhile the average yield of paddy per acre during the Maha season 1961-62 was approximately 38.02 bushels, which is one of the highest averages recorded in several countries in Asia.

Agriculture and Agrarian Services Department officials however state that an average of 60 bushels of paddy per acre would no longer be an unattainable target if the farmers of our country, co-operate with and utilise the various forms of assistance now made available by Government to increase productivity.

Government assistance to the cultivator referred to above are directed towards the creation of the right atmosphere and environment in which even a small cultivator can benefit by modern technological advances in paddy production.

Research and Extension Services form the first link in the chain of state assistance to the cultivator. Perhaps the most outstanding contribution by research in the field of rice production in Ceylon, has been the development of a hybrid variety of seed paddy called H4 which has a yield potential of 160 bushels per acre per season and the discovery of a weedicide which is capable of destroying all weeds in the paddy field without damaging the paddy plant itself.

To enable farmers to practise what the Extension Services advocate, loans are made available in cash as well as in kind by the Agrarian Services Department and channelled through co-operative organisations all over the country.

Improved varieties of seed paddy, fertilizer, barbed wire, pest and disease control equipment, insecticides, and pesticides, cultivation instruments like row-seeders, weeders, mammothies, &c.,

can be obtained in kind by cultivators through co-operative societies on loan.

Cash loans to meet the expenses of ploughing, both by tractors or buffaloes, transplanting or row-seeding, weeding and harvesting are also granted and are being increasingly made use of. Cultivation Committees set up under the Paddy Lands Act also help farmers to make use of state assistance schemes. With the result, no longer need a cultivator who wishes to improve the standard of his cultivation or use fertilizer or improved seed paddy fail to do so due to the lack of funds or due to the lack of an organisation at the village level to meet his requirements.

The Guaranteed Price Scheme for paddy is another form of economic incentive to stimulate production by assuring the farmer an attractive price and a ready market for his produce.

The Guaranteed Price of Rs. 12 per bushel of paddy is nearly double the price at which Ceylon imports an equivalent quantity in terms of rice and is the highest price paid to a bushel of paddy in the world excluding only Japan where the Guaranteed Price is Rs. 19.

Whereas the accommodation available in 1960 for paddy storage amounted to only 7 million bushels of paddy the accommodation available at the end of 1962 was sufficient to take in store 12 million bushels. Government hopes that by the end of 1963, it will be in a position to take in as much as 60 per cent of the total production.

Crop insurance is another form of economic incentive which has both a negative and positive approach towards increasing production. Negatively it assures the farmer of a minimum income even in times of complete crop failure and thus enables him to start his next cultivation without serious financial embarrassment. Positively it affords a higher rate of indemnity protection to farmers who adopt improved cultivation practices and enhances his credit worthiness to obtain loans by offering his insurance policy as collateral security.

The Paddy Lands Act has removed some of the inhibiting factors which depressed productivity in Ceylon guarantees that every cultivator will have a permanent uninterrupted hereditary right to occupy and use the land he cultivates subject to the payment of a just rent to his landlord and the maintenance of a minimum specified standard of cultivation.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

THE Land Development Department, which is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, has initiated action and is proceeding with the Pilot Projects of the National Service Scheme, which was declared by the Government in the Throne Speech of 1960.

The National Service Scheme aims to achieve the following objectives:—

- (a) to bring about a better understanding among the people of the country, and especially the educated youth, of the problems and needs of the community, and the nature and scope of the Development Programme of the Nation;
- (b) to bring about the intelligent and active participation of the people in the implementation of these Programmes;
- (c) to inculcate in them a spirit of selfless and patriotic service in the cause of the country, and instil in them a sense of discipline and dignity of labour;
- (d) to break down class barriers, and especially the isolation that now exists between the working masses and the so-called intellectuals;
- (e) to strengthen the co-operative relationships that exist among villagers through the combination of their efforts at development with those of outside agencies;
- (f) to make use of the vast reservoir of idle labour available for the implementation of local and national development schemes;
- (g) to improve the present educational system by helping it to develop discipline, self-reliance, maturity and a sense of idealism among the educated youth, promote technical aptitudes of children and develop in them an awareness of their neighbourhood and the realities of the country and the world they live in.

In short National Service should help "prepare the youth of the country for the enormous tasks of national reconstruction requiring arduous, sustained and responsible work".

Principles

THE Committee appointed for the purpose has recommended that the scheme of National Service be governed by the following principles:—

- (a) *Integration with the National Development Programme of the country, specially in keeping with the Policy of Land and Agricultural Development.* Thirteen thousand six hundred million rupees is to be the total investment in national development under the Ten Year Plan. Of this an equivalent of Rs. 855 million is required in the form of non-monetised capital to finance the Plan without causing further inflation in our economy. The national service scheme seeks to mobilise the self-help and voluntary efforts of the people as their contribution towards the successful implementation of the Plan.
- (b) *National Service Scheme to assist the Rural Development Movement.* Since the inauguration of the latter in 1948, the network of Rural Development and Women's Societies has provided Rs. 100 million of free labour on a self-help basis for works of public utility, such as the construction of schools, dispensaries, co-operative and community centre building, irrigation channels, pipe-borne water schemes, roads, wells and latrines.

Since 1952 the voluntary labour of students, teachers and other social workers was mobilised to supplement the self-help efforts of socially depressed and economically backward communities such as Rodyias and Veddahs. This was done under the Backward Communities Development Scheme through a series of Co-ordinated Work Camps conducted during week-ends and vacations by the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries.

Therefore, it is the spirit of self-help, community development and volunteer service engendered by the Rural Development and Work Camp movement that will be further stimulated under the national service scheme in order to achieve common objectives.

- (c) *National Service to be Voluntary rather than compulsory.* Although the terms of reference of the National Service Committee required the formulation of a scheme of compulsory service for youth in specified age groups, the committee has recommended an element of compulsion only in respect of school-going youth of 15 years and over and those attending institutions such as Universities, Training and Technical Colleges, etc.

This could hardly be regarded as compulsion when compared to the requirements of National Service in nearly all Western countries. In the latter, every youth belonging to a specified age group is required by law to sacrifice a period ranging from one to two years for national service with the Armed Forces. Even the National Service Committee of the Indian Government has recommended a period of one year of compulsory national service for all University students, four months of which period should be devoted to military training.

According to our scheme of National Service, students of 15 years and over will be required to perform only 3 weeks of national service each year till they leave school. This amounts to 9 weeks during the last 3 years of schooling. The service may be rendered during the term, week-ends and vacations, in periods not exceeding 7 days at a time.

Under-graduates, trainees at Technical and Training Colleges will be liable to one month of national service each year to qualify to sit for their respective final examinations.

- (d) *Integration of National Service with the Education System.* The proposed National Service Scheme in India has been regarded primarily as a measure of educational reform directed towards remedying existing deficiencies in the educational system. Since the present system of education in Ceylon is very similar to that of India, the following observations made in the report of the Indian National Service Committee apply to our system as well:—

"As has been discerned by educationalists, the present system is not fully attuned to the needs and aspirations of the independent contemporary India and has not been successful in developing the kind of attitudes which are required for the task of National reconstruction. By and large, students fail to cultivate a positive sense of discipline; also they are usually averse to manual labour; moreover they seem to lack a spirit of social service or a sense of social purpose and the idealism and enthusiasm which are usually associated with youth and which are of vital importance for a developing country like India have been singularly lacking. Apart from these deficiencies which are more of a social character, the present system does not stimulate that curiosity and love of scholarship which is the most valuable asset of an educated individual."

In order to correct some of the deficiencies inherent in our system of education, it is essential that the proposed

Scheme of National Service, which calls for a community approach, productive manual labour working with the peasantry, spirit of comradeship, self-discipline, etc., should form part of the curricula in all Educational Institutions.

- (e) *Co-ordination of the efforts of all Voluntary Agencies with those of Government.* Hitherto voluntary organisations have worked within isolated fields and areas, often with governmental assistance in the form of annual grants-in-aid. Under the National Service Scheme, a comprehensive programme covering all fields will be evolved on a nationwide basis, so as to ensure the maximum degree of co-ordination between the services of voluntary agencies and those of various Government Departments. This will obviate the duplication and overlap of services, and also benefit the voluntary organisations with a ready supply of National Service volunteers.

Recruitment

THE following sources will be available for the recruitment of National Service personnel:—

- (a) Schools.
- (b) Universities.
- (c) Training Colleges.
- (d) Technical Colleges.
- (e) Cadet Corps.
- (f) Scout and Guide Movements.
- (g) Armed Services.
- (h) Voluntary bodies and groups.
- (i) Rural Development, Co-operative and other Societies.
- (j) Government Departments.
- (k) Corporations.
- (l) Mercantile establishments.
- (m) General Public.

A recommendation has also been made by the Committee to grant 7 days of duty-leave to Government employees who wish to render national service. The provision of free transport to the work camps has also been recommended. Volunteers will be expected to bring only their dry rations. The necessary technical guidance and assistance will be available from the specialised departments or organisations responsible for implementing National Service Projects.

Projects

WORK to be undertaken under the National Service Scheme will be classified into:—

- (a) Local, village or community projects;
- (b) Divisional projects;
- (c) District projects;
- (d) National projects.

Projects will be selected from lists of priorities prepared after surveys of the felt needs of communities and areas. National Service Projects will be undertaken on the recommendations of the National Service Committee, and the specialised agencies concerned. The emphasis will be on economic development, while community development and social welfare projects will also be undertaken.

The following projects will be implemented under the national service scheme:—

- (a) Cultivation of subsidiary food crops,
- (b) Intensive cultivation of paddy (by weeding, transplanting and fertilisation),
- (c) Extensive cultivation (by clearing shrub and jungle and bringing new land under cultivation),
- (d) Cultivation of fruit trees,
- (e) Soil conservation,
- (f) Re-afforestation,
- (g) Restoration and de-silting of tanks,
- (h) Construction and clearing of irrigation channels,
- (i) Eradication of salvinia,
- (j) Reclamation of marshy lands,
- (k) Construction of roads, wells and latrines,
- (l) Construction of schools, community centres, co-operative buildings, dispensaries and hospitals,
- (m) Construction and maintenance of other public buildings,
- (n) Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped and the mentally and socially disabled,
- (o) Care of the destitute,
- (p) Emergency services during floods, epidemics, etc.

- (q) First Aid and Medical aid at public gatherings, festivals and ceremonies,
- (r) Information services during rush periods in post offices and other governmental institutions, and
- (s) Construction of roads leading to and maintenance of National Monuments of archaeological, historical and religious interest.

Organisation and Finance

IN order to ensure the maximum degree of co-ordination of all governmental activities and voluntary services at the highest level, the Scheme of National Service will be implemented by a Central Council of National Service, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister. Other members of the Council will be representatives of Government and voluntary organisations.

The Secretariat of the Council will be manned by officers specially selected for their integrity and devotion to service.

National Service Projects will be planned and implemented on an effectively decentralised basis. The initiative for these will be taken by a network of National Service Committees formed at local, divisional, district and regional levels. In addition to these, every school, institution, department, ministry, mercantile establishment, trade union, etc., will have its own national service committees which will enlist volunteers, collect foodstuffs, etc., arrange transport and camping facilities for teams of volunteers participating in national service projects. This will be done in co-ordination with Departments, Local Bodies and other organisations responsible for these projects.

Funds for national service projects will be drawn mainly from the existing votes of Government Departments. Savings effected by the use of voluntary labour on governmental projects budgeted to employ paid labour will help finance more projects year by year.

There is no doubt that people will give their active support to a National Movement in which they themselves would participate on a truly democratic basis. It would, therefore, be feasible to launch a National Service Fund to which every citizen could contribute in cash or kind. This Fund will augment the finances of Government for National Service Projects.

Training and Techniques

COURSES of orientation in the principles and techniques of work camps and national service will be conducted on an island-wide basis at training centres of various Departments and organisations. Student leaders, teachers, extension officers and members of national service committees who follow these courses will provide the trained leadership required to plan and implement work projects at the various levels.

During the last 14 years, the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries has gathered valuable knowledge and experience in working with people, and for people, in rural areas. Rural Development Societies have completed Public Utility projects, such as the construction of roads, schools, dispensaries, community centres, &c., on a self-help basis. The value of the free and voluntary labour provided by members of these Societies during this period has been estimated at Rs. 100 million.

Since 1952, this Department has developed the technique of Co-ordinated Camps in which voluntary labour is used to augment the self-help efforts of villagers, especially in Backward Communities such as Rodyias, Veddahs, &c.

The remarkable success of the co-ordinated work camp as a technique in Community Development is due to the utilisation and co-ordination of the resources and personnel of 3 agencies, viz.:—

- (a) *The State*—through various development and welfare Departments which provided funds, implements, transport and technical assistance.
- (b) *The Local Group or Community*—through its Rural Development or Co-operative Society, Young Farmers' Club or Community Centre which provided free labour on a self-help basis.
- (c) *Voluntary Organisations*—such as Community or Social Service Leagues, Welfare Societies, Trade Unions, Scout Troops, Guide Companies or any other student, youth or adult groups which provided free labour on a voluntary basis.

(To be continued)

Kovach Report on Tourism accepted with modifications

THE Kovach Report on Tourism of Ceylon has not been shelved but has been accepted by Government for implementation with modifications to suit present market trends.

Several recommendations in the Kovach Report have already been implemented; or are in the process of implementation with the funds available. Some examples are the reduction of frontier formalities to 2 cards—the E/D Card and the Customs Declaration

Form with oral declaration for Customs purposes; the establishment of a Statistical Unit for compilation of comprehensive tourist statistics; provision for establishing a Hotel School; market research as a pre-requisite for publicity; State aid to the hotel industry both in respect of food-stuffs and lower duties for modernisation; new tourist legislation for the better control and development of the tourist industry, including the registration of Travel Agencies and shops on the lines of successful legislation in force elsewhere; considerable reduction of losses on resthouses; measures to reduce the blackmarketing of tourist exchange; membership in the Pacific Area Travel Association; non-licensing of any further recruits to the present Guides Service; preliminary work on the development of tourist areas, such as Hikkaduwa, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa; the increase of rates at 3-star resthouses, and an attempt to lease out resthouses to the private industry. The Kovach report was written in 1959. Since then, developments in overseas travel have changed the patterns of traffic.

Three series of meetings of Committees of the Tourist Development Council had been held and a great deal of groundwork covered subject to the limitations of Financial provision.

The Tourist Development Council is advisory as in the case of the Tourist Development Councils of India and Japan. The recent ECAFE Conference on the promotion of tourism in South East Asia came to the conclusion that the three most important features of tourist organisation in the region should be—

- (a) co-ordination in the governmental frame-work at the highest level;
- (b) the high status of the tourist organisation to secure such co-ordination and support at the highest level;
- (c) administrative flexibility.

The ECAFE Conference felt that these would be best achieved if the tourist

organisation was placed under the direct control of the Prime Minister as in the case of many other countries. Administrative flexibility has been provided by relaxation of financial regulations without duplicating costs on administrative machinery. India, Greece and Japan took 7 to 8 years to emerge significantly into the international tourist market with the aid of Tourist Development Councils and research bodies.

Neither Switzerland nor Japan nor India have Tourist Boards but they have tourist departments, bureaux or national tourist offices advised by Tourist Development Councils.

NEWS REPORT WAS INCORRECT

A press communique issued by the Ministry of Education states:

A news report in the Times of Ceylon of February 14th, 1962, under the headline "Uniformity for Varsities" states that the Ministry of Education is considering the question of setting up a University Syndicate to award degree certificates and maintain uniform standards.

There is no such proposal for consideration by this Ministry and the report is incorrect.

NO ORDER TO STOP FREE BUN, MILK

A press communique issued by the Ministry of Education on February 15, states:

A report in today's "Daily Mirror" under the caption "Bunnis Mama perturbed over buns and milk issue" carries a statement by Mr. W. Dahanayake, M. P. for Galle stating that he is perturbed over the report that Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, Minister of Education wants to stop the free bun and milk issued to school children.

Mr. Dahanayake has no reason to be perturbed as no order has gone from this Ministry to stop the free bun and milk issued to school children.

NEW IRAQI GOVT. RECOGNISED

THE Hon. Prime Minister has sent the following message to His Excellency Colonel Abdul Salaam Aref, President of Iraq:—

"I am glad to inform you that the Government of Ceylon has with effect from today recognized your Government. I take this opportunity to send my best wishes for the success of your Government and the prosperity of the people of Iraq. My Government looks forward to close and friendly co-operation with your Government in the future."

More

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DRAW ON LAST TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

BUY A TICKET

AND WIN A PRIZE

LEAVE CONCESSIONS TO PUBLIC SERVANTS TO BE STANDARDISED

THE following is the text of a letter addressed to Trade Unions by the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury:—

"At present the leave privileges enjoyed by the different categories of Government servants are as follows:—

Category	Casual	Vaca-	Sick	Total
		tion		
		(in working days)		
Staff and subordinate officers	21..	24..	—	45
Monthly paid minor employees and daily paid employees	21..	—	14..	35
Teachers	21..	—	20..	41

Old-Entrant (i.e., those appointed prior to April 24, 1933), Staff and subordinate officers, get 36 days vacation leave, and Teachers 30 days sick leave. There are, however, only a very few old entrant officers left in service today.

"With a view to removing this discrimination and standardising and rationalising the leave concessions it has been proposed that all categories of Public Servants should in future be allowed a maximum of 30 working days' leave a year, to be termed "Annual Leave", on the lines indicated below:—

An employee will be eligible for leave only if he has attendance of not less than 150 days a year, and will earn one day's leave for every 5 days attendance in excess of 150 days in that year. This leave will be allowed in the subsequent year. Leave availed of on full pay in any year will be reckoned as service for the purpose of computing leave in the subsequent year.

There will be no distinction between casual, vacation and sick leave. This will also mean that commuted half-pay leave allowed to Civil List Officers will cease. The regulations regarding half-pay leave on account of illness will not be altered.

All employees will be permitted to accumulate the "Annual Leave" to cover sickness later on, or for a pilgrimage, or holiday abroad. The maximum permissible period for this on any one occasion will be limited to 150 working days provided such lapsed leave is available. In the case of protracted illness, lapsed leave will be allowed provided illness is certified by a Government Medical Officer (including ayurvedic doctors in Government Service).

"A new recruit to the Public Service will not be eligible for any leave in the first year of his service, but on grounds of illness medically certified he will be eligible for half-pay leave computed in terms of the half-pay leave regulations.

"At retirement, an employee will be entitled to the available accumulated "Annual Leave" up to a maximum of 60 working days.

The Minister of Finance will be glad to receive the considered views of your Union on the above proposals, as early as possible, and in any case not later than the 30th March, 1963.

Colonization Schemes around Digha Vapi Chaitiya

A deputation consisting of Sir Lalitha Rajapakse, Messrs. H. L. Caldera, P. C. Perera and N. S. de S. Wickremasingha representing the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress, and Messrs. K. S. Sudasinha and K. Indravansa representing the Digahamadulla Buddha Sangamaya, interviewed the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power on the subject of Colonization schemes around Digha Vapi Chaitiya on 21.12.62. They stated that the Digha Vapi Chaitiya, which was one of the most sacred places of worship of Buddhist in Ceylon, was situated in a non-Buddhist area and that the G. O. D. B.'s proposal to settle only 2 colonies of the 27 new ones with Buddhists was not sufficient to safeguard the interests of the Temple. They urged that the major portion of the new colonies be allocated to Sinhala Buddhist families so that this most venerated Temple will be protected and a Buddhist atmosphere created in the area around it.

2. The Hon. Minister said that it was not correct that there were 27 new colonies available. In actual fact there were only 2 colonies in which crown-jungle land was available for alienation. The total extent of land provided with irrigation in the Gal Oya Right Bank area was 45,781 acres but of this acreage the following extents are not available for alienation for reasons given below:—

	Acres
(a) Private paddy fields	15,500
(b) Sugar estate (Government)	11,300

	Acres
(c) Private lands rendered irrigable and not available for alienation	6,977
(d) Manawari Permit Holders (Rain fed paddy)	7,650
(e) L. D. O. Allottees	1,050
(f) Digha Vapi Temple (settled)	550
(g) Village Expansion and land given in exchange for private land acquired for Sugar Estates and Reservations	1,874
Total	44,631

The balance land available for alienation was only 1,150 acres, (viz. 45,781 minus 44,631 acres) and this balance land comprised colonies Nos. 1 and 2 which were reserved for alienation to Gal Oya Development Board employees who are predominantly Buddhists, as the programme of work of the G. O. D. B. will be completed soon.

3. The representatives of the Congress then made two alternative suggestions which they considered would lead to the results desired by them, viz.

- (a) that large extents in the vicinity of the Temple being held by Manawari permit holders, the holdings of such persons in excess of a certain limit per individual might be taken over for alienation to Buddhists;
- (b) that an extent of about 2,000 acres of private paddy lands

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ALIENATION OF LAND TO NON-NATIONALS TO BE UNDER CONTROL

THE Cabinet approved legislation to control the alienation of land to non-citizens of Ceylon.

The salient features of this Bill are:—

(a) no land can be sold, gifted, or leased for a period exceeding 5 years, to a non-citizen or to anybody, corporate or unincorporate, other than a public corporation, except on a permit, unless—

- (i) such person or body has invested foreign capital in Ceylon with the approval of the Government;
- (ii) such person or body had taken a mortgage of the land prior to the commencement of the Act, and the land is sold to him in execution of a decree of Court to enforce the mortgage;
- (iii) the land is sold to an approved credit agency, to which the land had been mortgaged as security for a loan;
- (iv) the land is devised or gifted to a person, who would have been the heir to the land, had the owner died intestate;
- (v) the land devolves on a person under the law of intestate succession; and
- (vi) the land is leased in terms of a lease agreement, which existed at least one year prior to the commencement of the Act.

In this context land includes a building.

(b) the Land Commissioner may issue—

- (i) a general permit to a company, if the nominal value of the shares in the company held by citizens of Ceylon is not less than 75 per cent. of the issued share capital, or if at least 75 per cent. of the members of the company are citizens of Ceylon, or if the land is to be used for a prescribed purpose;
- (ii) a general permit to any body, other than a company, if the business carried on by that body is owned and managed solely by citizens of Ceylon, or if the land is to be used for a prescribed purpose; and

(iii) a special permit to a non-citizen, if the land is to be used for a prescribed purpose.

The Land Commissioner may issue, or refuse to issue, a permit in his absolute discretion, and an aggrieved person has a right of appeal to the Minister. The decision of the Minister is final.

(c) A general permit, granted to a company, is valid as long as the nominal value of the shares held by citizens of Ceylon is not less than 75 per cent. of the issued share capital, or as long as not less than 75 per cent. of the members of that company are citizens of Ceylon. A general permit issued to a body, other than a com-

pany, is valid so long as the business carried on by that body is owned and managed by citizens of Ceylon.

(d) Land, which is alienated on a permit, can be utilized only for the purpose specified in the permit.

(e) No shareholder in a company, which has purchased land on a general permit, can sell his shares to a non-citizen.

(f) If it appears to the Land Commissioner that land has been alienated contrary to the provisions of the Act, or that the land has been utilized for a purpose, other than that specified in the permit, he will hold an inquiry. If, in the course of this inquiry, a question arises whether a person is a citizen of Ceylon or not, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, will be required to issue a certificate whether that person is a citizen of Ceylon or not. If the Land Commissioner determines that the land has been alienated contrary to the provisions of the Act or that the land has been utilized for

the purpose other than that specified in the permit, he will make a report to his Minister, who will publish an Order vesting the land in the Crown. No compensation is payable by the Crown in respect of any land, which is vested in the Crown under the provisions of this Act.

(g) No citizen of Ceylon or a body corporate or unincorporate is allowed to create a trust in favour of a non-citizen or in favour of any Company.

(h) (i) a notary, who executes a deed by which land is alienated contrary to the provisions of the Act, is liable to a fine between Rs. 250 and Rs. 1,000.

(ii) A person, who furnishes a false return, is liable to a fine between Rs. 250 and Rs. 1,000.

(iii) A shareholder in a company, which has purchased land on a general permit, is liable to a fine equivalent to the sum, which he realized by the sale of the shares, if he sells his shares to a non-citizen.

The provisions of the Bill if passed into law will be operative from the 21st of February, 1963.

Need for redoubling agricultural production stressed

tion of the Members of the Committee the following items of importance needing attention.

Village surveys

The expeditious and careful completion of the basic village surveys which have been undertaken at the instance of the Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs as a necessary prerequisite, for basing realistic Programmes of Development. The work on this has already begun, each Government Agent should give his attention to the measures necessary for assisting the Department of Census and Statistics and the Ministry of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs to carry out this work.

The imperative need for maximizing the production of food in each District—the potential available in Home Gardens, School Gardens and minor irrigation and drainage projects. The latter is one of the Projects now awaiting submission to the World Food Program, which also forms one major aspect of the main campaign under the F. A. O.

Unemployment

The problem of unemployment. It had been sufficiently well established that relief of unemployment, on any appreciable scale, must, for many years to come, depend on agricultural rather than industrial development. In consideration of this, the Cabinet, at the instance of the Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power had approved the alienation of lands not capable of development by peasants, to middle class and capitalist groups. The speedy and planned alienation of these lands to each group should go for in developing lands which otherwise would remain unutilized. This would help to raise the National Income and give employment to large numbers of people. Along with this the alienation of land to peasants should be carried on with redoubled effort.

Active measures should be taken to eliminate, or at least minimize the degree of under-employment in rural areas, by the provision of facilities for cottage industries and local sources of employment.

National service

In the realm of national action projects the need was to stimulate to the maximum the degree of self-help and voluntary work which can be put to fruitful use all over the country. In this connection the Government had now introduced in Parliament a National Service Bill which would provide for a Central Organization to encourage in every way possible self-help and volunteer work, and even to some degree (in schools and institutions of that nature), compulsory service in Projects of National Development.

She further said, "in the National Freedom From Hunger Campaign Committee we have an organisation which would still further help to sustain at the highest peak the national effort in agricultural development.

"It is well-known that, all over the world, millions of human beings still go hungry while many millions more live on diets which are inadequate to enable them to fulfil their potential as human beings," said the Governor-General, Mr. William Gopallawa, in his address at the meeting of the Ceylon National Committee of the F. A. O. Freedom from Hunger Campaign, at the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board Hall on Monday.

He said that with the great advances made in recent years in the science of agriculture and the production and preservation of food, there was now sufficient knowledge to enable the provision of an adequate diet for all peoples of the world.

He said that the Freedom from Hunger Campaign had as its chief objective the promotion of a better understanding of the problem of providing adequate food for the population of the world and for bridging the gap between the supply of food and the minimum requirements.

It had now been realised for the first time that that a basic human problem, such as the elimination of hunger, could not be solved by means hitherto adopted such as the grant of charity or by means of social service of a conventional kind but that a concerted effort both at the national as well as the international level was necessary.

It was clear to all today that humanity would not reach its full stature so long as even one of its members had to go hungry.

Spectre of hunger

Although Ceylon had no problem of starvation as such, the proportion of under-nourished and malnourished people in our population was still high. The spectre of hunger was being kept at bay only with much difficulty and much strain on the economy. A great proportion of the national income was consumed in the import of foodstuffs.

The Freedom from Hunger Campaign therefore commended itself because it dealt with the fundamental need of human being—wholesome food: It emphasised on a widespread popular understanding of the problems connected with food and agriculture and, because it aimed at bringing about the close participation of governmental and voluntary effort in dealing with that work.

National urgency

"In recent years," he said, and particularly within the last few months, a deeper sense of national urgency and a heightened awareness of the need for re-doubling our effort in agricultural development and production have begun to emerge. There is evidence that this awareness has already produced fruitful results.

"The Freedom from Hunger Campaign in Ceylon, based as it is on the stimulation of our peoples native powers, on the development of our country's resources, and on the firm backing of the other peoples of the world through the Food and Agricultural Organisation, can be one of the most effective means of sustaining our

country's resurgent efforts to create conditions in which wholesome and adequate food, man's primary need, will be brought within the reach of all our people."

'Living beyond our income'

The Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, said that Ceylon had one of the highest rates of population growth in the world; a comparatively low cost of living maintained by government subsidies, social services, security, and incentive schemes which were among the highest in the world. On the other hand our levels of productivity were still low, and our national earnings tended to be in grave danger of being overtaken by national commitments.

"In other words," she said, "we are in danger of lapsing into a situation where we shall find ourselves living beyond our income. And this, no nation, just as no individual could afford very long to do" she said.

Mrs. Bandaranaike further said that the principal emphasis of the campaign was the creation of a universal climate of intelligent appreciation and informed understanding of all the problems connected with food and agriculture. It also aimed at stimulating and developing local initiative and national self-reliance and also associating in the campaign not only government departments but all other organisations, groups and individuals.

Valuable forum

Such association, she said, would not merely have a salutary influence on bureaucratic tendencies, but also provide an increasingly valuable forum for the expression of opinions from all sectors of the people, and progressively broaden the basis of the concrete action necessary to solve our problems.

She said that she was happy to observe the participation of all the G. As because it would be on them that a large share of the responsibility would lay to ensure that the campaign is carried to every village and individual in the country.

"It has been an unfortunate aspect of our administration," she said, "that many of the development and extension programmes of the Government have not percolated through to the people for whom they are intended. On the other hand is the defect that people's participation in the formulation and execution of programmes has been lacking. These are shortcomings which the government and the Campaign must in future expect to remedy mainly through the initiative and enterprise of individual Government Agents."

She then said that she would like to underline for the urgent considera-

COLONIZATION

(Continued from page 3)

forming a corridor from Amparai to Digba Vapi the owners of which were wealthy persons with land elsewhere in the District, might be acquired for alienation to Buddhists.

The Hon. Minister said that the proposal to acquire private lands involved serious difficulties both in regard to policy as well as cost. With regard to the first alternative he said that in 1956 he had caused a survey to be made of lands held by Manawari permit holders on the Right Bank area, and this provided a suitable basis on which to review Manawari permit holdings. The Minister said that he had stopped further alienation of crown land on the Right Bank in 1957 after that survey. He stated that all encroachments after this survey will be taken over. After further discussion it was agreed that the Chairman, Gal Oya Development Board, should investigate all Manawari permit holdings and report full particulars regarding the permit holders, such as, place of residence, occupation, family, private land owned etc. to enable the Hon. Minister to consider the possibility of making adjustments in these holdings. The Chairman was directed to start investigations in colonies Nos. 5, 10 and 11 and the areas around Digba Vapi. It was understood that these investigations would take about two months.

4. It was agreed that the Congress would meet the Hon. Minister after the results of the investigations are known and that no L. D. O. permits should be issued in place of Manawari Permits before discussion with the Congress.