

SRI LANKA



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NATION BUILDING DEMANDS THE BEST AT ALL TIMES

WORK WITH A SENSE OF DEDICATION

Labour Minister's appeal on May Day

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARKETING OF LANKA OIL

THE first anniversary of the marketing of petroleum products by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation was celebrated on Sunday, April 28th.

The celebrations got under way with the unfurling of the terminal flags by two Assistant Terminal Superintendents at the Corporation's installations at Kolonnawa.

The highlight of the celebrations was a huge motorcade carrying paintings depicting the "Story of Oil". Nearly 50 oil bowsters, lorries, cars and push cycles comprised the motorcade which covered a 26-mile route ending at the terminal three-and-a-half hours later.

(See also Page 2)

CEYLON CIVIL SERVICE IS ABOLISHED

New Administrative Service set up

THE Ceylon Civil Service, established in 1789, has been abolished. The operative date, according to a Government Gazette Extraordinary issued on April 27, is May 1st.

The top thousand in Ceylon's Public Service will now be members of the Ceylon Administrative Service.

The Administrative Service minute, published by the P. S. C., divides the total cadre into five classes with two Grades in the lowest Class V.

The Civil Service examination will be replaced by another examination conducted by the P.S.C. but only 75 per cent of the vacancies in Class V,

Grade I will be filled in the results of this test.

The minimum academic qualification remains a degree from a recognised University but the age limit has been altered from 24 to 26.

Women will have a place in the new Administrative Service but only 20 per cent of the vacancies each year will be filled by them.

CEYLON with the rest of the world, celebrated May Day yesterday. In Colombo and the outstations, pageants, demonstrations, marchpasts and public meetings were held to commemorate the occasion.

In the traditional May Day message which was broadcast over Radio Ceylon, the Minister of Labour and Nationalised Services, Mr. M. P. de Z. Siriwardena, said that nation building demands the best at all times. A Government can guide, direct, set the goals and work towards these objectives, but for real achievement the people must work with willing hands and a sense of dedication because they labour not only for their own well-being but also for posterity.

The following is the full text of his broadcast:—

"The unity of the words 'Peace, Labour and Solidarity', is regarded by workers as the essence of May Day which Ceylon, with the rest of the world, celebrates as a holiday for Labour. In thus honouring the working people and the contribution they have made to economic and social progress we must not lose sight of the fact that Peoples and Governments are constantly waging a relentless struggle against world poverty, hunger and disease and that May 1st is a holiday on the road to new accomplishments.

"In the course of the historical evolution of the labour movement, workers have achieved significant advantages. These have included the right to organise and to bargain collectively, to resort to economic pressures through strikes and to use the collective power of organised labour to increase the political status of the individual. The acquisition of these rights has also brought with it obligations—To recognise the rights of management, to negotiate with self-restraint in order to promote the ends

of justice and above all to act with a sense of responsibility to society as a whole.

"Our Government is committed to a policy of Democratic Socialism and it is the Evolutionary character of this process, in accord with the tradition, culture and democratic concepts of our people, that ensures its success in this country. There are a few unrealistic who demand a breakneck pace of implementation of the Government's socialist policy. Those who succumb to unreality only play into the hands of the enemies of progress who know for certainty that it is the very steadfastness and gradualness of our socialist objectives which can succeed, and not the quick and drastic methods which will only lead to what they hope for—the crash of the chariot of Socialism into an abyss of reaction, the end of our existence as a free community and a return to conditions alien to our national aspirations.

"Nation building demands the best at all times. A Government can guide, direct, set the goals and work towards those objectives, but for real achievement the people must work with willing hands and a sense of dedication because they labour not only for their own well-being but also for posterity. It is my fervent hope that from now, and henceforth, all sections of the people will co-operate to the fullest extent with the Government, and that a spirit of real service to the community will dominate our efforts and a sense of responsibility to the nation permeate our every action."

Polio rehabilitation measures to be intensified

WITH a view to intensifying the assistance that is being given to the victims of the recent Poliomyelitis Epidemic and with a view to expanding the rehabilitation measures that are being carried out in Colombo and at other Provincial Centres where the concentration of cases was highest, the Minister of Health held a conference recently with his Permanent Secretary and officials of the Department of Health Services concerned with this work. It was decided, in the first instance, to augment the existing clinics at the Children's Hospital, Colombo.

The arrangements decided upon were to conduct Poliomyelitis Rehabilitation clinics on the following days:—

	From	To
Tuesday	9 a.m.	12 noon
Thursday	9 a.m.	12 noon
Friday	2 p.m.	4 p.m.

These clinics will be conducted by the Orthopaedic Surgeons. Physical Medicine clinics will also be run concurrently.

It was also decided to increase the bed strength for severely paralysed patients, so that, in all, 150 patients could be accommodated, this being the estimated number that require intensive specialised treatment in hospital. Action is being taken to make available the necessary medical and paramedical staff required for this additional work. In view of the inadequacy of Physiotherapists it was decided to obtain W. H. O. assistance for 5 Physiotherapists experienced in rehabilitation work, and also to increase the intake of students to the school of

Physiotherapy, so that some experienced Physiotherapists could be released for rehabilitation work.

In order to cope with the increased demand for appliances it was decided to explore possibilities of increasing the output of appliances locally, and also to seek the assistance of the World Rehabilitation Fund.

A survey is being carried out with a view to ascertaining from the Provincial Centres what further assistance was required to intensify their work. When the position is known, augmentation measures will be taken at the Provincial Centres accordingly.

In view of the fact that the disabilities resulting from paralysis can be removed or mitigated to a large extent by early and persistent treatment, parents are advised to bring their children to these clinics where proper advice and follow up will be ensured.

Further particulars may be obtained from Dr. A. D. P. Goonewardene, of the Lady Ridgeway Hospital.

EFFICIENCY DRIVE AT AGRICULTURE MINISTRY

THE Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva, has decided to hold a two-day Seminar to discuss measures regarding economy, prevention of waste, improvement of performances, measures for improving administrative efficiency, etc., for the benefit of the Departments and Corporations under the Ministry.

The Seminar will be held at the Irrigation Department Headquarters at Bullers Road, Colombo, on Friday the 10th and Saturday the 11th of May, 1963, commencing at 9.30 a.m. each day.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power has asked all Heads of Departments and their Deputies, Chairmen of Boards and Corporations under the Ministry, and Members of Standing Committees appointed under the Ministry to attend this Seminar.

The Ministry is now drawing up a comprehensive agenda on various subjects for discussion at this Seminar.

PLANT SALES ROOM OPENED

THE Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva, declared open the Plant Sales Room of the Department of Agriculture at Edinburgh Crescent, Colombo, on April 25th. The Minister, in his address stressed the importance of providing the agriculturalists with seed material in time, which service the sales room will render. The Minister expressed his hope that there will be more and more vegetable saplings and seed material than flower plants. He also complimented the Kotte Multipurpose Co-operative Society for the initiative they had taken in this project.

The Minister declared open the Plant Sales Room by lighting the traditional oil lamp. With the opening of this Sales Centre the public will be able to purchase their requirements of seed material, seedlings, grafted and potted plants over the counter. This centre will also accept bookings for seed material not already available. Cuttings of yams will also be available at the centre from mid-May. As a side line, it will undertake bookings for Anthuriums, Orchids and many exotic flower plants. It is hoped that this Sales Room will extend a hand towards the Grow More Food Drive and also help the garden cultivation in Colombo.

First anniversary of marketing of Lanka Oil

ANOTHER VICTORY IN STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

THE establishment of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation was one of the most important steps our Government took in carrying out the policy of the late Premier, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, of achieving economic independence for the people of this country. It is recognised practically in all the under-developed countries of Asia, Africa and South America that institutional changes are a necessary prerequisite of economic development. In our struggle for economic emancipation certain institutional changes which upset the status quo therefore become inevitable. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation together with the Insurance Corporation, the Peoples' Bank, Nationalised Bank of Ceylon, the Shipping Corporation and State Industrial Corporations are the victories we have achieved in this struggle.

By Mr. T. B. ILANGARATNE

Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping

I am proud to state that in the first year of operations the Corporation has more than justified its existence. Apart from obtaining supplies from the cheapest source the Corporation has also helped to diversify our export import trade, and thereby help to extend the foreign policy of non-alignment and neutralism to the field of trade and commerce. At a time when the country's production of export crops is increasing rapidly and the traditional markets for them are shrinking the operations of the Corporation has enabled the country to find new outlets for these products.

In the first year of operations during 1961 it is estimated to have made a nett profit of Rs. 7½ million. The Corporation has also saved the country a substantial amount of foreign exchange by importing petroleum products at c.i.f. prices lower than those of private petroleum companies. The competition provided by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to

the private companies has also resulted in lower prices to the consumer.

The Petroleum Corporation imports petroleum products not only from the Soviet Union and the United Arab Republic but also from the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In fact the Corporation's entire requirements of lubricating oils and greases are being imported from the U. S. A. and the U. K. The criticism that our Government is attempting to divert the country's trade entirely to the socialist world is without any foundation as even in 1962 the country imported only 8 per cent of its total imports from such countries.

The success of the Corporation has been entirely due to the good work done by all persons connected with the institution and I hope that during the coming period when the Corporation may be called upon to discharge more onerous functions it will continue to serve the nation well.

Prime Minister,
Ceylon

Colombo, 9th April, 1963.

IT gives me great pleasure to contribute a Message on this, the first anniversary of the marketing of petroleum products by the Lanka Petroleum Corporation.

The setting up of the Corporation, I feel, was an historic decision and this was taken solely because it was the Government's intention to diversify our markets to avoid, as far as possible, dependence on a single source of supply for strategic goods and to buy our commodities from the cheapest possible source. That this decision was the correct one is evidenced by the large profits made by this Corporation in its very first year of operation.

It is gratifying to note that the Corporation has achieved so much progress within so short a period of time. I am also aware that the Corporation has laid out plans for its further development and the proposed Petroleum Refinery is, to me, a step in the right



direction. I congratulate the Corporation on its achievements and take this opportunity of wishing its future endeavours every success.

(Sgd.) Sirimavo R. D.
Bandaranaike,
Prime Minister.

1,000 ACRES RENDERED CULTIVABLE

THE Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva, on April 24th inspected measures taken at Attidiya to cultivate over 1,000 acres of paddy land hitherto left uncultivated due to heavy water logging and salvinia infestation.

The Minister was accompanied by the M.P. for Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and high officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and departmental officials.

The Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Services and Irrigation have taken action to eradicate salvinia and open out the drainage channels. Consequently the majority of these fields have now been rendered cultivable.

The cultivation of 400 acres of this land for Yala 1963 has already commenced and steps have now been taken to cultivate the remaining extent for the next cultivation season which commences by about August 1963.

At a conference later with the cultivation committees of the area which was also attended by the M.P. for Kesbawa, Mr. S. Chandrasiri, the Minister said that owners of the paddy lands should start making preparations to cultivate their lands within the next three months. Failure to do so would result in Government having to take action under the Paddy Lands Act to have their fields cultivated by tenant or *ande* cultivators.

The Minister also said that in view of the situation faced by the country it was absolutely imperative that every inch of cultivable land be cultivated and production stepped up. The Minister added that water logged land all over the country would soon have the irrigation channels cleared and weeds eradicated to enable recultivation.

Kaolin Refinery completed

WORK on the Kaolin Refinery of the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation at Boralasgamuwa has been completed.

The refinery, which has cost about Rs. 3 million, will produce Kaolin that would be used in ceramics manufacture in the textile and paper industries and in the manufacture of insecticidal dust. The Corporation also hopes to establish a satisfactory export trade as the refinery will be producing a first grade type of Kaolin, which should be in demand abroad.

Anti-Polio drive: teachers to help

THE Director of Education, Mr. S. F. de Silva has instructed all Principals and Headmasters of schools to see that teachers and senior students organised and supervised the vaccination of school children during the national Polio immunization campaign which will begin next month.

As most of the vaccination centres will be schools, the Director has asked Principals and Headmasters to encourage the teachers and students to be active participants in the national effort to rid the country of Polio.

Representations invited

THE Committee appointed by the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, to examine the question of new traders entering the import trade in the context of the Government's Import Control and Ceylonization of Trade policy has decided to entertain representations on the subject from the general public and interested organizations.

The general public and industrial organizations have been requested to make such representations in writing to the Secretary to the Committee, Commerce Department, Colombo, before May 6th.

More for your money

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

SWEEP

210 PRIZES

EACH MONTH

Draws held Fortnightly beginning

from 14th February, 1963

BUY A TICKET AND WIN A PRIZE

National Polio immunization campaign

THE Director of Health Services has made arrangements to organise an Island-wide Polio Immunization Campaign in the middle of May, 1963, in order to protect the children of this country from the dreaded disease, Polio. The primary objective of this national campaign is to eradicate the disease from the Island. The children to be vaccinated will be in the age group of 3 months to 8 years as it was found during the last epidemic that over 90 per cent of those affected were in this age group.

The Director of Health Services has pointed out that for the campaign to be successful it is necessary that vaccination should be undertaken simultaneously all over the Island. There will be two rounds in this programme—the first dose, which will be given in mid May and the second dose which will be given 6-8 weeks after the first dose. An important feature of this National Campaign is that volunteers will be utilised to make lists of all children within the susceptible age group (3 months to 8 years) and organise Immunization Centres and will actually administer the vaccine in these Centres.

Benefits enjoyed by workers

AN amendment to the Ordinance extending the actionable period under the Ordinance from two years to four years became law on 17.6.62. This amendment will make it possible for the recovery of underpaid wages for the previous four years instead of two years, but legal proceedings taking full advantage of this amendment can be instituted only after 17th June, 1964.

The Wages Boards for the Coir Mattress and Bristle Fibre Export and the Ice and Aerated Waters Manufacturing Trades made decisions pertaining to minimum rates of wages, overtime rates and holidays, which were brought into effect on 1st July, 1962, and 1st March, 1963, respectively. Subsequent to the publication of the last booklet (in the year 1962) a new Wages Board, viz., for the Spinning, Weaving and Garments Manufacturing (including Hosiery Manufacturing) trade was established on May 1, 1962. A proposal to scrap this Board and set up two separate Boards for Hosiery Manufacturing and Garments Manufacturing Trades is under consideration. The total number of Wages Boards now stands at 23. Preliminary steps have also been taken to establish a Wages Board for the Tobacco Trade (which includes the growing, curing and marketing of all kinds of tobacco including cigarette tobacco) with a view to regulating the terms and conditions of employment of workers in that trade.

The Hon. Minister having decided to amend the task classification of the Wages Board for the Motor Transport Trade in order to bring in certain new categories of workers under the Wages Board for that trade, a notification calling for objections to the proposal was gazetted in September, 1962. As we go to print, action to give legal effect to the proposals was being taken.

A similar question in regard to the Wages Board for the Toddy, Arrack and Vinegar Trade is now under consideration by this Department.

At the conclusion of an inquiry by the Wages Board for the Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade (under Section 16 of the Wages Boards Ordinance) the Board decided against a proposal to amend the definition of the word "tapper" by the exclusion of certain functions which according to the existing definition are part of the functions of a tapper.

A meeting of the Wages Board for the Toddy, Arrack and Vinegar Trade was convened to discuss certain motions to increase minimum rates of wages for workers in the trade. The Board decided that before a decision was made reports on the proposals should be obtained from the Excise Commissioner and the Director of National Planning.

The Wages Board for the Cinnamon Trade made certain tentative decisions for an increase in the piece rate for cinnamon peeling and objections to these decisions have now been called for.

The fixation of a minimum rate of wages for conductors in coconut estates is the subject of a motion before the Wages Board for the Coconut Growing Trade and the Board has decided that information relating to the rates of salaries now paid to conductors in plantations of varying sizes which would throw light on the existing wage structure should be obtained in the first instance.

A meeting of the Wages Board for the Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade considered, among other matters, a motion that watchers should not be governed by the provisions relating to a normal working day and that no weekly holiday be granted to creche attendants, conservancy and scavenging labourers. The Board after discussion agreed to defer consideration of the motion so that members could make a careful study of the full implications of the proposals.

The Wages Board for the Engineering Trade is considering at the moment certain proposals to revise the grading of caulkers and a motion granting seven public holidays to the workers in the Brick and Tile Manufacturing Trade is awaiting consideration by the Wages Board for that trade.

The Shop and Office Employees Act

An amending Act which would make possible the institution of legal proceedings for the recovery of short payments of wages, overtime pay and other payments due over a period of

four years instead of two years became law on 16th June, 1962. It will, however, be possible to institute legal proceedings for recovery of dues under this Act on and after 17th June, 1964, only.

Although the closing hours for shops situated in the Kollupitiya, Bambalapitiya and Wellawatta Wards of the Municipality of Colombo were changed in order to facilitate shopping for the residents of the main residential areas of Colombo, in response to the strong pleas made by the shop owners and employees within the Kollupitiya Ward, action is being taken to re-introduce the closing hours which were applicable to shops in this Ward before the amendment was made.

With the creation of the New Town of Anuradhapura the Closing Order applicable to the shops situated within the former administrative limits of the Urban Council of Anuradhapura ceased to be operative and the shop employees in this area lost the benefits that accrue from the operation of a Closing Order. In order to rectify this situation action is now being taken to amend the Closing Order so that it may be applicable to the area in the New Town in which shops are situated.

The Closing Order applicable to the shops within the administrative limits of Tangalla-Beliatta Urban Council area also ceased to be operative on its separation into the two administrative areas of the Tangalla Urban Council and the Beliatta Town Council. Action is now being taken to amend the Closing Order in order that it may be enforced in the Tangalla U. C. area only.

In response to a request made by the Urban Council, Ja-ela, action is being taken to alter the closing hours applicable to shops within the limits of that Urban Council.

Action is also being taken to amend the Closing Order to enforce on the hair-dressing saloons, laundries, dry cleaners' shops and dyers' shops within the Matale U. C. area closing hours which are different from those prevalent at present.

Amenities to Employees in Shops and Offices

A slight improvement is noticeable as regards provision of lunch room facilities and lighting and ventilation. The relevant figures are given below in respect of 4,803 shops and 267 offices which were inspected:

No. of establishments where—	Shops Offices	
(a) adequate washing facilities are provided	3,736	278
(b) adequate sanitary facilities are provided	3,843	297
(c) adequate lunch room facilities are provided	3,570	156
(d) adequate lighting and ventilation are provided	4,144	296

Public Holidays

As in the previous year the number of public holidays for employees covered by the Shop and Office Employees Act was raised from 7 to 9. The 6th June, 1963, being Poson Full Moon Day, and 26th September, 1963, being Bandaranaike Commemoration Day, were declared additional holidays and notified in the Government Gazette.

Maternity Benefits

An amendment to the principal Ordinance was passed by Parliament and became law on June 15, 1962. Some of the provisions of the amending Act are based on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Labour Legislation. Two important features of the amending Act are the provision whereby employers employing a prescribed number of workers will be compelled by law to provide creches for use by working mothers and also the compulsory provision of nursing intervals during working hours for working mothers. The amendment also has introduced a new feature in regard to the number of days that a worker should work in the year to qualify herself for maternity benefits. Hitherto in computing the number of days worked, only the days actually worked were taken into account. The amendment has now made it obligatory for employers to count certain other notional working days too, on the lines of the computation of annual holidays in respect of workers to whom the Wages Board decisions apply.

A further amendment to the Ordinance which seeks to amend the definition of the term "confinement" used in the Ordinance in order to explain its meaning more precisely was approved by the Cabinet and is being referred to the Legal Draftsman.

A regulation made by the Honourable Minister of Labour and Nationalised Services amending the existing regulations was passed in Parliament and was gazetted in November, 1962. This regulation sought to extend the coverage of the Ordinance to workers in the Engineering and the Building establishments who were hitherto deprived of the benefits of the Ordinance.

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act

In a few instances the employment of children under 12 years was reported to the Department during the year and suitable action was taken in each case although no prosecutions were launched.

Establishment of a National Wage Council

On 18.12.58 the Government appointed a Commission to examine the existing wage and salary structure in the private sector and public corporations and to make recommendations in regard to a national wage policy and cognate questions.

The purpose of a National Wage Policy is:

- to formulate certain principles or rules of wage determination; and
- to prescribe and enjoin procedures and measures for the effective application in practice of these principles or rules.

This would enable the realisation of a minimum and equitable return both to wage earners and employers, while at the same time assisting in the common task of promoting national economic development. In other words it is aimed at realising the basic objective of social justice and rapid economic development. These objectives are to be achieved through the setting up of a National Wage Council which is the chief recommendation made by the Commission. It will be empowered to examine among other things, wage increases, consumption levels, supply of skills and incentives to higher productivity through better performance. It will, therefore, play an important part in the shaping and implementation of the country's wage policy, for which purpose it will maintain full intelligence in regard to wage development and matters incidental to it throughout the entire economy.

The report of the Commission was presented to the Governor-General on 27.1.61. Action is being taken by this Department to set up such a Council.

Employees' Provident Fund Schemes

The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, being the major Social Security Scheme, has been in operation for the last three and a half years and its extension to almost all employments other than employment in the domestic service is noteworthy.

The Monetary Board of the Central Bank is responsible for the receipt of moneys due to the Fund, payment of benefits as certified by the Department of Labour, and accounting and the investment of moneys; while the Department of Labour registers the employers in covered employments, maintains the personal records of members of the Fund and determines the benefits to be paid and generally enforces the Act.

By the end of the year 1962, 10 Orders were made by the Hon'ble Minister. About 19,100 employers employing approximately 918,570 employees had been registered as contributors to the Fund.

Up to the end of 1962 contributions collected amounted to Rs. 181,478,547.41. These moneys are being invested and the total investments so far amount to Rs. 184,674,668.09 including income from investments.

Up to the end of 1962, 3,102 claims for benefits under the Act had been disposed. A sum of Rs. 752,978.22 was paid out on these claims. So far there has been only one appeal to the Tribunal of Appeal set up under the Act.

Under Section 27 of the Act there is provision for the approval of the provident funds and pension schemes established before the date of the Act.

By the end of 1962, 217 such funds had been approved while approval was refused in the case of 85 funds. Balance sheets forwarded so far indicate that the total amount lying to the credit of these funds up to the end of 1962 is Rs. 214,976,908.66.

Labour Tribunals under the Industrial Disputes Act

Six Labour Tribunals are functioning now, four in Colombo, one at Kandy and one at Galle. The establishment of Labour Tribunals, in the out-station has afforded immense relief to the disputants in that the necessity to travel to Colombo has been obviated.

During the period from May 1, 1962 to February 28, 1963, 5,561 applications for relief or redress were received by the Labour Tribunals. The number of applications disposed of during the former period is 4,429. Labour Tribunals ordered the recovery of Rs. 412,748.34 from employers against whom relief or redress was sought by employees during the period.

Employment Service

Employment Exchanges

The Employment Exchange Service was further expanded during the year by up-grading the Registration Centre at Nuwara Eliya to the status of a Branch Employment Exchange and by opening 4 new Registration Centres at Kotmale, Samanabedda, Elpitiya and Kantalai.

Altogether 23 Employment Exchanges and 33 Registration Centres are now functioning at the following places:—

Employment Exchanges.—Colombo, Badulla, Kalmunai, Haputale, Batticaloa, Galle, Matara, Avissawella, Nawalapitiya, Kalutara, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Ratnapura, Kandy, Kurunegala, Negombo, Kegalla, Vavuniya, Matale, Chilaw, Hatton and Nuwara Eliya.

Registration Centres.—Homagama, Malupitiya, Matugama, Point Pedro, Mullativu, Mannar, Rakwana, Beli-atte, Polonnaruwa, Veyangoda, Mihirigama, Hambantota, Gampola, Horana, Galagedera, Naula, Galaha, Nildandahinna, Kilinochchi, Aturugiriya, Kayts, Amparai, Valachchenai, Kaluwanchikudi, Bible, Makiyangana, Buttala, Bintenna Pattu, Kotmale, Samanabedda, Elpitiya, Kantalai, Monaragala.

It has been Government Departments which have mainly resorted to recruitment through the Employment Exchange. However state-sponsored Corporations have also begun to realise the advantages of meeting of Employment Exchanges for recruiting their requirements of labour and quite a number of Corporations have now made it a rule that recruitment to certain grades should be made through Employment Exchanges only. It must however be mentioned that the response from the private sector has not been very satisfactory.

Unemployment Relief Schemes

The number of persons employed in the unemployment relief schemes at the end of 1961 and 1962 was as follows:—

	1961	1962
Colombo	2,190	
Kandy	266	253
Galle	98	97

Earth was excavated at the two main cutting sites at Madiwela and Kalapaluwawa and transported to the filling sites at Narahenpita, Maligawatta and Urugodawatta.

Work on the subsidiary schemes, viz., filling of a demarcated area for the Hospital of Indigenous Medicine, the filling of C. M. T. Office premises, filling of an area for a proposed building of the C. I. S. L. R., the filling of land for a Volley Ball Court for the Police at Narahenpita and the filling of a marshy land for the Health Department Sports Club, was completed.

In the relief schemes under the control of the Kandy Municipality, work consisted of the construction of roads for the benefit of the public, clearing of a site for the "Shanty Dwellers' Housing Scheme" at Nittawela, the construction of Playgrounds and the link-up of the roads by filling the ravines and converting them into motorable roads, the clearing of silt traps at Mahamaya Lotus Pond and at Ampitiya Junction.

In the relief schemes under the control of the Galle Municipality, work was confined to the construction of roads, widening of foot-paths and making them motorable.

(Continued on Page 4)

Benefits enjoyed by

(Continued from page 3)

Co-operative Labour Societies

The Labour Department could not register as many Co-operative Labour Societies as it would have desired to do because it was short of the necessary technical staff to supervise the work these Societies would undertake. This did not prevent Societies being registered by the Co-operative Department when applications were received by them for the formation of such organisations. The number of Labour Societies organised by this Department is 48 and they are distributed as follows:—

- (1) Building Societies at Ambalangoda, Anuradhapura, Attanagalla, Avissawella, Batticaloa, Badulla, Colombo, Dompe, Gampaha, Haputale, Hatton, Jaffna, Kandy, Kurunegala, Kegalla, Kothmale, Kotte, Kalutara, Kelaniya, Mahara, Matala, Morape, Mannar, Matugama, Medavachchiya, Nawalapitiya, Negombo, Nuwara Eliya, Puttalam, Ratnapura, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Walapone, Walasmulla, Wennappuwa, Moratuwa, Homagama, Alutkuru Korale North 'B', Wattala and Pata Hewaheta.
- (2) Services Societies at Kurunegala, Ambalangoda, Matara, Colombo Railway Goods-shed, Agrarian Services Department (G.P.S. and R. M.), etc.
- (3) Harbour Societies at Galle and Trincomalee.
- (4) Ferry Services Societies at Poogoda-Hanwella.
- (5) Pioneer Corps Society at Polonnaruwa.

Most of these Societies have done good work during 1962 in spite of the several set-backs they had to face. The Dompe Co-operative Labour Society which had done work to the value of about 5 lakhs of rupees is expecting a fair profit from this venture. The Colombo Co-operative Labour Society has completed the 1 lakh building for the Food Commissioner at the Colombo Wharf. This Society too has made a fair profit and is undertaking work in connection with the building of schools for the Education Department. The Kotte Co-operative Labour Society was one of the few Societies that took the bold step of undertaking maintenance and construction work from the P. W. D. This work entails administrative efficiency on the part of the members of the Society. During the last year they had undertaken maintenance contracts to the value of about Rs. 63,000 and have shown a fair profit. Mahara Co-operative Labour Society too has almost completed all its contracts taken during the last year. The Alutkuru Korale Co-operative Labour Society is also constructing school buildings and is doing a good job of work. The societies referred to above are well on their feet and are employing a considerable number of unemployed skilled workers in their building sites.

Harbour Societies

There are Harbour Co-operative Labour Societies at Galle and Trincomalee. These two Societies are working satisfactorily. The Hon. Minister of Labour and Nationalised Services had appointed a commission to investigate and report as to what further steps should be taken to work these harbours efficiently on Labour Co-operative Society lines. The report on Trincomalee has been submitted and the report on Galle harbour will be ready in due course. This movement could be of great benefit to the working population of the harbours provided the workers take pains to run these organisations well.

Ferry Service

The Ferry Services Co-operative Labour Society at Poogoda-Hanwella is working satisfactorily. Once the bridge over the Hanwella Ferry is completed this service will cease to function.

Funds

The Department of Labour has advanced monies to Co-operative Labour Societies to undertake work. During the last year a sum of Rs. 358,482 was loaned out. Majority of the Societies are repaying the loans rapidly while the others are not prompt in recovering monies from Government Departments for work

done by them and in returning the loans due to the Labour Department in time.

Staff

The four Technical Officers who are supervising these Societies are insufficient for proper supervision of the work and as a result the quality of the work of these Societies has considerably suffered. These Societies would be in a better position to improve their activities if more Technical Officers are employed.

These Societies were organised by the Labour Department essentially as an employment scheme. It was sponsored by the present Government which was pledged to socialist aims based on giving equal economic opportunities to workers.

Training Schemes

The Department of Labour which is charged with the function of "Training for employment" has formulated schemes for the training of persons in certain categories of skills where shortage exists and in certain other categories where the demand for such workers has been or is likely to be created by the development projects of the country. Training is mainly given to selected unemployed adult workers with a view to equipping them with the skills and thereby enhancing their prospects of finding employment. For the present skills below the level of technicians are trained at these centres and the training given is an intensive, practical course of short duration.

The Department has since trained 2,922 persons in various skills and out of this number, according to records available, 2,334 persons have found employment. At present, 412 persons are undergoing training in the following 14 different categories of skills:—

Carpenters, Masons, Hair-dressers, Garden labourers, Domestic helpers, Toddy tappers, Fletchers of leather, Radio Service men, Electrical wiremen, Tractor operators and mechanics, Draftsmen and tracers, Tinkers, Welders and fitters.

The Central Vocational Training and Trade Testing Centre in Colombo which was formally declared open by the Hon. Prime Minister, (Mrs.) Sirimavo Bandaranaike, on 5th October, 1962, has at present 64 persons receiving training in 4 different categories of skills, namely, welding, fitting, electrical wiring and radio repairing. Training in three other trades, namely, sheet-metal work, machining and motor mechanism will be started shortly and in due course there will be a total of 112 persons undergoing training at the Centre. The Centre is well equipped and instructors have been specially trained in India in the technique of instruction. It is expected to expand the training activities at the Centre by the inclusion of several other trades for which demand exists. Units for Trade Testing and issuing of Trade Certificates to persons possessing skills will also be set up as soon as it is possible.

Land is at the moment being acquired for the establishment of similar but smaller Central Training Centres in Kandy, Anuradhapura and Matara.

The Department has hitherto trained Toddy Tappers in very small numbers. At present, large numbers of Toddy Tappers are required. Action is being taken to establish several Toddy Tappers' Training Centres in various places with a view to meeting the need for these trained Toddy Tappers.

The Department is making a determined effort to expand the scope and intensity of the Training Programme during the ensuing year.

Other Activities

The Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Act

Regulations under the Act were amended by the Government in June, 1962, in order to control the fees that could be charged by the agencies for the supply of domestic servants and in order to regulate the fees that could be charged from a worker for procuring him employment.

Cabinet Sub-Committee

This Cabinet Sub-Committee which consists of the Hon. Minister of Finance, the Hon. Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, the Hon. Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, with the Hon. Minister of Labour and Nationalised Services as Chairman, has been holding regular meetings in the recent past in order to consider ways and means of dealing with the problem of unemployment. A further matter that has engaged the attention of the Cabinet Sub-Committee has been the question of retrenchment in certain firms as a result of the Import Control policy of Government. Various steps were taken by this Sub-Committee to prevent such retrenchment taking place.

Trade Unions

There are at present about 1,000 registered trade unions of which nearly 600 are trade unions of public servants. They have become a power to be reckoned within the field of labour relations, aided as they have been by a Government sympathetic to the cause of the worker. It is however a matter for regret that some Trade Unions have tended to splinter off, a tendency which can only have the effect of weakening the Trade Union movement as a whole.

Factories Ordinance

The Factories Division of the Department of Labour is responsible for the enforcement of the Factories Ordinance (Chapter 128). This is an Ordinance which makes provision for the Safety, Health and Welfare of workers in factories in Ceylon.

2. At the moment the number of registered factories is about 6,500 and of these approximately 1,000 are inspected at least once a year. The work of this Division is seriously handicapped due to the shortage of staff. Due to the acute shortage of engineers in the country difficulties have been experienced in recruiting and retaining in service Inspectors of Factories. With the few officers available, the work of the division has been confined to the enforcement of basic safety, health and welfare provisions in the few factories that have been visited and in the investigations of fatal and other serious accidents.

3. With the industrialisation of the country, and the increasing number of factories being set up, educational and propaganda work is being given increasing attention. The Safety Centre which is housed in the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories is being expanded gradually.

4. The promotion of Safety, Health and Welfare should not be left to be handled by Government alone. In the Private Sector Employers, Employees, Insurance Companies and other Voluntary Organisations should all co-operate and promote Industrial Safety and Factory Well-Being in the interest of all concerned—the fact that this should be done not only for legal but also for social and economic reasons is too well known.

Division of Occupational Health

The industrial worker spends approximately 1/3 of the 24-hour day at his work-place. The working environment therefore needs to be investigated in the light of its effect on the health, well-being and productive output of the worker. The working environment naturally varies in nature and complexity from job to job and from one industry to another. It is usually considered in terms of fumes and dust, gases, mists and solvents, noise, radiations and other physical and chemical agents. But the working environment also includes persons who can as individuals contribute to a safe and healthy working environment or be a hazard to themselves and to their fellow workers.

With the rapid strides in industrial development within recent years, management has come to realize the economic advantages of improving the working conditions of the employee. However the improvement of working conditions requires the co-operation of three agencies: (i) Government action enforcing minimum requirements essential for safety, health and welfare; (ii) the co-operation of workers' themselves; and (iii) the co-operation and contribution by management.

When working conditions are unfavourable they may undermine the worker's physical and mental health, reduce his productive capacity, and be

a direct or indirect factor contributing to accidents and lowering of morale.

Factors in the work environment which constitute occupational health hazards are generally not easily recognized, generally because their efforts are of a chronic nature and develop over a prolonged period of exposure. As a result diseases due to occupational causes frequently escape detection. Certain types of occupational disease due to exposure to toxic substances or physical agents do not manifest themselves for many years and may cause total disablement long after employment has ceased.

Three groups of activities are essential for the effective protection of health: (1) Working environments must be under constant surveillance for health hazards; (2) The worker must be assured by medical examination from time to time regarding his health and that of his fellow workers; (3) there must be provision of emergency medical services adequate to deal with any cases of occupational injury or illness. It is essential to provide for medical examination of the worker (a) immediately before employment; (b) on his return to his job after absence due to illness or injury; and (c) at periodical intervals according to the nature of employment.

The attention of the industrial medical practitioner has for many years been concerned mainly with the treatment of the sick worker rather than prevention of injury to the healthy worker. Unfortunately this appears to be still the current practice of medical services provided by the employer in the majority of the establishments. The basic obligation of the medical practitioner in industry should be detection and assessment of potential hazards to health in the establishment, and to advise the employer of steps that should be taken for the prevention of injury to the worker.

Special investigations into health hazards are undertaken by the Division of Occupational Health wherever considered necessary. Investigation includes special clinical examination of blood for stippled cell counts by the dark-ground method and of the urine for coproporphyrin III, urinary sulphates and quantitative estimation of the presence of lead or other toxic agents. During the period 1961-62 a total of 356 workers from 15 Government and mercantile establishments whose occupations involved exposure to potential health hazards, were clinically examined by the Division.

CO-OPS. EXPAND THEIR ACTIVITIES

FOLLOWING a directive from the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, the Co-operatives have expanded their activities by entering the export and import trade in addition to the industrial field.

The Department of Co-operative Development has so far received 15 applications from various societies for registration for the manufacture of articles like hollow concrete bricks, galvanized bath tubs, barbed wire, aluminium ware, carbon paper, stencils, boxes of matches, metal and wooden toys, kamblis, blankets, cement bricks, terrazo tiles, etc.

The Industries Acceptance Committee of the Ministry of Industries is taking steps to approve these industries.

Talks with Polish Trade Delegation

A Polish Trade Delegation led by Mr. J. Burakiewicz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the Polish Peoples' Republic, has held discussions with a Delegation from Ceylon led by Mr. G. R. W. de Silva, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade Food and Shipping. In the course of these discussions, the 'Working of the Ceylon-Poland Trade Agreement' was reviewed. Measures were also discussed whereby the trade between the two countries could be expanded in pursuance of the mutual desire of both parties to extend and develop economic and trade relations between their respective countries.

The discussions were conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding and friendship.