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PART III—COCONUT PLANTATIONS

1956

PREFACE

THE present publication is the third of a series reporting the results of the Census of Agriculture, 1952. It deals with coconut plantations and as in the previous plantation reports, an attempt has been made to include, besides the material collected in the census, such other statistics of coconut production as were readily available and which will enable the reader to form as complete a picture as possible of the position of the industry in the Island relative to the producers of similar commodities. A number of tables has been included in the hope that they would enable future students of the industry to work out the relations between various factors affecting coconut production even where such relations appear to us difficult to establish on the material now available.

Mr. F. C. V. Wickramaratne, Statistician, was again mainly responsible for the preparation of this report. He had the advantage of frequent conferences and advice from the Coconut Research Institute and the Coconut Board. Their assistance is cordially acknowledged. The interpretation of the figures must, however, remain the responsibility of this Department. The ready assistance given by many others in drafting the census schedules and furnishing the information called for is also acknowledged.

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DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF COCONUT PLANTATIONS

THE Coconut Palm—*Cocos nucifera* (L)—called the “Tree of Life” on account of the almost infinite variety of its uses is found planted throughout Ceylon, except at the highest elevations. Though there are a number of theories regarding the origin and distribution of the Coconut palm, the consensus of opinion is that it probably originated in South-East Asia. It is now held that the coconut was spread into other tropical countries by mariners rather than by ocean currents. The existence of the coconut palm and its products, in Ceylon, has been recorded in the various chronicles, one of the earliest references dating back to Dutu Gemunu's time (C 101-77 B.C.). With the arrival of the Dutch, in 1658, the cultivation of coconut in the maritime districts was extended and towards the end of the 18th Century a fairly continuous grove of coconut palms, reckoned at ten million trees, was found in the coastal plains between Chilaw and Matara.

The systematic cultivation of coconuts began about 1840 in the Jaffna and Batticaloa Districts and from 1860 onwards, the expansion of coconut cultivation in Ceylon was very rapid.

Table I—Acreage under Coconut 1860-1946

Year	Acreage
1860	250,000
1893	650,000
1903	650,000
1921	820,001
1929	1,076,220
1946	1,070,942

Source : Figures for 1860, 1893, 1903—“All about the coconut Palm”—Ferguson 3rd Edition 1904.

Figures for 1921 and 1929 are from the Censuses of Production.

Figures for 1946 are from the Census of Agriculture, 1946¹ and include an extent of 150,000 acres estimated to be under coconut in Town and Village Gardens.

The cultivation of coconut is not now confined to the littoral only but has extended inland and it is found in every district, generally at elevations below 2,000 feet. The distribution by revenue districts reported at previous Censuses is given below :—

Table II—Acreage under Coconut 1921, 1929 and 1946

District	Acreage reported at the Census of		
	1921	1929*	1946
CEYLON	820,001	1,076,220	1,070,942 †
Colombo	245,262	286,302	201,862
Kalutara	40,667	49,836	31,529
Kandy	10,857	20,638	20,887
Matale	4,900	8,563	10,642
Nuwara Eliya	242	1,258	640
Galle	49,720	48,530	32,897
Matara	30,031	45,511	38,182
Hambantota	10,260	19,269	31,842
Jaffna	22,368	32,444	15,868
Mannar	4,860	6,334	6,450

Note.—* “Wide fluctuations in the district figures may be due to errors of estimation”—Report of the Census of Production 1929.

† Includes 150,000 acres estimated to be under cultivation in Town and Village Gardens, but not distributed by districts.

¹ Agricultural holdings in the Census of Agriculture 1946 included :—

- (a) “A” Estates, i.e., estates which were 20 acres or more in extent, had ten or more resident labourers and had their Census schedules filled up in English by the Superintendent or Person-in-charge.
- (b) “B” estates, i.e., Estates which were 20 acres and over in which the number of resident labourers was less than ten or which was in charge of a person not well acquainted with the English language.
- (c) Small Holdings—holdings of less than twenty acres or more than one acre on which there existed any cultivated agricultural product.
- (d) Town and Village Gardens—holdings of one acre and less with any form of cultivation usually forming the compound of a dwelling house.

District	Acreage reported at the Census of		
	1921	1929*	1946
Vavuniya	2,736	2,030	1,914
Batticaloa	12,814	35,744	18,647
Trincomalee	3,433	5,301	2,668
Kurunegala	193,527	298,723	300,351
Puttalam	54,598	49,929	45,173
Chilaw	87,013	90,537	74,859
Anuradhapura	4,178	5,092	2,762
Badulla	933	1,508	1,479
Ratnapura	7,366	13,364	17,957
Kegalle	34,236	55,307	64,333

* For footnote see page 5.

There has been no evidence of any recent large scale new plantations; the period of uncertain prices in the 1930's provided no incentive for the opening up of such plantations while the high prices which followed in the wake of the world war and continued into the post-war period were counteracted by high labour and other costs. The acreage under coconut though it has remained around 1,100,000 for some considerable time is yet the largest under any one crop in Ceylon and comprises almost a third of the total cultivated extent of approximately 3,600,000 acres.

Accurate estimates of world acreages are not available but a figure around 10,000,000 acres can generally be reckoned to be under coconut, approximately three-fourths of this area being distributed among five producing countries. The Philippine Islands with the largest share of nearly 2.7 million acres has replaced Indonesia, which in the pre-war years was the most important producing region. India with 1.5 million acres, Ceylon with 1.1 million acres and Malaya with 0.5 million acres form the three next leading producers. In Ceylon, as in these other countries, the bulk of the acreage is on small holdings. The figures obtained at the Census of 1946 were most comprehensive and included all coconut cultivations found on large plantations, on the small holdings and even the few palms tended in the garden of a dwelling house. A total acreage of 920,942 was enumerated at this census in estates and holdings one acre and above, and over ten million palms were returned as grown in town and village gardens. The distribution of the area under coconut between these various holdings reported in 1946 was:—

	Acres
"A" Estates	108,280
"B" Estates	233,195
Small holdings	579,458
Town and Village Gardens	150,000

With 68.11 per cent. of the total acreage found in holdings under 20 acres in extent, coconut cultivation is about the broadest based of the major plantation industries of Ceylon. Even among the estates, of 8,720 estates reported in 1946 as wholly or partially cultivated in coconuts 4,984 were each less than fifty acres in extent.

At the Census of 1952 only 3,690 estates reported the cultivation of coconuts, as a large number of estates, presumably under coconut, did not return their completed schedules. On the basis of the 1946 census the coverage at the census of 1952 was 69.82 per cent. of the acreage under coconut on estates. Classification of these 3,690 estates, by size of unit cultivated in coconut shows that 2,406 of these estates fell below 50 acre units.

Table III—Coconut Cultivation on Estates by Size, 1951

Size Group (in acres)	Number of Estates	Extent cultivated (acres)
CEYLON—All Estates	3,690	238,424
under 10*	413	1,991
10-19*	399	5,649
20-49	1,594	48,124
50-99	675	45,948
100-199	380	51,111
200-499	186	53,517
500-999	36	23,524
1,000 and over	7	8,560

* Figures refer to units of coconut of this size in estates 20 acres and over.

Coconut cultivation, therefore, is "the relatively poor man's investment and is almost exclusively in Ceylonese hands". Estates reporting coconut in 1951 classified according to ownership shows only 7.71 per cent. owned by persons other than Citizens of Ceylon and by companies incorporated outside Ceylon.

Table IV—Coconut cultivation on Estates by Ownership, 1951

Type of Ownership	Acreage	Percentage	
CEYLON—All Estates	238,424 ..	100.00 ..	—
Individual owned	164,027 ..	68.79 ..	—
(1) Citizens of Ceylon	156,557 ..	— ..	65.66
(2) Persons awaiting registration as Citizens of Ceylon	1,693 ..	— ..	0.71
(3) Non-Citizens of Ceylon	5,777 ..	— ..	2.42
Partnership *	45,195 ..	18.95 ..	—
(1) Citizens of Ceylon	41,113 ..	— ..	17.24
(2) Persons awaiting registration as Citizens of Ceylon	294 ..	— ..	0.12
(3) Non-Citizens of Ceylon	3,788 ..	— ..	1.59
Company	24,507 ..	10.29 ..	—
(1) Incorporated in Ceylon	17,680 ..	— ..	7.42
(2) Incorporated in U. K.	6,614 ..	— ..	2.78
(3) Incorporated elsewhere	213 ..	— ..	0.09
Government	2,015 ..	0.85 ..	0.85
Trusts, &c.	2,680 ..	1.12 ..	1.12

* Lands belonging to partnerships were considered as being owned by Citizens of Ceylon when the majority of partners were Citizens of Ceylon, &c.

The total non-Ceylonese share of the whole of the coconut acreage in Ceylon was reckoned at 5 to 10 per cent.¹ in 1934 and may remain so even now.

2—THE PRODUCE OF THE COCONUT PALM

The Coconut palm furnishes numerous products but is mainly cultivated for its nuts and the produce therefrom. Apart from fresh nuts which are used in large numbers in domestic consumption, copra and coconut oil and to a lesser extent desiccated coconut are the main marketable products. Coir and fibre are also produced from the coconut palm but are not of such commercial importance as to determine either the area under coconut or the care bestowed on the palms. Acreage and production recorded at the previous censuses show an annual average yield between 1,100–1,300 nuts per acre :—

Table V—Acreage under Coconuts and Production

Year	Acreage	Production (1,000 nuts)	Average yield per acre (nuts)
1921	820,001 ..	958,668 ..	1,169
1929	1,076,220 ..	1,384,448 ..	1,286
1945*	920,942 ..	1,191,275 ..	1,294

* Exclusive of coconut on Town and Village Gardens.

Figures of production however fall far short of the estimated annual average of about 1,800 nuts per acre on all coconut land and is generally due to under-reporting at the censuses. On the small holdings and even the smaller estates, where no records of pickings are kept and a large number of fresh nuts is used for consumption, estimates of yield are necessarily inaccurate. Production

¹ Report of the Ceylon Banking Commission, Sessional Paper XXII of 1934.

of coconut reported on estates only, in 1951, showed a yield of 435,642,000 nuts from 235,423 acres, giving an annual average yield per acre of 1,850 nuts. Variation in yields by revenue districts is shown below :—

Table VI—Estates cultivating Coconut showing average yield per acre by Districts, 1951

District	Acreage	Total yield (1,000 nuts)	Average yield per acre (nuts)
CEYLON—All Estates	235,423	435,642	1,850
Colombo	45,448	82,842	1,823
Kalutara	3,112	5,639	1,812
Kandy	6,907	12,088	1,750
Matale	3,584	4,985	1,391
Nuwara Eliya	54	59	1,093
Galle	3,792	5,688	1,500
Matara	3,409	4,226	1,240
Hambantota	1,442	1,364	946
Jaffna	7,047	4,304	611
Mannar	573	251	438
Vavuniya	812	775	954
Batticaloa	8,460	7,378	872
Trincomalee	530	470	887
Kurunegala	99,995	203,641	2,037
Puttalam	16,445	20,415	1,241
Chilaw	27,183	70,747	2,063
Anuradhapura	291	323	1,110
Badulla	125	127	1,016
Ratnapura	831	652	785
Kegalla	5,383	9,668	1,796

The variable climatic and soil environmental factors under which coconuts are grown in Ceylon are reflected in the above figures of yield ; favourable climatic and soil conditions in districts such as Kurunegala and Chilaw have resulted in high average yields per acre while coconut plantations in the Jaffna, Batticaloa, Hambantota districts have been adversely affected by the long spells of dry weather due to unevenly distributed rainfall. Yields in the Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura and Badulla districts appear to be limited by the low temperature and reduced periods of bright sunlight at the higher elevations.

The number of nuts however does not provide an absolute measure of production as it takes no account of the variation in size of nuts, according to rainfall and altitude, which may be fairly considerable as disclosed by the out-turn of copra. Estates which turned practically the whole of the output into copra were 795 in number and when grouped by revenue districts show the following :—

Table VII—Out-turn on Estates in Nuts per Candy and Candies per Acre by Revenue Districts, 1951

District	Nuts per Candy of copra	Candies per Acre
CEYLON—All Estates	1,306	1.42
Colombo	1,262	1.44
Kalutara	1,355	1.34
Kandy	1,632	1.07
Matale	1,521	0.91
Nuwara Eliya	—	—
Galle	1,168	1.28
Matara	1,126	1.10
Hambantota	1,389	0.68
Jaffna	1,529	0.40
Mannar	—	—
Vavuniya	1,444	0.66
Batticaloa	1,192	0.73
Trincomalee	1,268	0.70
Kurunegala	1,305	1.56
Puttalam	1,368	0.91
Chilaw	1,272	2.05
Anuradhapura	—	—
Badulla	—	—
Ratnapura	1,306	0.60
Kegalla	1,360	1.32

Note.—In the calculation of the above, only estates converting more than 80 per cent. of their yield into copra have been taken into account. Such estates were not reported in certain districts.

1 Candy of copra = 560 pounds.

The absence of uniform planting systems in the cultivation of coconut causes wide variations in the stand of palms per acre; moreover as some palms on these plantations may be immature, figures of yield per bearing palm¹ may prove more useful. The number of palms in bearing reported in the 3,565 estates in 1951 amounted to 12,580,650 with a total yield in nuts of 435,642,000 giving an average yield of 34·6 nuts per palm per annum. Average yield in nuts per bearing palm on estates by revenue districts is shown below:—

Table VIII—Average yield per bearing Palm on Estates by Revenue Districts, 1951

District	Number of bearing Palms (in tens)	Total yield (1,000 nuts)	Average yield per Palm (nuts)
CEYLON—All Estates	1,258,065	435,642	34·6
Colombo..	276,025	82,842	30·0
Kalutara	19,368	5,639	29·1
Kandy ..	30,941	12,088	39·1
Matale ..	11,279	4,985	44·8
Nuwara Eliya	279	59	21·1
Galle ..	26,123	5,688	21·8
Matara ..	23,723	4,226	17·8
Hambantota	7,040	1,364	19·4
Jaffna ..	33,337	4,304	12·9
Mannar ..	3,550	251	7·1
Vavuniya	2,771	775	28·0
Batticaloa	44,225	7,378	16·7
Trincomalee	3,022	470	15·6
Kurunegala	500,287	203,641	40·7
Puttalam	84,098	20,415	24·3
Chilaw ..	155,375	70,747	45·5
Anuradhapura	1,098	323	29·4
Badulla ..	531	127	23·9
Ratnapura	3,655	652	17·8
Kegalla ..	31,336	9,668	30·9

Figures of over-all production of coconuts have generally been based on the nut equivalent of all forms of coconut produce exported and consumed locally. Assessment of domestic consumption of coconuts and its produce was made by Ferguson in 1903 and by Rutherford in 1919, the latter arriving at a figure of between 130 to 145 nuts per head per annum. The Family Budget Surveys of 1950 revealed an average consumption per adult of 7·5 nuts and 0·51 bottle coconut oil per month making a total nut equivalent of 124·22 per adult per annum. More recently in a "Survey of Ceylon's Consumer Finances" in 1953 the consumption of nuts at the rate of 85 per person per year and of cooking oil equivalent to a further 30·26 nuts per head per year was disclosed. These more recent estimates, however, though they show an apparent slight decrease in the level of domestic consumption, exclude the large number of young coconuts drunk on estates and at fairs, markets, &c. Figures of total production based on estimates of local consumption are therefore of limited accuracy but are shown below for the period 1931 to 1954. These figures have been worked on the nut equivalent of exports and estimates of local industrial consumption together with domestic consumption at a fixed inelastic level disclosed in the Family Budget Surveys of 1950.

Table IX—Estimated Production of Coconuts, 1931-54

Year	Production ('000 nuts)				Average annual production in the 4 years ending in each year
	Local Consumption		Exports	Total	
	Domestic	Industrial			
1931	588,754	—	1,047,487	1,636,241	—
1932	595,470	—	867,199	1,462,669	—
1933	598,721	—	1,047,219	1,645,940	—
1934	613,769	—	1,335,427	1,949,196	1,673,512
1935	618,896	—	944,176	1,563,072	1,655,219
1936	622,545	—	755,112	1,377,657	1,633,966
1937	633,890	—	1,111,702	1,745,592	1,658,879
1938	644,766	1,625	1,209,355	1,855,746	1,635,517
1939	654,421	1,828	1,020,342	1,676,591	1,663,897

¹ Coconut palms 7 years of age and over have been considered as "bearing".

Table IX—Estimated Production of Coconuts—1931-54—(contd.)

Year	Production ('000 nuts)				Average annual production in the 4 years ending in each year
	Local Consumption		Exports	Total	
	Domestic	Industrial			
1940	660,413	5,444	738,793	1,404,650	1,670,645
1941	668,071	9,693	806,986	1,484,750	1,605,434
1942	668,182	7,329	819,591	1,495,102	1,515,273
1943	680,722	17,721	1,171,080	1,869,523	1,563,506
1944	696,480	22,628	884,665	1,603,773	1,613,287
1945	720,895	23,343	949,136	1,693,374	1,665,443
1946	738,800	23,246	622,689	1,384,735	1,637,851
1947	763,325	23,096	575,983	1,367,404	1,512,322
1948	786,314	30,347	978,591	1,795,252	1,560,191
1949	809,798	30,469	953,045	1,793,312	1,585,176
1950	837,530	30,469	1,039,287	1,907,286	1,715,814
1951	859,281	40,625	1,269,752	2,169,658	1,916,377
1952	881,254	40,625	1,462,351	2,384,230	2,063,622
1953	905,003	48,750	1,288,979	2,222,732	2,170,977
1954	930,527	36,084	1,180,143	2,146,754	2,230,844

Source : Figures of domestic consumption—based on the adult equivalent of the population as obtained in the census of 1946, and the consumption of coconuts and oil per adult according to the Family Budget Survey of 1950.

Figures of Industrial consumption—1931-1937 not available. 1938-1948 from the report of the Ceylon Coconut Commission 1949. 1948-1954—are estimates based on figures of consumption of coconut oil in the soap manufacturing and other industries furnished by the Department of Industries, the Department of Commerce and in the Census of Industry 1952.

Figures of exports—from the Ceylon Customs Returns.

Notes.—(i) Conversion Factors used :

1 ton of Coconut oil ..	..	.. = 8,125 nuts
1 ton of copra ..	..	.. = 5,000 "
1 ton of desiccated coconut ..	..	.. = 6,900 "
1 gallon of coconut oil ..	..	.. = 33.55 "

(ii) The total production of coconuts in 1954 based on estimates of local domestic consumption, according to Rutherford (at 130 nuts per head) was 2,306,277 thousand and according to the Survey of Ceylon's Consumer Finances (115.26 nuts per head) was 2,182,682 thousand nuts.

Although production in the isolated years 1934, 1938 and 1943 reached high levels no sustained improvement in yield was recorded during the period 1931 to 1947. The lean prices of the 1930's resulted in a curtailment of cultivation practices while the wartime conditions, which followed enforced a restriction of manurial programmes in the years 1942-1947. The ensuing fall in production reached its lowest point in 1947 but recovery was rapid aided, no doubt, by the increasing availability of fertilisers and the more widespread use of better cultivation practices made possible by the higher prices which coconut products fetched. Use of fertilisers on coconut lands estimated at a bare 10,000 acres before the war has been extended but is still confined to just about 150,000 acres only, according to figures of sales supplied by the manure firms; the tonnage of fertilisers used fluctuating with the prices obtained for coconut produce :—

Table X—Use of Fertilisers on Coconut Lands, 1948-54

Year	Tons of mixed fertiliser used	Equivalent Acreage	Average Price of Copra (Rs. per Candy)	Total Production (Million nuts)
1948	12,400	124,000	134.90	1,795
1949	12,150	121,500	150.00	1,793
1950	13,614	136,140	208.85	1,907
1951	15,565	155,650	245.94	2,170
1952	13,684	136,840	156.29	2,384
1953	15,388	153,880	203.09	2,222
1954	16,420	164,260	180.97	2,147

Source : Figures of fertilisers obtained through the courtesy of the manure firms. The figures for 1948 and 1949 are not fully comprehensive. Equivalent acreage estimated by the Soil Chemist, Coconut Research Institute, Ceylon.

Though increased use of fertilisers has been followed by heavier yields in the succeeding years the advantages of systematic manuring of coconut lands has apparently not been appreciated even on estates where the number of palms reported as being artificially manured, in 1951, was 4,429,390 out of a total of 14,629,980 palms and that too on 1,494 estates only while the rest of the 2,196 estates cultivated in coconut had not used any artificial manure.

Animal manuring on the contrary, by tethering cattle under coconut palms, generally a better established practice on the small holdings was reported on 1,429 estates only, but though more widely pursued will not by itself solve all the problems of coconut cultivation. The total cattle population of 71,430 head including buffaloes reported in 1951, on estates cultivating coconut, against a total number of 1,860,183 palms manured was evidently insufficient to provide manure requirements of all the palms, 8,215,387 in number on these estates. The area of land on these estates will perhaps neither provide adequate pasturage for all the cattle. The combination of livestock and coconuts requires further investigation directed towards "working out the system which will lead to maximum joint production".

The decline in coconut production during the years 1931 to 1947 was not merely attributed to the general neglect of many coconut plantations but also to the senility of palms and frequently adverse weather conditions. With about 650,000 acres of coconut planted in 1893 or earlier it is but natural that a fair percentage of the palms in Ceylon should now be approaching the limit of their economic life. The age of coconut plantations was first enquired into at the census of 1946 when the following figures were reported :—

Table XI—Coconut Cultivation* by Age of Palms in 1945

Type of Holding	Total Extent (Acres)	Acreage covered by Palms of Age			
		Under 10 Years	10-30 Years	31-60 Years	Over 60 Years
CEYLON	920,942	259,797	233,043	328,563	99,539
"A" Estates	108,289	10,277	31,098	56,330	10,584
"B" Estates	233,195	32,128	59,541	101,791	39,735
Small Holdings	579,458	217,392	142,404	170,442	49,220

* Exclusive of palms in Town and Village Gardens.

Assessment of the age of palms is no easy matter and in the absence of records of plantings or of replacements of old palms, their age, probably reported by inspection, is of doubtful reliability. However, in spite of the many cases of premature senility and of prolonged immaturity which may have presented a baffling problem, the above figures show that even making allowances for inaccuracies the coconut producer has, perhaps more than any of his counterparts in the tea and rubber plantations, been alive to the question of replacement of senescent palms and out of about 650,000 acres under palms which would normally have approached near-senility, in or about 1945, only a 100,000 acres had been left to tell the tale! Perhaps the planting of a few nuts even though done haphazardly by the multitude of small producers and not according to any pre-arranged plan has greatly facilitated this process as exemplified in the fact that in 1945, 83.7 per cent. of the total acreage covered by all palms under 10 years of age was reported in the small holdings, in which, further, 217,392 acres out of a total acreage of 579,458 acres under coconut had palms under 10 years of age. The systematic replacement of old palms in the "A" Estates resulted in only about 10 per cent. of the acreage having palms over 60 years of age in 1945, while the general neglect of coconut cultivation on the other estates left them with 17 per cent. of the acreage, under palms of age 60 years or more. The planting of seedlings on these estates, though belated, now appears to be making rapid strides with the systematic filling up of vacancies and current replanting and underplanting programmes; the acreage so planted on "A" and "B" Estates is shown below :—

Table XII—Acreage replanted and under-planted on Estates as at December 31, 1951.

	Total	Underplanted	Replanted
CEYLON—All Estates	238,424	21,630	4,473
"A" Estates	94,633	9,698	1,794
"B" Estates	143,791	11,932	2,679

Public attention directed towards the rehabilitation of the coconut plantations has been effective, as illustrated in the larger percentage of young palms reported on estates in 1951 :

Table XIII—Proportion per cent. by age of Coconut on Estates in 1946 and 1951

	<i>Under 10 years</i>	<i>10 to under 30 years</i>	<i>30 to under 60 years</i>	<i>60 years and over</i>
All Estates 1951 ..	19.4	24.4	45.8	10.4
All Estates 1946 ..	12.4	26.6	46.3	14.7
" A " Estates 1951 ..	18.3	21.8	50.6	9.3
" A " Estates 1946 ..	9.5	28.7	52.0	9.8
" B " Estates 1951 ..	20.1	26.1	42.8	11.0
" B " Estates 1946 ..	13.8	25.5	43.7	17.0

Issues of seedlings from selected seed-nuts through the planting divisions of the Coconut Research Institute have mounted rapidly, a total of 3,500,000 seedlings equivalent to 57,000 acres being supplied since the inception of the scheme in October 1948. In addition a considerable acreage has also been replanted with seedlings produced in private nurseries.

For the successful cultivation of coconut a minimum well distributed rainfall of 50 inches per annum is essential. Thus a severe drought extending even into the wet zone may well limit overall production. The effect of unfavourable weather conditions on coconut lands is illustrated by the fall in production shown in the drop in exports in the year or two after a sustained drought.

Table XIV—Exports of Coconut (Nut equivalent) and average rainfall reported for Ceylon

<i>Year</i>	<i>Average Rainfall</i>	<i>Net Exports (Million nuts)</i>
1930 ..	81.63	—
1931 ..	78.27	1,047
1932 ..	74.25	867
1933 ..	87.02	1,047
1934 ..	72.11	1,335
1935 ..	65.88	944
1936 ..	73.38	755
1937 ..	71.77	1,112
1938 ..	62.71	1,209
1939 ..	71.41	1,020
1940 ..	73.23	739
1941 ..	77.98	807
1942 ..	71.42	820
1943 ..	80.06	1,171
1944 ..	80.65	885
1945 ..	58.44	949
1946 ..	75.26	623
1947 ..	68.17	576
1948 ..	65.61	979
1949 ..	70.23	953
1950 ..	57.14	1,039
1951 ..	81.07	1,270
1952 ..	64.43	1,462
1953 ..	75.21	1,209
1954 ..	82.73	1,180

Source: Figures of average rainfall—from the Department of Meteorology—based on the rainfall reported in 17 representative stations in coconut growing areas.

Figures of Exports—from the Ceylon Customs Returns.

The Coconut Research Institute has pointed out that in assessing the effect of rainfall it is not only the aggregate figure of rainfall which has to be taken into account but also its distribution. A table

showing this for Bandirippuwa estate is reproduced by kind courtesy of the Institute. An inspection of these figures will show a connection between the production, in one year, and the number of rainy days together with the total rainfall, in the previous year.

Table XV—Rainfall and crop figures for Bandirippuwa Estate of the Coconut Research Institute—1931-54

Year	Annual Rainfall (inches)	Number of Rainy days *	Annual crop (nuts)	Crop per Acre (nuts)	Crop per bearing palm (nuts)	Mature acreage
1931 ..	—	—	583,155	3,887	59.3	150
1932 ..	83.60	—	447,191	2,981	45.4	150
1933 ..	76.99	—	632,106	4,143	64.2	153
1934 ..	100.08	149	575,755	3,774	58.5	153
1935 ..	66.94	128	541,699	3,564	55.8	152
1936 ..	93.26	131	502,137	3,293	51.8	152
1937 ..	87.41	149	664,742	4,356	68.7	153
1938 ..	47.81	153	593,632	3,958	61.4	150
1939 ..	70.07	143	443,605	2,957	45.9	150
1940 ..	81.92	162	518,516	3,457	54.0	151
1941 ..	71.97	169	606,357	4,040	62.6	150
1942 ..	69.37	152	583,210	3,888	59.4	150
1943 ..	65.06	160	657,293	4,382	68.5	150
1944 ..	91.07	191	629,247	4,182	65.3	150
1945 ..	72.13	127	522,102	3,438	55.2	152
1946 ..	97.89	170	586,491	3,910	60.7	150
1947 ..	59.93	159	588,465	3,949	60.9	149
1948 ..	73.35	162	597,446	4,092	62.8	146
1949 ..	86.37	156	494,842	3,446	51.9	144
1950 ..	67.66	147	622,327	4,383	67.8	142
1951 ..	94.09	167	633,652	4,592	72.6	138
1952 ..	62.40	136	576,937	4,121	65.1	140
1953 ..	88.30	155	520,388	3,744	59.3	139
1954 ..	93.70	173	559,556	4,176	63.4	134

Source : Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon.

Note —* A rainy day was one on which a rainfall of 0.01 inches or more was recorded.

In districts within the dry zone the failure of the only rain laden monsoon may result in disaster. It has been conservatively estimated that about 5,000 acres of coconut land have been destroyed owing to prolonged droughts of 1947-1950 in the Puttalam District alone.

Since standard conversion factors have been used in determining the nut equivalent and since the out-turn of copra is affected by drought, in extreme cases up to fifty per cent., production measured in terms of nuts as in the above table will not be absolutely accurate, especially under the severe drought conditions which obtain in coconut growing areas. Child (1) eliminated to some extent the vagaries of the weather by estimating the average annual production in four yearly periods. Figures of production worked out in a similar manner are shown below :—

Table XVI—Estimated Annual Production in Averages of 4 Yearly Periods, 1931-54

Years	Average Annual Production (Million Nuts)
1931-34 ..	1,674
1935-38 ..	1,636
1939-42 ..	1,515
1943-46 ..	1,638
1947-50 ..	1,716
1951-54 ..	2,231

¹ R. Child—in an article in "The Times of Ceylon"—March 4, 1947.

Coconut producers have grown increasingly aware of the beneficial effects of proper cultivation methods especially when backed by the higher returns secured by their produce and coconut plantations have in recent years well and truly turned the corner.

3—THE POTENTIALITIES OF COCONUT CULTIVATION

The vastly improved yields of recent years afford proof of the potentialities of coconut production in Ceylon. There is, however, considerable room for improvement and more efficient production. The crop figures of the smaller estates are generally less reliable than those of the larger estates which usually maintain more accurate records, but there appears to be a significantly higher production in the large units. Although it has been pointed out that these large estates are situated in the more favourable coconut growing districts, this suggests that estates in the smaller units by size have not received adequate care and maintenance.

Table XVII—Yield in Nuts on Estates by Size of Coconut Unit cultivated, 1951

<i>Size Group (in Acres)</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total Yield ('000 Nuts)</i>	<i>Average Yield per Acre(nuts)</i>
CEYLON—All Estates ..	235,423	435,642	1,850
Under 10* ..	1,858	1,823	984
10-19* ..	5,444	6,131	1,126
20-49 ..	47,014	63,919	1,360
50-99 ..	45,567	76,860	1,687
100-199 ..	50,750	99,259	1,956
200-499 ..	52,706	108,078	2,051
500-999 ..	23,524	52,977	2,252
1,000 and over ..	8,560	26,590	3,106

* Figures refer to units of coconut of this size in estates 20 acres and over.

Yields reported on estates showed an average ranging from as low as under 500 nuts to well over 5,000 nuts per acre per annum. Acreages under coconut reported at the Census grouped according to average annual yields per acre up to 4,000 nuts and over are shown below :—

Table XVIII—Acreage under Coconut on Estates Classified by Yield per Acre, 1951

<i>Average yield per Acre (Nuts)</i>	<i>Number of Estates reporting</i>	<i>Acreage under Coconut</i>
CEYLON—All Estates ..	3,565	235,423
Under 500 ..	543	19,208
500-999 ..	808	35,990
1,000-1,499 ..	704	41,910
1,500-1,999 ..	583	38,122
2,000-2,499 ..	400	35,745
2,500-2,999 ..	258	31,850
3,000-3,499 ..	154	20,097
3,500-3,999 ..	66	8,359
4,000 and over ..	49	4,142

The low yielding estates are not confined to the marginal areas alone nor to those areas unsuitable, in any way, for the cultivation of coconuts. Acreage figures of those estates, which in 1951, gave an average yield below 1,500 nuts per acre when taken districtwise show that in a district such as Kurunegala which is eminently suited to coconut, a large percentage of the estate acreage gave a rather poor yield.

Table XIX—Acreage under Coconut on Estates which gave an Average Yield under 1,500 Nuts per Acre in 1951—by Revenue Districts

District	Acreage with average yield per acre (in nuts)				Total acreage in all Estates	Percentage of Col. 5 to Col. 6
	Under 500	500-999	1,000-1,499	Total, i.e., under 1,500		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CEYLON—All Estates ..	19,208 ..	35,990 ..	41,910 ..	97,108 ..	235,423 ..	41·25
Colombo ..	2,778 ..	6,738 ..	10,546 ..	20,062 ..	45,448 ..	44·14
Kalutara ..	244 ..	572 ..	624 ..	1,440 ..	3,112 ..	46·27
Kandy ..	570 ..	1,205 ..	1,588 ..	3,363 ..	6,907 ..	48·69
Matale ..	480 ..	826 ..	459 ..	1,765 ..	3,584 ..	49·25
Nuwara Eliya ..	— ..	16 ..	38 ..	54 ..	54 ..	100·00
Galle ..	504 ..	477 ..	766 ..	1,747 ..	3,792 ..	46·07
Matara ..	638 ..	1,075 ..	804 ..	2,517 ..	3,409 ..	73·83
Hambantota ..	414 ..	342 ..	394 ..	1,150 ..	1,442 ..	79·75
Jaffna ..	3,158 ..	2,358 ..	1,395 ..	6,911 ..	7,047 ..	98·07
Mannar ..	303 ..	270 ..	— ..	573 ..	573 ..	100·00
Vavuniya ..	75 ..	545 ..	58 ..	678 ..	812 ..	83·50
Batticaloa ..	2,200 ..	3,577 ..	1,034 ..	6,811 ..	8,460 ..	80·51
Trincomalee ..	135 ..	169 ..	176 ..	480 ..	530 ..	96·57
Kurunegala ..	4,350 ..	9,384 ..	16,584 ..	30,318 ..	99,995 ..	30·32
Puttalam ..	1,705 ..	6,014 ..	3,864 ..	11,583 ..	16,445 ..	70·43
Chilaw ..	636 ..	1,014 ..	2,341 ..	3,991 ..	27,183 ..	14·68
Anuradhapura ..	124 ..	33 ..	70 ..	227 ..	291 ..	78·01
Badulla ..	32 ..	— ..	90 ..	122 ..	125 ..	97·60
Ratnapura ..	238 ..	326 ..	161 ..	725 ..	831 ..	87·24
Kegalla ..	624 ..	1,049 ..	918 ..	2,591 ..	5,383 ..	48·13

Many of Ceylon's coconut lands have been cultivated with mixed unselected planting material so that, even on the estates, the average yield per palm of a large number of estates fell far short not only of the average yield of 34·6 nuts per bearing palm reported on all estates in 1951, but even of the lower average overall yield of 25 nuts per palm estimated on all coconut lands including the small holdings. The number of palms of bearing age on estates classified by the average yield per palm in 1951 is shown below :—

Table XX—Coconut Palms on Estates classified by Average Yield per Palm, 1951

Average yield per palm (nuts)	Number of palms (in tens)
CEYLON—All Estates ..	1,258,065
Under 10 ..	9,841
10-14 ..	83,908
15-19 ..	115,378
20-24 ..	118,387
25-29 ..	121,566
30-34 ..	112,247
35-39 ..	109,325
40-44 ..	102,192
45-49 ..	92,273
50-54 ..	120,083
55 and over ..	184,296

Figures shown above based on the number of palms in bearing and the overall yield reported on estates do not reflect the variable bearing capacities between individual palms which, however, are known to be considerable since even the high yielding blocks contain a number of poor yielding palms. A major portion of the crop is therefore harvested from a relatively small number of palms. This is borne out in Table XXI below which shows that 39·66 per cent. of the palms yield on the average over 40 nuts a year contributing 60·26 per cent. of the total crop for the year.

Table XXI—Coconut Palms—Number and Yield per cent. according to Average Yield per Palm, 1951

Average yield per palm (nuts)	Number of bearing palms (in tens)	Percen- tage to total bear- ing palms	Yield '000 nuts	Yield per cent.	Cumulative percentage	
					Palms	Yield
CEYLON—All Estates	.. 1,258,065	.. 100.00	.. 435,642	.. 100.00	.. —	.. —
Under 10	.. 98,410	.. 7.82	.. 7,090	.. 1.63	.. 7.82	.. 1.63
10-14	.. 83,908	.. 6.67	.. 10,358	.. 2.38	.. 14.49	.. 4.01
15-19	.. 115,378	.. 9.17	.. 20,011	.. 4.59	.. 23.66	.. 8.60
20-24	.. 118,387	.. 9.41	.. 26,398	.. 6.06	.. 33.07	.. 14.66
25-29	.. 121,566	.. 9.66	.. 32,998	.. 7.58	.. 42.73	.. 22.24
30-34	.. 112,247	.. 8.92	.. 35,862	.. 8.23	.. 51.65	.. 30.47
35-39	.. 109,325	.. 8.69	.. 40,399	.. 9.27	.. 60.34	.. 39.74
40-44	.. 102,192	.. 8.12	.. 42,438	.. 9.74	.. 68.46	.. 49.48
45-49	.. 92,273	.. 7.34	.. 43,119	.. 9.90	.. 75.80	.. 59.38
50-54	.. 120,083	.. 9.55	.. 62,345	.. 14.31	.. 85.35	.. 73.69
55 and over	.. 184,296	.. 14.65	.. 114,624	.. 26.31	.. 100.00	.. 100.00

The low yield of many of these palms where due to deficient agricultural practices needs effective remedies which will correspondingly improve the yield to the level of the best. The practice of better methods of cultivation generally varies with the returns obtained from coconut lands, more efficient husbandry following in the wake of a larger margin of profit while a recession in price is accompanied by a restriction in maintenance costs. This attitude of reducing expenditure by a cut in manuring and other cultivation costs during a fall in prices initiates a vicious cycle resulting in a further decline in crops and needs replacement by a sound and progressive policy of producing more coconuts per palm aiming at low cost production.

Greater care and attention spent on coconut lands avails nothing unless the bearing capacities of palms themselves are high. The graver problem of low yields caused by the poor bearing capacities of the palms is now nearer solution—though quite a long-term one—with the inauguration of the isolated seed garden. This coconut plantation set in the centre of the Ambakelle Forest Reserve for the breeding of better coconuts has been established with seedlings derived through artificial cross-pollination of selected high yielding strains and is expected to supply pedigree seed nuts which will ultimately find a place in the whole of Ceylon's coconut lands, the high capacity palms so cultivated each yielding over 100 large nuts per annum.

An islandwide rehabilitation programme initiated with the aim of regenerating coconut lands made considerable progress, with the demand for seedlings exceeding the supply, but with the decline in the prices of coconut products it is feared that the voluntary efforts of coconut growers may not be sufficient to maintain the required replacement rate of 15,000 acres per annum. A well knit scheme of gradual replacement of ageing palms opens up immense possibilities in the production of nuts and augurs well for the future.

Coconut in the form of copra and oil forms but one of a group of oil seed crops among the many and varied sources of the world's fats and oils. World absorption of copra and coconut oil is therefore interdependent on the supply and demand factors of these allied commodities. A recovery in world production of fats and oils of all kinds to more than the pre-war annual average of between 21 and 22 million tons ended the serious shortage, caused by the war, which persisted even into the immediate post-war period. In 1952 total out-turn was equivalent to the pre-war level of an average supply of 22.3 pounds per head allowing for the increase in world population while in 1954, the world production of oils and fats of 25.2 million tons oil equivalent was the largest ever recorded. The improvement in supplies together with the rapid expansion of synthetic detergents and the consequent fall in the industrial use of oils and fats resulted in the prices of most vegetable oils receding during 1954.

With the development of the chemical and petroleum industries, suitable bases, which have enabled the production of synthetic detergents have been devised. In the United Kingdom, for example, the output of synthetic detergents rose to 160,000 tons in 1953 and in the United States it has increased from 7,000 tons in 1938 to 250,000 tons in 1948 mounted to about a million tons in 1953, and now commands 60 per cent. of the "soap" market there. There has been a marked decline in the

production of "soap" in these countries and others such as Canada, Germany and the West European states. This setback to the utilisation of fats and oils in industry has however released a larger proportion of the world output for food products. The production of margarine in the chief producing countries climbed up from 1,350,000 tons in 1930 to 2,618,000 tons in 1953 and is likely to increase yet more judged by the recent trends in consumption of butter and margarine. These are shown for the United States and the United Kingdom in the table below :—

Table XXII—Consumption per Capita of Butter and Margarine

Year	Consumption (in pounds) per head			
	United States		United Kingdom	
	Butter	Margarine	Butter	Margarine
1931	18.0	2.0	—	—
1938	16.4	2.9	24.1	10.0
1953	8.7	7.9	13.1	17.8
1954	8.4	8.4	—	—

Source : (1) "Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds", 1954.

(2) London and Cambridge Economic Bulletin—New Series Number 15—Times Review of Industry.

The growing use of margarine in place of butter which costs two to three times as much has been further stimulated by the relaxation of restrictions on its sale and production.

As vegetable oils are among the chief raw materials used in the processing of margarine, coconut oil being in the more advantageous edible industrial group fits ideally into these changing trends and although it is being gradually ousted from the soap market is widely used in the manufacture of edible fats. However, since quantities of the different types of oils used in margarine vary according to availability and processing techniques, coconut oil though greatly utilised in the United Kingdom and in most West European countries is not of much importance in the United States and Canada where consumption of soya bean oil has expanded. In spite of a reduction in purchases the United States has retained her lead as a net importer of copra and coconut oil with Germany, the United Kingdom and other West European countries providing large markets. Ceylon's supplies though they find no place in the United States are widely distributed and have been maintained around 110,000 tons during the period 1948-53. Net exports of copra and oil from the primary producing countries are shown below :—

Table XXIII—Net Exports of Copra and Coconut Oil from Primary producing Countries, 1938-53

	Exports in '000 tons (oil equivalent) in						
	1938	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
COMMONWEALTH							
Ceylon	122	110	103	89	122	133	107
Fiji	21	22	19	16	20	22	20
Malaya	92	27	45	59	61	47	55
New Guinea, Papua(a)	54	17	29	37	47	49	52
Others	65	55	75	78	76	77	77
FOREIGN							
Indonesia	361	202	240	212	347	213	193
Mozambique	24	31	32	28	25	28	29
Philippines	375	408	388	503	555	495	433
Others	56	23	34	30	34	27	30
Total	1,170	895	965	1,052	1,287	1,091	996
Of which :							
Copra (as oil)	860	710	735	832	1,009	814	747
Coconut oil	310	185	230	220	278	277	249

Note.—(a) Twelve months ended 30th June of year shown.

Source : "Vegetable Oils and Oil seeds",—1954.

A system of export duties giving preference to oil over copra has favoured increased shipments of oil from Ceylon which has displaced the Philippines as the world's chief exporter of coconut oil. Exports of copra have dropped during the post-war period and are now directed mainly to India and Pakistan.

Table XXIV—Distribution of Exports of Copra and Coconut Oil—Ceylon and Philippines, 1951-53

Distribution of Exports in ('000 tons)
Ceylon

	<i>Copra</i>			<i>Coconut Oil</i>		
	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
United Kingdom	—	—	—	29.7	28.6	2.8
Canada	—	—	—	1.6	2.4	14.9
India	—	15	19	11.3	9.0	8.7
Pakistan	—	22	2	7.8	11.8	0.8
Malaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Africa	—	—	—	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hongkong	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austria	—	—	—	0.2	0.1	4.1
Belgium	—	—	—	2.7	1.4	—
Burma	—	—	—	0.1	—	—
China	—	—	—	—	—	6.4
Colombia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egypt	—	—	—	4.7	3.0	0.2
France	—	—	—	2.3	0.2	—
Germany	—	—	—	4.0	6.9	7.5
Israel	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	9.6	19.8	17.6
Japan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	—	—	—	22.0	16.1	26.4
Norway	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sweden	—	1	—	7.7	1.8	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	1.0	0.3	0.1
United States	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	1	—	5.0	5.1	4.0
Total	—	41	21	109.8	106.7	93.6

Distribution of Exports in ('000 tons)
Philippines

	<i>Copra</i>			<i>Coconut Oil</i>		
	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
United Kingdom	—	1	1	—	—	—
Canada	21	25	9	—	—	—
India	—	1	—	3.1	1.0	—
Pakistan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaya	—	1	—	—	—	—
South Africa	—	—	—	2.0	5.8	0.3
Hongkong	—	—	—	—	—	—
Austria	—	—	—	^a	^a	—
Belgium	68	55	22	5.0	1.8	0.5
Burma	—	—	—	—	—	—
China	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colombia	27	29	29	—	—	—
Denmark	20	25	37	—	—	—
Egypt	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	16	3	—	—	—	—
Germany	5	13	18	2.9	1.4	—
Israel	7	11	7	3.7	2.8	—
Italy	30	28	18	—	—	—
Japan	8	22	1	—	—	—
Netherlands	90	77	81	11.3	6.6	—
Norway	13	11	12	—	—	—
Sweden	16	12	1	—	—	—
Switzerland	14	12	11	4.1	1.1	—
United States	387	300	309	39.6	55.9	57.3
Venezuela	9	14	28	—	—	—
Others	29	20	10	4.9	2.9	0.5
Total	760	660	594	76.6	79.3	58.6

Note : (a)—included, if any, in others.

Source : "Vegetable Oils and Oil seeds" 1954.

India's needs of copra and coconut oil depend increasingly on home-grown supplies from the 1,548,000 acres under coconut there, and with the completion of the current five-year programme in 1960, aiming at self sufficiency in coconuts, this market may soon be completely closed to Ceylon. The need for new and expanding markets arises and the recent entry of China paves the way for further supplies to this and other consumers hitherto unnoticed, eager perhaps, to obtain the requirements of high quality coconut produce.

Consumption of oils and fats in the more prosperous countries of the world is as high as 65 pounds per head or even higher and when compared with a world average of 22 pounds and the yet lower rate of 6.6 pounds in certain (Asian) countries shows the measure of possible development and expansion in the world, in which, not only will consumption rise with growing prosperity but the maintenance of the present levels of consumption calls for expanding production with a population, which is itself increasing. The use of coconuts as an article of food even within Ceylon has increased considerably among the mass of her population and has limited the exportable volume to the surplus over and above the requirements of domestic consumption. Thus any fall in nut production is reflected in the volume of exports as seen in Table IX. These figures when grouped in four year periods, show that the nut equivalent of coconuts used as food in Ceylon was fast overhauling that of its exports and that within a space of twenty years, average annual domestic consumption has increased by about 300,000,000 nuts.

Table XXV—Utilisation of Nuts—Estimates in Averages (Million Nuts) of Four-Year Periods, 1931-54

4-Year Period	Average Annual Local Consumption				Average Annual Exports		Total Production
	Domestic		Industrial		Quantity	Percentage to Total	
	Quantity	Percentage to Total	Quantity	Percentage to Total			
1931-34	599	35.80	—	—	1,074	64.20	1,673
1935-38	630	38.49	2	0.12	1,005	61.39	1,637
1939-42	663	43.76	6	0.40	846	55.84	1,515
1943-46	709	43.29	22	1.34	907	55.37	1,638
1947-50	799	46.56	30	1.75	887	51.69	1,716
1951-54	894	40.09	42	1.79	1,295	58.12	2,231

As the rate of increased consumption is itself rising, improved production has come, none too soon, or else Ceylon would have found her exports of coconuts and coconut products severely curtailed.

The increasing volume of desiccated coconuts exported from Ceylon shows that there is a large and growing market for this commodity while larger quantities of fresh nuts will soon be exported with the removal of restrictions on such exports.

Table XXVI—Exports of Fresh and Desiccated Coconuts, 1938-54

Year	Exports in '000	
	Desiccated Coconut (Cwt.)	Fresh Nuts No.
1938	594	15,955
1945	107	29,421
1946	194	10,198
1947	231	3,801
1948	236	9,387
1949	312	12,897
1950	898	8,632
1951	795	6,621
1952	1,112	7,867
1953	1,146	6,570
1954	1,104	9,170

Source : Thirty years Trade Statistics of Ceylon—Department of Commerce, Ceylon.

An increased demand for coconut in all forms is assured in the expanding domestic consumption, in the larger markets which are opening out for fresh and desiccated coconuts, in the greater use of fats and oils for food which will offset any disadvantage due to synthetic in the production of which, incidentally, fats and fatty acids are themselves used. New uses for oils, coconut oil among them, are being found in the synthetic rubber and other industries while research in these lines directed towards the increased utilisation in manufacturing processes may reveal further uses for coconut oil. The future of the coconut plantations with which is bound up the fortunes of the vast number of producers is far from bleak but in a field which is highly competitive cheapness of production is the great criterion in the choice of a particular commodity within an allied group.

Greater and more efficient production of coconuts will enable coconut oil to compete with other oils, vegetable oils in particular, among which soya bean oil "the star performer" provides nine to ten per cent. of the world's oils and fats needs. Oils such as soya, ground-nut, linseed, sesameseed, derived from annual plants have the added advantages of adjustable variations in the planted area according to demand and price. This quick and easy solution in response to price and other changes is denied to the perennial coconut palm and emphasises the compelling need to cut down production costs as the only effective weapon in combating any downward trend in prices.

Cost control in the majority of coconut plantations in Ceylon is of no significance, for the small holder and the unpaid family worker generally tend the palms, pluck and husk the nuts even when they are more than sufficient for their domestic requirements. Thus at the Census of 1946 only 69,683 persons inclusive of 25,713 labourers reported their "gainful occupation"—that is the occupation which was regularly followed and brought in the largest income—as coconut growers, in spite of a large extent of 920,974 acres* under coconut. The vast number of small producers are not fully dependent on the coconuts gathered in their holdings and have, perhaps, no incentive to improve yields even though each additional nut will certainly be a most useful supplement to their income.

On the estates, however, low cost production demands greater efficiency and improved yields. Employment inclusive of supervisory grades reported at the Census of 1952 on 2,419 estates gave an average requirement of 11.2 employees per 100 acres of coconut which is not far removed from the figure of 9.1 acres to a labourer obtained as the average degree of employment on 200 coconut estates in 1942. Wages and salaries including dearness allowances paid in 1951 to all employees, regular casual and contract on the 2,419 estates which had coconut as the main crop at the time of the Census in 1952, gave an average wage and salary cost of Rupees 42.08 per 1,000 nuts. Due to variation in the make up of the items contributing towards the cost of production, the wage and salary cost obtained from a selected sample of estates is not strictly comparable but is reproduced below for the years 1938 to 1953 together with other items of costs.

Table XXVII—Cost of Production, 1938-53

	Costs (in rupees) per '000 nuts				
	1938	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number of estates furnishing returns	27	27	27	27	27
Cost of production	17.58	28.08	34.15	47.27	49.82
All salaries including dearness allowance and excluding labour charges	4.42	6.05	7.41	9.22	9.72
Wages of labourers employed in estates and dearness allowance	3.50	8.12	10.78	14.34	15.38
Other general cultivation and transport charges	6.03	11.16	14.18	17.07	18.50
Manuring	2.28	4.28	5.64	7.82	8.45
Picking and collecting	1.09	2.45	2.67	3.23	3.63

* Exclusive of Coconut in town and village gardens.

Table XXVII—Cost of Production, 1938-53—(contd.)

	Costs (in rupees) per '000 nuts					
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number of estates furnishing returns	27	27	27	28	23	58
Cost of production	45.50	61.68	57.43	74.72	71.31	75.31
All salaries including dearness allowance and excluding labour charges	9.02	11.08	9.62	9.07	10.17	12.55
Wages of labourers employed in estates and dearness allowance	12.57	19.30	19.95	21.67	20.62	18.58
Other general cultivation and transport charges	16.65	20.69	21.65	30.84	26.66	25.14
Manuring	8.29	13.88	11.53	12.07	14.52	15.05
Picking and collecting	3.15	3.47	3.32	3.62	3.26	3.99

Source : Statistical Abstract.

A revision of the component items in the year 1954 brought wages and salaries more into line with those obtained at the census, though a slightly higher wage and salary cost of Rs. 45.24 was reported :

Table XXVIII—Cost of Production, 1954

	Rupees per 1,000 nuts
Number of estates furnishing returns	125
Cost of production	64.29
All salaries including dearness allowance and visiting charges	14.72
Total wages of labour fully and partly employed including dearness allowance	30.52
Medical, maternity, feeding and schooling of children and concessionary grants	1.27
All insurance, rents and repairs to buildings	2.97
Manuring and control of pests and diseases	9.19
Other expenses including estate equipment	5.62

Source : Statistical Abstract.

The overall cost of production obtained for 1954, though lower, cannot be considered comparable with the earlier years and is therefore no pointer to any marked reduction in costs. These figures however emphasize the rising labour costs which in 1954 absorbed as much as 47 per cent. of the total. Labour requirements of coconuts even though they are low in comparison with those of tea and rubber were previously estimated to absorb between 30 and 40 per cent. of the total costs on estates. Costs of production vary widely between districts and estates, depending on the productive capacity of the palms, the age of palms, soil and climatic conditions and general maintenance. Though well-cared for estates are known to be productive even under marginal conditions, efficient coconut production will confine further planting to areas suitable in every way for its cultivation, the limiting factor in this as well as in many another crop being the water supply. Availability of new land with sufficient water resources is severely restricted and though coconut can be grown successfully under irrigation, irrigable land in excess of that required to satisfy the country's overwhelming need for paddy is hardly available. Large-scale new plantations of coconut able to compete successfully in the world's markets are therefore unlikely and may perhaps have to await further developments in a scheme of "weather to order". The pre-eminent problem of the coconut producer is that of replacing the uneconomic palms with high yielding seedlings and of increasing the productivity of the coconut plantations by good and efficient husbandry.

The success of any development programme for coconut will be measured by the extent to which the small holder can be induced to participate in the rehabilitation of coconuts. Aided by the liberal allowances granted, under the Government's Six-Year Programme of Investment (1954/55 to 1959/60) as a subsidy for high quality seedlings and manure together with loans for the conservation of the soil, there should be no difficulty in arousing in all coconut producers—large as well as small—a determination to revitalise their lands and ensure the continued prosperity of Ceylon's Coconut Plantations.

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NOTES ON THE TABLES.

An "A" Estate—an estate which is twenty acres or more in extent had ten or more resident labourers and had its census schedules filled up in English by the Superintendent or Person-in-charge.

A "B" Estate—an estate of 20 acres and over in which the number of resident labourers is less than ten or which was in charge of a person not well acquainted with the English language.

Acreage figures and equipment are generally reported as at December 31, 1951.

Crop figures—both volume and value are generally given for the year ending December 31, 1951.

Figures likely to reveal more detailed information of individual estates have not been published but have been included in the totals. For this reason and as figures have been rounded off there may be in some tables an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Any dissimilarity between the figures in the different tables is due to separate tabulations of only those estates which report the particular items dealt with in each table.

Table I—Number of estates in column 2 gives the total number of estates covered by the Census. Of these the number of estates reporting coconut is shown in column 3.

Acreage under-planted refers to area under old palms under-planted with seedlings.

Acreage cleared and replanted refers to area wherein old palms were cut down and replanted with seedlings.

Other—refers to other coconut plantations, i.e., neither under-planted nor replanted and therefore not previously under coconut.

Table IV—Estates have been grouped according to production in nuts which will, at the same time afford a ready estimate of the value of production at the rate of Rs. 150 per 1000 nuts (the average value prevailing during 1951).

Table VI—Average yield per palm was estimated on the total production and the total number of bearing palms.

Table VII—The quantity of copra produced is reported in candies—1 candy of copra=560 pounds.

TABLE F
Coconut Cultivation on Estates

District	Total No. of Estates	Number	Estates cultivating coconut			
			Total	Extent (in acres)		
				Under-planted	Cleared & replanted	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CEYLON	6,075	3,690	238,424	21,630	4,473	212,321
" A " Estates	1,928	554	94,633	9,698	1,794	83,141
" B " Estates	4,147	3,136	143,791	11,932	2,679	129,180
Colombo	901	812	45,576	5,042	840	39,694
" A " Estates	94	67	10,582	1,337	133	9,112
" B " Estates	807	745	34,994	3,705	707	30,582
Kalutara	328	117	3,158	123	9	3,026
" A " Estates	116	31	1,609	48	—	1,561
" B " Estates	212	86	1,549	75	9	1,465
Kandy	550	108	6,952	792	59	6,101
" A " Estates	404	46	5,529	704	53	4,772
" B " Estates	146	62	1,423	88	6	1,329
Matale	161	64	4,324	737	208	3,379
" A " Estates	102	29	3,523	668	201	2,654
" B " Estates	59	35	801	69	7	725
Nuwara Eliya	203	3	74	58	—	16
" A " Estates	189	2	58	58	—	—
" B " Estates	14	1	16	—	—	16
Galle	309	118	3,816	370	90	3,356
" A " Estates	73	28	2,184	130	—	2,054
" B " Estates	236	90	1,632	240	90	1,302
Matara	361	161	3,480	511	329	2,640
" A " Estates	58	11	238	5	—	233
" B " Estates	303	150	3,242	506	329	2,407
Hambantota	127	74	1,471	51	12	1,408
" A " Estates	4	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	123	74	1,471	51	12	1,408

Column 2:—This gives the total number of estates covered by the Census.

TABLE I—(contd.)

Coconut Cultivation on Estates

District	Total No. of Estates	Number	Estates cultivating Coconut			
			Total	Extent (in acres)		
				Under-planted	Cleared & replanted	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaffna	117	117	7,069	548	357	6,164
" A " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	117	117	7,069	548	357	6,164
Mannar	17	17	577	22	—	555
" A " Estates	1	1	40	—	—	40
" B " Estates	16	16	537	22	—	515
Vavuniya	12	10	812	40	—	772
" A " Estates	2	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	10	10	812	40	—	772
Batticaloa	107	106	8,806	1,945	86	6,775
" A " Estates	12	12	3,760	1,267	—	2,493
" B " Estates	95	94	5,046	678	86	4,282
Trincomalee	14	12	547	95	10	442
" A " Estates	5	3	102	5	—	97
" B " Estates	9	9	445	90	10	345
Kurunegala	1,188	1,166	100,832	5,686	1,498	93,648
" A " Estates	212	200	46,653	2,569	960	43,124
" B " Estates	976	966	54,179	3,117	538	50,524
Puttalam	259	258	16,625	2,523	93	14,009
" A " Estates	14	13	3,502	1,089	21	2,392
" B " Estates	245	245	13,123	1,434	72	11,617
Chilaw	310	310	27,461	2,754	841	23,866
" A " Estates	59	59	14,541	1,644	408	12,494
" B " Estates	251	251	12,920	1,110	438	11,372
Anuradhapura	12	9	341	54	13	274
" A " Estates	7	4	234	50	—	184
" B " Estates	5	5	107	4	13	90
Badulla	227	8	235	8	—	227
" A " Estates	196	4	175	—	—	175
" B " Estates	31	4	60	8	—	52
Ratnapura	421	52	866	24	25	817
" A " Estates	182	12	168	16	20	132
" B " Estates	239	40	698	8	5	685
Kegalla	451	168	5,402	247	3	5,152
" A " Estates	198	32	1,735	108	3	1,624
" B " Estates	253	136	3,667	139	—	3,528

Column 2—This gives the total number of estates covered by the Census.

TABLE 3

Coconut Cultivation on Estates—showing Number of Palms classified by Age

District	Estates cultivating Coconut		Number of Palms (in tens)					
	Number	Extent (in acres)	Total	under 7 years	7-under 10 years	10-under 30 years	30-under 60 years	60 years and over
CEYLON ..	3,690	238,424	1,462,998	204,112	79,703	356,805	670,553	151,825
" A " Estates	554	94,633	564,863	79,175	24,379	122,814	285,824	52,671
" B " Estates	3,136	143,791	898,135	124,937	55,324	233,991	384,729	99,154
Colombo ..	812	45,576	309,546	33,518	14,106	55,768	146,845	59,309
" A " Estates	67	10,582	72,397	7,822	3,539	12,236	34,442	14,358
" B " Estates	745	34,994	237,149	25,696	10,567	43,532	112,403	44,951
Kalutara ..	117	3,158	21,205	1,753	710	4,257	13,094	1,391
" A " Estates	31	1,609	10,034	586	214	1,701	7,240	293
" B " Estates	86	1,549	11,171	1,167	496	2,556	5,854	1,098
Kandy ..	108	6,952	35,859	4,821	824	14,222	14,787	1,205
" A " Estates	46	5,529	29,866	4,197	406	11,380	13,137	746
" B " Estates	62	1,423	5,993	624	418	2,842	1,650	459
Matale ..	64	4,324	20,952	9,603	923	3,445	6,265	716
" A " Estates	29	3,523	16,414	8,413	642	1,990	5,217	152
" B " Estates	35	801	4,538	1,190	281	1,455	1,048	564
Nuwara Eliya	3	74	449	170	20	258	1	—
" A " Estates	2	58	370	170	20	179	1	—
" B " Estates	1	16	79	—	—	79	—	—
Galle ..	118	3,816	28,002	1,855	626	4,898	20,020	663
" A " Estates	28	2,184	15,728	842	271	2,164	12,291	160
" B " Estates	90	1,632	12,274	1,013	355	2,674	7,729	503
Matara ..	161	3,480	26,383	2,638	2,145	9,754	7,777	4,069
" A " Estates	11	238	1,667	131	103	783	650	—
" B " Estates	150	3,242	24,716	2,507	2,042	8,971	7,127	4,069
Hambantota ..	74	1,471	8,418	1,378	963	3,336	2,017	724
" A " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	74	1,471	8,418	1,378	963	3,336	2,017	724
Jaffna ..	117	7,069	37,232	3,895	1,631	10,187	17,172	4,347
" A " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	117	7,069	37,232	3,895	1,631	10,187	17,172	4,347

TABLE 2—(contd.)

Coconut Cultivation on Estates—showing Number of Palms classified by Age

District	Estates cultivating Coconut		Total	Number of palms (in tens)				
	Number	Extent (in Acres)		under 7 years	7-under 10 years	10-under 30 years	30-under 60 years	60 years and over
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mannar ..	17 ..	577 ..	3,674 ..	110 ..	250 ..	1,850 ..	920 ..	544
" A " Estates	1 ..	40 ..	400 ..	— ..	200 ..	200 ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates	16 ..	537 ..	3,274 ..	110 ..	50 ..	1,650 ..	920 ..	544
Vavuniya ..	10 ..	812 ..	3,011 ..	240 ..	50 ..	996 ..	1,625 ..	100
" A " Estates	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates	10 ..	812 ..	3,011 ..	240 ..	50 ..	996 ..	1,625 ..	100
Batticaloa ..	106 ..	8,806 ..	53,235 ..	9,010 ..	1,563 ..	7,341 ..	24,698 ..	10,623
" A " Estates	12 ..	3,760 ..	22,676 ..	2,926 ..	723 ..	2,486 ..	10,503 ..	6,038
" B " Estates	94 ..	5,046 ..	30,559 ..	6,084 ..	840 ..	4,855 ..	14,195 ..	4,585
Tincomalee ..	12 ..	547 ..	3,994 ..	972 ..	247 ..	648 ..	1,587 ..	540
" A " Estates	3 ..	102 ..	705 ..	105 ..	28 ..	75 ..	447 ..	50
" B " Estates	9 ..	445 ..	3,289 ..	867 ..	219 ..	573 ..	1,140 ..	490
Kurunegala ..	1,166 ..	100,832 ..	597,761 ..	97,255 ..	40,897 ..	172,260 ..	256,471 ..	30,878
" A " Estates	200 ..	46,653 ..	267,220 ..	40,705 ..	12,845 ..	66,990 ..	132,488 ..	14,192
" B " Estates	966 ..	54,179 ..	330,541 ..	56,550 ..	28,052 ..	105,270 ..	123,983 ..	16,686
Puttalam ..	258 ..	16,325 ..	97,421 ..	13,287 ..	4,791 ..	24,940 ..	46,794 ..	7,609
" A " Estates	13 ..	3,502 ..	21,238 ..	1,797 ..	1,104 ..	3,976 ..	13,729 ..	632
" B " Estates	245 ..	13,123 ..	76,183 ..	11,490 ..	3,687 ..	20,964 ..	33,065 ..	6,977
Chilaw ..	310 ..	27,461 ..	172,492 ..	16,886 ..	8,059 ..	30,399 ..	91,022 ..	26,126
" A " Estates	59 ..	14,541 ..	90,446 ..	7,228 ..	3,643 ..	15,336 ..	48,440 ..	15,799
" B " Estates	251 ..	12,920 ..	82,046 ..	9,658 ..	4,416 ..	15,063 ..	42,582 ..	10,327
Anuradhapura ..	9 ..	341 ..	2,297 ..	1,199 ..	69 ..	269 ..	760 ..	—
" A " Estates	4 ..	234 ..	1,753 ..	941 ..	10 ..	140 ..	662 ..	—
" B " Estates	5 ..	107 ..	544 ..	258 ..	59 ..	129 ..	98 ..	—
Badulla ..	8 ..	235 ..	1,612 ..	1,081 ..	— ..	347 ..	180 ..	4
" A " Estates	4 ..	175 ..	1,285 ..	980 ..	— ..	300 ..	5 ..	—
" B " Estates	4 ..	60 ..	327 ..	101 ..	— ..	47 ..	175 ..	4
Ratnapura ..	52 ..	866 ..	4,963 ..	1,297 ..	450 ..	1,965 ..	1,196 ..	55
" A " Estates	12 ..	168 ..	1,330 ..	558 ..	179 ..	386 ..	207 ..	—
" B " Estates	40 ..	698 ..	3,633 ..	739 ..	271 ..	1,579 ..	989 ..	55
Kegalla ..	168 ..	5,402 ..	34,492 ..	3,144 ..	1,379 ..	9,725 ..	17,322 ..	2,922
" A " Estates	32 ..	1,735 ..	11,334 ..	1,774 ..	452 ..	2,492 ..	6,365 ..	251
" B " Estates	136 ..	3,667 ..	23,158 ..	1,370 ..	927 ..	7,233 ..	10,957 ..	2,671

TABLE 3

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Size

District	Total No. of Estates	Total acreage	* under 10 acres		* 10-19 acres		20-49 acres		50-99 acres	
			No. of Estates	Acreage	No. of Estates	Acreage	No. of Estates	Acreage	No. of Estates	Acreage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CEYLON	3,690	238,424	413	1,991	399	5,049	1,594	48,124	675	45,948
“ A ” Estates	554	94,033	62	354	38	508	68	2,024	82	5,984
“ B ” Estates	3,136	143,791	351	1,637	361	5,141	1,526	46,100	593	39,964
Colombo	812	45,576	46	228	79	1,176	421	12,578	161	11,108
“ A ” Estates	67	10,582	5	30	1	10	12	353	10	778
“ B ” Estates	745	34,994	41	198	78	1,166	409	12,220	151	10,330
Kalutara	117	3,158	51	198	22	295	32	1,026	7	463
“ A ” Estates	31	1,609	15	56	4	51	4	123	3	203
“ B ” Estates	86	1,549	36	142	18	244	28	898	4	265
Kandy	108	6,952	30	148	16	228	36	986	16	1,105
“ A ” Estates	46	5,529	7	46	4	59	17	469	10	704
“ B ” Estates	62	1,423	23	102	12	169	19	517	6	401
Matale	64	4,324	14	73	12	164	15	447	11	780
“ A ” Estates	29	3,523	5	30	2	25	3	107	7	501
“ B ” Estates	35	801	9	43	10	139	12	340	4	279
Nuwara Eliya	3	74	—	—	1	16	2	58	—	—
“ A ” Estates	2	58	—	—	—	—	2	58	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	16	—	—	1	16	—	—	—	—
Galle	118	3,816	51	235	21	283	29	830	7	452
“ A ” Estates	23	2,184	6	44	5	61	5	134	6	400
“ B ” Estates	90	1,632	45	191	16	222	24	696	1	52
Matara	161	3,480	74	329	27	358	42	1,242	11	681
“ A ” Estates	11	238	6	40	2	23	1	25	1	50
“ B ” Estates	150	3,242	68	289	25	335	41	1,217	10	631
Hambantota	74	1,471	33	164	14	171	21	640	4	221
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	74	1,471	33	164	14	171	21	640	4	221
Jaffna	117	7,069	5	35	16	215	53	1,573	27	1,749
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	117	7,069	5	35	16	215	53	1,573	27	1,749
Mannar	17	577	3	16	2	23	9	250	2	135
“ A ” Estates	1	40	—	—	—	—	1	40	—	—
“ B ” Estates	16	537	3	16	2	23	8	210	2	135
Vavuniya	10	812	—	—	—	—	7	222	2	110
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	10	812	—	—	—	—	7	222	2	110
Batticaloa	106	8,806	2	7	18	257	51	1,435	10	1,063
“ A ” Estates	12	3,760	1	5	1	15	—	—	1	50
“ B ” Estates	94	5,046	1	2	17	242	51	1,435	15	1,013
Trincomalee	12	547	—	—	4	57	4	150	2	140
“ A ” Estates	3	102	—	—	1	17	1	35	1	50
“ B ” Estates	9	445	—	—	3	40	3	115	1	90
Kurunegala	1,166	100,832	19	109	67	1,018	526	16,198	267	18,483
“ A ” Estates	200	46,653	1	5	6	82	10	326	23	1,829
“ B ” Estates	966	54,179	18	104	61	936	516	15,872	244	16,654
Puttalam	258	16,625	8	63	38	534	119	3,635	50	3,257
“ A ” Estates	13	3,502	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	75
“ B ” Estates	245	13,123	8	63	38	534	119	3,635	49	3,182
Chilaw	310	27,461	3	15	15	220	144	4,445	69	4,699
“ A ” Estates	59	14,541	—	—	—	—	1	40	10	731
“ B ” Estates	251	12,920	3	15	15	220	143	4,405	59	3,968
Anuradhapura	9	341	2	13	—	—	2	44	5	284
“ A ” Estates	4	234	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	234
“ B ” Estates	5	107	2	13	—	—	2	44	1	50
Badulla	8	235	1	3	4	42	1	35	1	55
“ A ” Estates	4	175	—	—	2	20	—	—	1	55
“ B ” Estates	4	60	1	3	2	22	1	35	—	—
Ratnapura	52	866	29	133	7	89	13	400	2	138
“ A ” Estates	12	168	6	40	3	43	3	85	—	—
“ B ” Estates	40	698	23	93	4	46	10	315	2	138
Kegalla	168	5,402	42	222	36	498	67	1,930	15	1,020
“ A ” Estates	32	1,735	10	58	7	102	8	219	4	324
“ B ” Estates	136	3,667	32	164	29	396	59	1,711	11	696

* Figures refer to units of coconut of this size in estates of 20 acres and over.

TABLE 3—(Contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Size

District	100-199 acres		200-499 acres		500-999 acres		1,000 acres and over	
	No. of Estates	Acreage	No. of Estates	Acreage	No. of Estates	Acreage	No. of Estates	Acreage
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CEYLON	380	51,111	186	53,517	36	23,524	7	8,560
“ A ” Estates	137	19,340	132	39,127	28	18,736	7	8,560
“ B ” Estates	243	31,771	54	14,390	8	4,788	—	—
Colombo	74	9,590	28	8,318	2	1,221	1	1,357
“ A ” Estates	22	3,116	16	4,933	—	—	1	1,357
“ B ” Estates	52	6,474	12	3,385	2	1,221	—	—
Kalutara	3	363	1	234	1	574	—	—
“ A ” Estates	3	363	1	234	1	574	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kandy	6	776	1	350	—	—	3	3,359
“ A ” Estates	4	542	1	350	—	—	3	3,359
“ B ” Estates	2	234	—	—	—	—	—	—
Matale	7	932	4	1,242	1	686	—	—
“ A ” Estates	7	932	4	1,242	1	686	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuwara Eliya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galle	8	1,026	1	287	1	703	—	—
“ A ” Estates	4	555	1	287	1	703	—	—
“ B ” Estates	4	471	—	—	—	—	—	—
Matara	7	870	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	6	770	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hambantota	2	275	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	2	275	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaffna	10	1,416	5	1,481	1	600	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	10	1,416	5	1,481	1	600	—	—
Mannar	1	148	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	148	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vavuniya	—	—	1	480	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	1	480	—	—	—	—
Batticaloa	8	1,026	8	2,598	8	2,420	—	—
“ A ” Estates	2	351	5	1,719	2	1,620	—	—
“ B ” Estates	6	675	3	879	1	800	—	—
Trincomalee	2	200	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	2	200	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kurunegala	172	23,769	95	27,028	18	11,703	2	2,524
“ A ” Estates	70	9,991	72	21,323	16	10,573	2	2,524
“ B ” Estates	102	13,778	23	5,705	2	1,130	—	—
Puttalam	24	3,060	16	4,270	3	1,806	—	—
“ A ” Estates	3	448	8	2,215	1	769	—	—
“ B ” Estates	21	2,617	8	2,055	2	1,037	—	—
Chilaw	47	6,430	26	7,229	5	3,103	1	1,320
“ A ” Estates	18	2,523	24	6,824	5	3,103	1	1,320
“ B ” Estates	29	3,907	2	405	—	—	—	—
Anuradhapura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Badulla	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ratnapura	1	106	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	106	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kegalla	7	1,024	—	—	1	708	—	—
“ A ” Estates	2	324	—	—	1	708	—	—
“ B ” Estates	5	700	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 4

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Yield in Nuts ¹

District	Number of Estates cultivating Coconut	Estates reporting yield		Number of Estates reporting yield (in 1,000 Nuts)				
		Number	Yield (1,000 Nuts)	33 and under	34-67	68-100	101-133	134-200
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CEYLON	3,690	3,565	435,642	1,573	695	323	202	244
“ A ” Estates	554	530	217,379	126	40	25	24	32
“ B ” Estates	3,136	3,035	218,263	1,447	655	298	178	212
Colombo	812	810	82,842	333	175	85	60	59
“ A ” Estates	67	66	27,132	11	6	2	3	6
“ B ” Estates	745	744	55,710	322	169	83	57	53
Kalutara	117	104	5,639	71	16	6	3	3
“ A ” Estates	31	26	3,524	14	2	3	2	1
“ B ” Estates	86	78	2,115	57	14	3	1	2
Kandy	108	102	12,088	64	23	5	3	1
“ A ” Estates	46	45	10,901	23	9	3	3	1
“ B ” Estates	62	57	1,187	41	14	2	—	—
Matale	64	54	4,985	30	11	4	3	2
“ A ” Estates	29	23	3,903	10	5	2	1	1
“ B ” Estates	35	31	1,082	20	6	2	2	1
Nuwara Eliya	3	2	59	1	1	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates †	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates †	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galle	118	112	5,688	89	6	2	4	3
“ A ” Estates	28	28	3,572	15	2	1	3	1
“ B ” Estates	90	84	2,116	74	4	1	1	2
Matara	161	152	4,226	123	12	6	3	3
“ A ” Estates	11	11	194	10	—	—	1	—
“ B ” Estates	150	141	4,032	113	12	6	2	3
Hambantota	74	67	1,364	54	10	1	1	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	74	67	1,364	54	10	1	1	—

* Estates have been grouped according to production in nuts which will at the same time afford a ready estimate of the value of production. The value estimated at the average rate of Rs. 150 per thousand nuts prevailing during 1951 will fall within the following rupee groups:—

5,000 and under, 5,001-10,000, 10,001-15,000, 15,001-20,000, 20,001-30,000, 30,001-50,000, 50,001-75,000, 75,001-100,000, 100,001-150,000, 150,001-250,000, 250,001-500,000, 500,001-1,000,000, 1,000,001 and over.

† In some cases figures have not been shown to avoid revealing particulars of individual estates.

TABLE 4—(contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Yield in Nuts*

District	Number of Estates cultivating Coconut	Estates reporting yield		Number of Estates reporting yield (in 1,000 Nuts)				
		Number	Yield (1,000 Nuts)	33 and under	34-67	68-100	101-133	134-200
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jaffna	117	115	4,304	90	10	6	3	4
“A” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“B” Estates	117	115	4,304	90	10	6	3	4
Mannar	17	16	251	15	1	—	—	—
“A” Estates	1	1	—†	1	—	—	—	—
“B” Estates	16	15	—†	14	1	—	—	—
Vavuniya	10	10	775	5	1	2	1	—
“A” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“B” Estates	10	10	775	5	1	2	1	—
Batticaloa	106	102	7,378	65	21	3	3	2
“A” Estates	12	10	4,206	1	1	1	—	—
“B” Estates	94	92	3,172	64	20	2	3	2
Trincomalee	12	11	470	5	3	3	—	—
“A” Estates	3	2	104	1	—	1	—	—
“B” Estates	9	9	366	4	3	2	—	—
Kurunegala	1,166	1,139	203,641	294	248	138	81	111
“A” Estates	200	199	109,799	8	10	7	8	14
“B” Estates	966	940	93,842	286	238	131	73	97
Puttalam	258	250	20,415	130	53	14	15	13
“A” Estates	13	13	5,681	—	—	1	—	1
“B” Estates	245	237	14,734	130	53	13	15	12
Chilaw	310	295	70,747	48	68	35	19	36
“A” Estates	59	59	43,405	—	—	1	2	5
“B” Estates	251	236	27,342	48	68	34	17	31
Anuradhapura	9	8	323	6	—	1	—	1
“A” Estates	4	3	292	1	—	1	—	1
“B” Estates	5	5	31	5	—	—	—	—
Badulla	8	6	127	4	1	1	—	—
“A” Estates	4	2	77	1	—	1	—	—
“B” Estates	4	4	50	3	1	—	—	—
Ratnapura	52	46	652	39	5	2	—	—
“A” Estates	12	11	134	10	1	—	—	—
“B” Estates	40	35	518	29	4	2	—	—
Kegalla	168	164	9,668	107	30	9	3	6
“A” Estates	32	30	4,374	20	3	1	1	1
“B” Estates	136	134	5,294	87	27	8	2	5

* Estates have been grouped according to production in nuts which will at the same time afford a ready estimate of the value of production. The value estimated at the average rate of Rs. 150 per thousand nuts prevailing during 1951, will fall within the following rupee groups:—

5,000 and under, 5,001-10,000, 10,001-15,000, 15,001-20,000, 20,001-30,000, 30,001-50,000, 50,001-75,000, 75,001-100,000, 100,001-150,000, 150,001-250,000, 250,001-500,000, 500,001-1,000,000, 1,000,001 and over.

† In some cases figures have not been shown to avoid revealing particulars of individual estates.

TABLE 4—(contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Yield in Nuts *

District	Number of Estates reporting yield (in 1,000 Nuts)							
	201-333	334-500	501-667	668-1,000	1,001-1,667	1,668-3,333	3,334-6,667	6,668 and over
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CEYLON	226	137	64	49	29	18	5	—
A " Estates	70	76	46	44	24	18	—	—
B " Estates	156	61	18	5	5	—	—	—
Colombo	54	22	7	9	5	—	1	—
" A " Estates	12	11	3	7	4	—	1	—
" B " Estates	42	11	4	2	1	—	—	—
Kalutara	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
" A " Estates	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
" B " Estates	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kandy	2	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
" A " Estates	2	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
" B " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Matale	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
" A " Estates	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
" B " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuwara Eliya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" A " Estates †	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates †	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galle	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
" A " Estates	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
" B " Estates	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Matara	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" A " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hambantota	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" A " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaffna	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
" A " Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" B " Estates	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

* Estates have been grouped according to production in nuts which will at the same time afford a ready estimate of the value of production. The value estimated at the average rate of Rs. 150 per thousand nuts prevailing during 1951, will fall within the following rupee groups:—

5,000 and under, 5,001-10,000, 10,001-15,000, 15,001-20,000, 20,001-30,000, 30,001-50,000, 50,001-75,000, 75,001-100,000, 100,001-150,000, 150,001-250,000, 250,001-500,000, 500,001-1,000,000, 1,000,001 and over.

† In some cases figures have not been shown to avoid revealing particulars of individual estates.

TABLE 4—(contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Yield in Nuts *

District	Number of Estates reporting yield (in 1,000 Nuts)							
	201-333	334-500	501-667	668-1,000	1,001-1,667	1,668-3,333	3,334-6,667	6,668 and over
1	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mannar	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
Vavuniya	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	—
Batticaloa	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	1
“ A ” Estates	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	1
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	—
Trincomalee	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
Kurunegala	..	106	..	73	..	39	..	25
“ A ” Estates	..	38	..	40	..	30	..	23
“ B ” Estates	..	68	..	33	..	9	..	2
Puttalam	..	9	..	10	..	4	..	1
“ A ” Estates	..	1	..	6	..	3	..	1
“ B ” Estates	..	8	..	4	..	1	..	—
Chilaw	..	32	..	22	..	10	..	12
“ A ” Estates	..	8	..	12	..	7	..	11
“ B ” Estates	..	24	..	10	..	3	..	1
Anuradhapura	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
Badulla	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
Ratnapura	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
“ B ” Estates	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
Kegalla	..	6	..	1	..	1	..	—
“ A ” Estates	..	1	..	1	..	—	..	1
“ B ” Estates	..	5	..	—	..	—	..	—

* Estates have been grouped according to production in nuts which will at the same time afford a ready estimate of the value of production. The value estimated at the average rate of Rs. 150 per thousand nuts prevailing during 1951 will fall within the following rupee groups :—

5,000 and under, 5,001-10,000, 10,001-15,000, 15,001-20,000, 20,001-30,000, 30,001-50,000, 50,001-75,000, 75,001-100,000, 100,001-150,000, 150,001-250,000, 250,001-500,000, 500,001-1,000,000, 1,000,001 and over.

† In some cases figures have not been shown to avoid revealing particulars of individual estates.

TABLE 5

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Average Yield per Acre

District	No. of Estates cultivating coconut	Estates Reporting Yield		Estates reporting yield per acre (in nuUs)					
		No.	Extent (acres)	under 500		500-999		1,000-1,499	
				No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CEYLON	3,690	3,565	235,423	543	19,208	808	35,990	704	41,910
“ A ” Estates	554	530	93,342	47	2,111	58	7,321	86	10,277
“ B ” Estates	3,136	3,035	142,081	496	17,097	750	28,669	618	31,633
Colombo	812	810	45,448	88	2,778	179	6,738	190	10,546
“ A ” Estates	67	66	10,538	3	90	4	220	14	1,325
“ B ” Estates	745	744	34,910	85	2,688	175	6,518	176	9,221
Kalutara	117	104	3,112	21	244	27	572	20	624
“ A ” Estates	31	26	1,600	3	16	5	39	6	399
“ B ” Estates	86	78	1,512	18	228	22	533	14	225
Kandy	108	102	6,907	20	570	21	1,205	21	1,588
“ A ” Estates	46	45	5,503	4	201	10	805	9	1,346
“ B ” Estates	62	57	1,404	16	369	11	400	12	242
Matale	64	54	3,584	10	480	9	826	13	459
“ A ” Estates	29	23	2,862	7	426	5	801	4	262
“ B ” Estates	35	31	722	3	54	4	25	9	197
Nuwara Eliya *	3	2	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	2	1	38	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galle	118	112	3,792	23	504	23	477	22	766
“ A ” Estates	28	28	2,184	3	57	4	137	8	588
“ B ” Estates	90	84	1,608	25	447	24	340	14	178
Matara	161	152	3,409	48	638	54	1,075	27	804
“ A ” Estates	11	11	238	6	97	3	35	1	100
“ B ” Estates	150	141	3,171	42	541	51	1,040	26	704
Hambantota	74	67	1,442	18	414	18	342	18	394
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	74	67	1,442	18	414	18	342	18	394
Jaffna	117	115	7,047	59	3,158	47	2,358	4	1,395
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	117	115	7,047	59	3,158	47	2,358	4	1,395
Mannar *	17	16	573	5	303	11	270	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vavuniya	10	10	812	2	75	3	545	2	58
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	10	10	812	2	75	3	545	2	58
Batticaloa	106	102	8,460	32	2,200	44	3,577	15	1,034
“ A ” Estates	12	10	3,446	1	186	3	1,307	3	525
“ B ” Estates	94	92	5,014	31	2,014	41	2,270	12	509
Trincomalee *	12	11	530	2	135	4	169	4	176
“ A ” Estates	3	2	85	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	9	9	445	—	—	4	169	4	176
Kurunegala	1,166	1,139	99,995	91	4,350	182	9,384	228	16,584
“ A ” Estates	200	199	46,643	6	780	10	2,302	26	4,748
“ B ” Estates	966	940	53,352	85	3,570	172	7,082	202	11,836
Puttalam	253	250	16,445	46	1,705	96	6,014	53	3,864
“ A ” Estates	13	13	3,502	—	—	3	1,094	2	421
“ B ” Estates	245	237	12,943	46	1,705	93	4,920	51	3,443
Chilaw	310	295	27,183	16	636	21	1,014	44	2,341
“ A ” Estates	59	59	14,541	—	—	1	316	2	243
“ B ” Estates	251	236	12,642	16	636	20	698	42	2,098
Anuradhapura	9	8	291	3	124	3	33	1	70
“ A ” Estates	4	3	184	1	50	—	—	1	70
“ B ” Estates	5	5	107	2	74	3	33	—	—
Badulla *	8	6	125	3	32	—	—	2	90
“ A ” Estates	4	2	65	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	4	4	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ratnapura	52	46	831	20	238	13	326	7	161
“ A ” Estates	12	11	153	3	54	3	37	3	37
“ B ” Estates	40	35	678	17	184	10	289	4	124
Kegalla	168	164	5,383	31	624	47	1,049	32	918
“ A ” Estates	32	30	1,720	8	109	6	188	5	120
“ B ” Estates	136	134	3,663	23	515	41	861	27	798

*In some cases figures have not been shown to avoid revealing particulars of individual estates.

TABLE 5—(contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—classified by Average Yield per Acre

District	Estates reporting yield per acre (in nuts)											
	1,500-1,999		2,000-2,499		2,500-2,999		3,000-3,499		3,500-3,999		4,000 & over	
	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)	No. of Estates	Extent (acres)
<i>I</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
CEYLON	583	38,122	400	35,745	258	31,850	154	20,097	66	8,359	49	4,142
“ A ” Estates	78	13,626	88	16,456	88	21,298	49	14,017	20	6,005	16	2,231
“ B ” Estates	505	24,496	312	19,289	170	10,552	105	6,080	46	2,354	33	1,911
Colombo	149	7,726	95	7,752	53	4,372	32	2,672	11	1,903	13	961
“ A ” Estates	7	642	17	3,222	11	1,724	6	1,392	3	1,677	1	246
“ B ” Estates	142	7,084	78	4,530	42	2,648	26	1,280	8	226	12	715
Kalutara	10	264	16	439	5	869	1	2	3	62	1	36
“ A ” Estates	4	203	4	79	4	864	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	6	61	12	360	1	5	1	2	3	62	1	36
Kandy	13	608	11	1,388	5	172	4	57	3	1,173	4	146
“ A ” Estates	8	430	6	1,320	3	139	—	—	2	1,148	3	114
“ B ” Estates	5	178	5	68	2	33	4	57	1	25	1	32
Matale	4	113	5	538	8	979	—	—	3	105	2	84
“ A ” Estates	1	65	2	481	4	827	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	3	48	3	57	4	152	—	—	3	105	2	84
Nuwara Eliya *	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galle	17	1,318	7	359	6	192	3	160	—	—	1	16
“ A ” Estates	7	1,057	3	199	3	146	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	10	261	4	160	3	46	3	160	—	—	1	16
Matara	10	397	7	217	1	15	2	98	1	82	2	83
“ A ” Estates	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	10	397	6	211	1	15	2	98	1	82	2	83
Hambantota	10	129	2	118	1	45	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	10	129	2	118	1	45	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaffna	3	86	1	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	30
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	3	86	1	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	30
Mannar *	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vavuniya	1	44	1	60	—	—	1	30	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	44	1	60	—	—	1	30	—	—	—	—
Batticaloa	6	1,321	1	20	2	270	2	38	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	2	1,178	—	—	1	250	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	4	143	1	20	1	20	2	38	—	—	—	—
Trincomalée *	1	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kurunegala	253	20,063	172	18,448	116	16,640	74	11,030	18	2,850	5	646
“ A ” Estates	39	8,284	39	8,712	42	11,800	26	7,445	8	2,101	3	471
“ B ” Estates	214	11,779	133	9,736	74	4,840	48	3,585	10	749	2	175
Puttalam	30	2,412	9	1,347	10	519	1	9	3	420	2	155
“ A ” Estates	4	1,222	2	395	—	—	—	—	2	370	—	—
“ B ” Estates	26	1,190	7	952	10	519	1	9	1	50	2	155
Chilaw	58	3,121	52	4,256	43	7,425	25	4,936	18	1,460	18	1,985
“ A ” Estates	3	463	10	1,921	18	5,440	13	4,258	3	500	9	1,400
“ B ” Estates	55	2,658	42	2,335	25	1,985	12	678	15	969	9	585
Anuradhapura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Badulla *	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ratnapura	2	28	4	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates	—	—	2	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates	2	28	2	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kegalla	15	439	17	705	8	352	8	1,001	6	295	—	—
“ A ” Estates	2	32	2	96	2	108	3	858	2	209	—	—
“ B ” Estates	13	407	15	609	6	244	5	143	4	86	—	—

* In some cases figures have not been shown to avoid revealing particulars of individual estates.

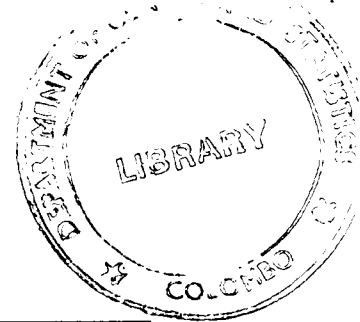


TABLE 6

Coconut Cultivation on Estates—Palms classified by average Yield and Age *

Number of palms in tens (within age group)

Yield per Palm	Under 7 years			7-9 years		
	"A" Estates	"B" Estates	Total	"A" Estates	"B" Estates	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7
CEYLON	79,175	124,937	204,112	24,379	55,324	79,703
Under 10 nuts	1,524	14,004	15,528	418	9,788	10,206
10-14 ,, ..	1,885	11,512	13,397	246	5,541	5,787
15-19 ,, ..	3,580	15,238	18,818	1,442	7,292	8,734
20-24 ,, ..	3,126	13,456	16,582	1,402	5,962	7,364
25-29 ,, ..	6,048	12,277	18,325	2,366	4,567	6,933
30-34 ,, ..	5,892	11,883	17,775	2,311	6,261	8,572
35-39 ,, ..	4,963	10,994	15,957	2,083	4,287	6,370
40-44 ,, ..	8,078	7,978	16,056	3,388	3,633	7,021
45-49 ,, ..	6,839	6,558	13,397	2,794	2,242	5,036
50-54 ,, ..	11,036	4,352	15,388	3,014	1,083	4,097
55 and over	17,667	7,559	25,226	4,913	4,294	9,207
Not reporting yield	8,537	9,126	17,663	2	374	376

*Average yield per palm estimated on the total production and the number of bearing palms.

TABLE 6—(contd.)

Coconut Cultivation on Estates—Palms classified by average Yield and Age *

Number of palms in tens (within age group)

Yield per Palm	10-29 years			30-59 years		
	"A" Estates	"B" Estates	Total	"A" Estates	"B" Estates	Total
	8	9	10	11	12	13
CEYLON	122,814	233,991	356,805	285,824	384,729	670,553
Under 10 nuts	1,664	22,815	24,479	9,255	38,699	47,954
10-14 ,, ..	2,119	25,280	27,399	666	36,444	37,110
15-19 ,, ..	5,927	29,092	35,019	12,610	44,910	57,520
20-24 ,, ..	4,826	27,236	32,062	15,573	45,412	60,985
25-29 ,, ..	8,162	28,479	36,641	20,385	42,552	62,937
30-34 ,, ..	7,322	29,524	36,846	16,940	40,778	57,718
35-39 ,, ..	12,432	21,143	33,575	15,520	42,199	57,719
40-44 ,, ..	15,414	15,593	31,007	27,491	27,983	55,474
45-49 ,, ..	16,132	12,207	28,339	28,567	23,830	52,397
50-54 ,, ..	23,409	5,201	28,610	52,333	14,849	67,182
55 and over	25,405	17,333	42,738	86,419	26,868	113,287
Not reporting yield	2	88	90	65	205	270

*Average yield per palm estimated on the total production and the number of bearing palms.

TABLE 6—(contd.)

Coconut Cultivation on Estates—Palms classified by average Yield and Age *

Yield per Palm 1	Number of palms in tens (within age group)					
	60 years and over			Total		
	"A" Estates 14	"B" Estates 15	Total 16	"A" Estates 17	"B" Estates 18	Total 19
CEYLON	52,671	99,154	151,825	564,863	898,135	1,462,998
Under 10 nuts	212	15,480	15,692	13,073	100,786	113,859
10-14 ,, ..	3,806	9,885	13,691	8,722	88,662	97,384
15-19 ,, ..	3,870	10,235	14,105	27,429	106,767	134,196
20-24 ,, ..	1,086	16,890	17,976	26,013	108,956	134,969
25-29 ,, ..	1,673	13,382	15,055	38,634	101,257	139,891
30-34 ,, ..	2,149	6,962	9,111	34,614	95,408	130,022
35-39 ,, ..	3,110	8,551	11,661	38,108	87,174	125,282
40-44 ,, ..	2,417	6,273	8,690	56,788	61,460	118,248
45-49 ,, ..	1,187	5,314	6,501	55,519	50,151	105,670
50-54 ,, ..	17,739	2,185	19,924	107,531	27,670	135,201
55 and over	15,422	3,912	19,334	149,826	59,966	209,792
Not reporting yield	—	85	85	8,606	9,878	18,484

*Average yield per palm estimated on the total production and the number of bearing palms.

TABLE 7

Estates cultivating Coconut—showing Production of Copra

District 1	No. of Estates reporting Yield 2	No. of Estates producing Copra 3	No. of Nuts turned into Copra (1,000) 4	Quantity of Copra produced (Candies) 5
CEYLON	3,565	795	211,198	161,342
"A" Estates	530	253	147,444	111,755
"B" Estates	3,035	542	63,754	49,587
Colombo	810	103	21,426	17,111
"A" Estates	66	19	11,235	9,184
"B" Estates	744	84	10,191	7,927
Kalutara	104	8	2,432	1,801
"A" Estates	26	6	2,387	1,767
"B" Estates	78	2	45	34
Kandy	102	13	7,191	4,382
"A" Estates	45	9	7,119	4,330
"B" Estates	57	4	72	52
Matale	54	15	3,583	2,355
"A" Estates	23	9	3,226	2,104
"B" Estates	31	6	357	251
Nuwara Eliya	2	—	—	—
"A" Estates	1	—	—	—
"B" Estates	1	—	—	—

TABLE 7—(contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—showing Production of Copra

District	No of Estates reporting Yield	No. of Estates producing Copra	No. of Nuts turned into Copra (1,000)	Quantity of Copra produced (Candies)
1	2	3	4	5
Galle ..	112 ..	13 ..	3,284 ..	2,807
" A " Estates ..	28 ..	7 ..	2,487 ..	2,112
" B " Estates ..	84 ..	6 ..	797 ..	695
Matara ..	152 ..	30 ..	2,109 ..	1,912
" A " Estates ..	11 ..	1 ..	110 ..	105
" B " Estates ..	141 ..	29 ..	1,999 ..	1,807
Hambantota ..	67 ..	31 ..	1,017 ..	733
" A " Estates ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	67 ..	31 ..	1,017 ..	733
Jaffna ..	115 ..	30 ..	1,080 ..	762
" A " Estates ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	115 ..	30 ..	1,080 ..	762
Mannar ..	16 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" A " Estates ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	15 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Vavuniya ..	10 ..	2 ..	325 ..	225
" A " Estates ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	10 ..	2 ..	325 ..	225
Batticaloa ..	102 ..	21 ..	3,143 ..	2,535
" A " Estates ..	10 ..	8 ..	2,502 ..	2,013
" B " Estates ..	92 ..	13 ..	641 ..	522
Trincomalee ..	11 ..	3 ..	92 ..	72
" A " Estates ..	2 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	9 ..	3 ..	92 ..	72
Kurunegala ..	1,139 ..	316 ..	111,080 ..	84,889
" A " Estates ..	199 ..	135 ..	81,703 ..	61,761
" B " Estates ..	940 ..	181 ..	29,377 ..	23,128
Puttalam ..	250 ..	75 ..	11,151 ..	8,166
" A " Estates ..	13 ..	9 ..	4,042 ..	3,057
" B " Estates ..	237 ..	66 ..	7,109 ..	5,109
Chilaw ..	205 ..	89 ..	38,495 ..	30,087
" A " Estates ..	59 ..	44 ..	29,901 ..	23,371
" B " Estates ..	236 ..	45 ..	8,594 ..	6,716
Anuradhapura ..	8 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" A " Estates ..	3 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	5 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Badulla ..	6 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" A " Estates ..	2 ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates ..	4 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Ratnapura ..	46 ..	5 ..	80 ..	62
" A " Estates ..	11 ..	1 ..	3 ..	3
" B " Estates ..	35 ..	4 ..	77 ..	59
Kegalla ..	164 ..	41 ..	4,710 ..	3,443
" A " Estates ..	30 ..	5 ..	2,729 ..	1,948
" B " Estates ..	134 ..	36 ..	1,981 ..	1,495

TABLE 8

Estates cultivating Coconut—reporting Livestock

District	No. of Estates cultivating Coconut	Estates with Cattle and Buffaloes		Estates with Goats	
		No. of Estates	No. of Cattle and Buffaloes	No. of Estates	No. of Goats
1	2	3	4	5	6
CEYLON	3,690 ..	2,434 ..	71,430 ..	425 ..	12,326
" A " Estates	554 ..	483 ..	35,054 ..	155 ..	7,960
" B " Estates	3,136 ..	1,951 ..	36,376 ..	270 ..	4,366
Colombo	812 ..	563 ..	13,118 ..	80 ..	802
" A " Estates	67 ..	59 ..	4,475 ..	16 ..	256
" B " Estates	745 ..	504 ..	8,643 ..	64 ..	546
Kalutara	117 ..	67 ..	1,287 ..	18 ..	711
" A " Estates	31 ..	24 ..	736 ..	11 ..	671
" B " Estates	86 ..	43 ..	551 ..	7 ..	40
Kand	108 ..	64 ..	2,188 ..	31 ..	1,086
" A " Estates	46 ..	37 ..	1,998 ..	19 ..	1,000
" B " Estates	62 ..	27 ..	190 ..	12 ..	86
Matale	64 ..	35 ..	1,344 ..	13 ..	576
" A " Estates	29 ..	22 ..	1,255 ..	10 ..	479
" B " Estates	35 ..	13 ..	89 ..	3 ..	97
Nuwara Eliya	3 ..	1 ..	234 ..	2 ..	143
" A " Estates	2 ..	1 ..	234 ..	1 ..	136
" B " Estates	1 ..	— ..	— ..	1 ..	7
Galle	118 ..	58 ..	1,104 ..	14 ..	1,006
" A " Estates	28 ..	25 ..	718 ..	12 ..	1,002
" B " Estates	90 ..	33 ..	386 ..	2 ..	4
Matara	161 ..	76 ..	937 ..	9 ..	435
" A " Estates	11 ..	9 ..	178 ..	5 ..	426
" B " Estates	150 ..	67 ..	759 ..	4 ..	9
Hambantota	74 ..	40 ..	486 ..	— ..	—
" A " Estates	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates	74 ..	40 ..	486 ..	— ..	—
Jaffna	117 ..	63 ..	1,813 ..	22 ..	832
" A " Estates	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates	117 ..	63 ..	1,813 ..	22 ..	832
Mannar	17 ..	2 ..	10 ..	3 ..	112
" A " Estates	1 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates	16 ..	2 ..	10 ..	3 ..	112
Vavuniya	10 ..	5 ..	198 ..	2 ..	87
" A " Estates	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
" B " Estates	10 ..	5 ..	198 ..	2 ..	87
Batticaloa	106 ..	55 ..	3,515 ..	14 ..	294
" A " Estates	12 ..	9 ..	1,394 ..	2 ..	26
" B " Estates	94 ..	46 ..	2,121 ..	12 ..	268
Trincomalee	12 ..	9 ..	257 ..	3 ..	44
" A " Estates	3 ..	2 ..	117 ..	1 ..	26
" B " Estates	9 ..	7 ..	140 ..	2 ..	18
Kurunegala	1,166 ..	881 ..	26,316 ..	117 ..	3,532
" A " Estates	200 ..	184 ..	14,287 ..	38 ..	2,220
" B " Estates	966 ..	697 ..	12,029 ..	79 ..	1,312

TABLE 8—(contd.)

Estates cultivating Coconut—reporting Livestock

District	No. of Estates cultivating Coconut	Estates with Cattle and Buffaloes		Estates with Goats	
		No. of Estates	No. of Cattle and Buffaloes	No. of Estates	No. of Goats
1	2	3	4	5	6
Puttalam ..	258	150	5,138	34	1,166
“ A ” Estates ..	13	13	1,469	8	694
“ B ” Estates ..	245	137	3,669	26	472
Chilaw ..	310	251	10,104	40	845
“ A ” Estates ..	59	59	5,696	13	428
“ B ” Estates ..	251	192	4,408	27	417
Anuradhapura ..	9	7	1,311	1	35
“ A ” Estates ..	4	4	1,198	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	5	3	113	1	35
Badulla ..	8	7	375	2	25
“ A ” Estates ..	4	4	348	2	25
“ B ” Estates ..	4	3	27	—	—
Ratnapura ..	52	21	343	4	180
“ A ” Estates ..	12	8	134	2	160
“ B ” Estates ..	40	13	209	2	20
Kegalla ..	168	79	1,352	16	415
“ A ” Estates ..	32	23	817	15	411
“ B ” Estates ..	136	56	535	1	4

TABLE 9

Copra Kilns, Patent Driers and Chekkus—reported on Estates

District	Number of Estates cultivating Coconut	Number of Copra Kilns	Number of Patent Driers	Number of Chekkus
1	2	3	4	5
CEYLON ..	3,690	1,134	50	61
“ A ” Estates ..	554	340	22	26
“ B ” Estates ..	3,136	794	28	35
Colombo ..	812	212	11	22
“ A ” Estates ..	67	37	—	2
“ B ” Estates ..	745	175	11	20
Kalutara ..	117	16	2	2
“ A ” Estates ..	31	8	2	2
“ B ” Estates ..	86	8	—	—
Kandy ..	108	18	1	2
“ A ” Estates ..	46	12	1	2
“ B ” Estates ..	62	6	—	—
Matale ..	64	19	1	1
“ A ” Estates ..	29	10	1	1
“ B ” Estates ..	35	9	—	—
Nuwara Eliya ..	3	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	2	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	1	—	—	—

TABLE 9—(contd.)

Copra Kilns, Patent Driers and Chekkus—reported on Estates

District	Number of Estates cultivating Coconut	Number of Copra Kilns	Number of Patent Driers	Number of Chekkus
1	2	3	4	5
Galle ..	118	20	2	—
“ A ” Estates ..	28	9	2	—
“ B ” Estates ..	90	11	—	—
Matara ..	161	33	1	3
“ A ” Estates ..	11	2	—	1
“ B ” Estates ..	150	31	1	2
Hambantota ..	74	22	3	1
“ A ” Estates ..	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	74	22	3	1
Jaffna ..	117	2	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	117	2	—	—
Mannar ..	17	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	1	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	16	—	—	—
Vavuniya ..	10	1	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	—	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	10	1	—	—
Batticaloa ..	106	31	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	12	11	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	94	20	—	—
Trincomalee ..	12	2	—	1
“ A ” Estates ..	3	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	9	2	—	1
Kurunegala ..	1,166	466	18	12
“ A ” Estates ..	200	167	9	9
“ B ” Estates ..	966	299	9	3
Puttalam ..	258	92	—	1
“ A ” Estates ..	13	13	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	245	79	—	1
Chilaw ..	310	137	9	13
“ A ” Estates ..	59	58	6	6
“ B ” Estates ..	251	79	3	7
Anuradhapura ..	9	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	4	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	5	—	—	—
Badulla ..	8	—	—	—
“ A ” Estates ..	4	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	4	—	—	—
Ratnapura ..	52	6	1	—
“ A ” Estates ..	12	—	—	—
“ B ” Estates ..	40	6	1	—
Kegalla ..	168	57	1	3
“ A ” Estates ..	32	13	1	3
“ B ” Estates ..	136	44	—	—

APPENDIX I

Notes on the Taking of the Census

THE Census of Agriculture, 1952, was taken under the provisions of section 4 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 118) as amended by the Census (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 6 of 1945, and modified by the Proclamation published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No 9,773 of September 24, 1947. The *Gazette* notification of the order by the Minister of Finance directing the taking of a Census of Agriculture was published by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on August 8, 1952, and was followed by the Census of Agriculture Rules, 1952, which was gazetted on October 3, 1952, and again on October 10, 1952. Sinhalese and Tamil translations of these rules were published in the *Ceylon Government Gazette* of November 28, 1952.

Definitions of Terms used

The following definitions have been used in respect of the Census :—

“ Holding ”—means a block of land used wholly or partly for the purposes of agriculture or for purpose of husbandry including the keeping or raising of livestock or poultry and the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and the like, and operated as a distinct economic unit by one person or by several persons jointly or by a body of persons.

“ Estate ”—means a holding of not less than twenty acres in extent.

“ Small Holding ”—means a holding of less than twenty acres in extent.

An Estate was further divided into an—

“ A ” Estate—i.e., an estate which employed ten or more resident labourers and had its Census Schedule filled up in English by the Superintendent or person-in-charge.

“ B ” Estate—i.e., an estate in which the number of resident labourers was less than ten or which was in charge of a person not well acquainted with the English language.

The Census Schedules

Two schedules were used at the Census. The “ Estate ” schedule was served on all estates which were previously listed as such, the Superintendent or person-in-charge being requested to complete and return the schedule by post. The “ small holdings ” schedule was filled in by enumerators specially appointed for the purpose, in the villages which were selected on a random sample. Details of crops such as coconut collected on the small holdings schedules were not made use of, as they did not appear to be sufficiently accurate and therefore the tables in this and the other parts of the report are confined mainly to data collected from the estate schedules. The lack of reliable figures in respect of small holdings has necessitated the frequent use of figures available from other sources.

Period covered

In general, particulars called for in the estate schedules were to be given as at December 31, 1951, except in the case of certain items such as yield figures which were required for the year ending December 31, 1951. Estates which were unable to give particulars for the calendar year were permitted to return figures for the business year ending on any date from April 1, 1951, to March 31, 1952.

Although the Census was scheduled to be taken during the period October 1, 1952, to December 31, 1952, the difficulties encountered in the enumeration of the estates and small holdings necessitated a considerable extension in the period of enumeration in order to ensure as large a coverage as possible. Onerous work undertaken, both by the estate authorities and others appointed as enumerators in connection with the Census of Population 1953, caused unavoidable delay in the return of the completed schedules. The scrutiny and verification of the data involved further time and correspondence with the estate authorities.

A copy of the Census of Agriculture Rules 1952, including the schedule used will be published in the final part of the report. Extracts from the “ Estates ” schedule relating to coconut particulars only are published in Appendix II.

APPENDIX II

Extracts from the Estate Schedule

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Ag. Census 2

- (1) This is a confidential document and will be used only for the compilation of statistics.
- (2) Twenty-one days are allowed for the completion and return of this Schedule.
- (3) Quote reference number given here for all correspondence on this subject
- (4) The Schedule after completion should be returned to the Superintendent of Census, 16, Albert Crescent, Colombo 7.

CEYLON

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, 1952

Estate Schedule

(Please read the Instructions carefully before filling this schedule)

ALL PARTICULARS TO BE GIVEN AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1951, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

SECTION A—GENERAL

I—Location—

- (1) Revenue District :
- (2) D.R.O's Division :
- (3) Village Headman's Division :
- (4) Village :
- (5) Postal Address :

II—Name—

- (1) Name of Estate :
(if sub-division of a group, state name of group as well)
- (2) Name the divisions which comprise this estate and whose figures are incorporated in this Schedule :
- (3) Planting District :
- (4) Name of resident person-in-charge :

III—Ownership—

- (1) Name of Owner :
(if not the same as the person-in-charge)
- (2) Nationality of Owner in case of individuals—
(State whether owner is) :—
(a) Citizen of Ceylon :
- (b) Person who has applied for and is awaiting registration as a citizen of Ceylon :
- (c) Person who is not a citizen of Ceylon :
- (3) If company owned, where company incorporated :
- (4) Give the names and addresses of agents and secretaries or owner from whom further important particulars can be obtained :

VI—Facilities—

- (4) Has this estate—
(c) A copra kiln ? (yes or no) :
- (d) A patent drier for copra ? (yes or no) :
- (f) A chekku ? (yes or no) :

SECTION B—AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

II—Tree Crops

C—Coconut—

- (1) Area under cultivation as at December 31, 1951—
- (a) Acreage under-planted (i.e., area under old palms under-planted with seedlings) acres
- (b) Acreage totally cleared and replanted (i.e., old palms cut down and replanted with seedlings)
- (c) Other coconut plantations (i.e., not previously under coconut)
- (d) Total area under coconut

(2) Number of Palms—				
(a)	Under 7 years	..	..	.. .. .
(b)	7-under 10 years	..	..	.. .. .
(c)	10-under 30 years	..	..	.. .. .
(d)	30-under 60 years	..	..	.. .. .
(e)	60 and over	..	..	.. .. .
(f)	Total palms	..	..	.. .. .
(3) Manures and Fertilizers—				
(a)	Number of palms treated with artificial manures	..	..	.. .. .
(b)	Number of palms treated with animal manures	..	..	.. .. .
(c)	Is husk buried or used for mulching ?	..	..	.. .. .
(4) Production—				
				<i>Number</i>
(a)	Coconuts produced in 1951	..	..	.. .. .
(b)	Coconuts converted into copra in 1951	..	..	.. .. .
				<i>Cardies</i>
(c)	Total weight of copra produced in 1951	..	..	.. .. .

IV—Livestock as at October 1, 1952—

- A—Cattle—
- B—Buffaloes—
- C—Goats—
- D—Sheep—

SECTION D—EMPLOYMENTS, SALARIES, WAGES AND PROVIDENT FUND

I—Employment—

Table I—Give the monthly average number of regular workers (resident and non-resident) on the pay-roll in the year of return

	<i>Males</i> <i>16 years</i> <i>and over</i>	<i>Females</i> <i>15 years</i> <i>and over</i>	<i>Child Workers</i>		<i>Total</i>
			<i>Males</i> <i>under 16</i> <i>years</i>	<i>Females</i> <i>under 15</i> <i>years</i>	
(1) Administrative, technical and clerical employees
(2) Operatives
(3) Total

If in addition to the regular workers on the pay-roll, you employed casual and contract workers, please enter the following particulars :—

	<i>Males</i> <i>16 years</i> <i>and over</i>	<i>Females</i> <i>15 years</i> <i>and over</i>	<i>Child Workers</i>		<i>Total</i>
			<i>Males</i> <i>under 16</i> <i>years</i>	<i>Females</i> <i>under 15</i> <i>years</i>	
(4) Total number of man-days (names) worked by casual workers paid directly by estate during the year
(5) Value of contracts for agricultural activities on estate	<i>Rs.</i>

II—Wages and Salaries—

The amounts to the nearest rupee paid during the year of return to :

(1) Operatives					
(a)	Regular and casual workers on check roll (excluding contract labour)	..	..	..	.. .. .
(b)	Contract labour	..	..	..	.. .. .
(2)	Administrative, technical and clerical employees	..	..	..	.. .. .
(3)	Total	..	..	..	.. .. .



III—Other Payments—

Rs.

- (1) Amounts paid by employer as Workmen's Compensation. Total amount paid during the year 1951
- (2) Employer's share of contribution to Provident Fund during 1951, and Pensions paid during 1951
- (3) Free Rice Rations—
 - (a) Cost of $\frac{1}{4}$ bushel rice if given direct per month to each male worker or resident widow (section 11 (1) of Chapter 114—Minimum Wages (Indian Labour) Ordinance)
 - or (b) Cost of rations or meals provided in lieu of (a) above to non-working children or their parents
- (4) Maternity Benefits—
 - (a) Amount of cash paid and/or cost of food at ward given direct to workers
 - (b) Cost of ward facilities, if any
- (5) All other payments (including cess to Immigration Fund)

IV—Receipts from Government—

School grant and other contributions received from the Government in respect of the payment of salaries and wages of teachers, midwives, &c., and included in section II above. Give the full amount received

I do hereby declare that the information recorded above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date :

Signature
(Status of Declarant)

