

Progress Report - 2022

Word from the Hon. Minister...



It's a great pleasure to present the progress and the performance of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, and Food Security from January until September, of which the pioneer is the Trade Ministry.

I commenced work as the Minister of the Trade, Commerce and Food Security in May 2022 and since then paid attention and gave instructions and guidance to ensure the delivery of services fallen under the scope of the Ministry to the public in an efficient and productive way for the upmost satisfaction of the general public.

Since the beginning of this year a grave escalation is observed in the wholesale prices of consumer items, specially the food items, and accordingly a cabinet memorandum has been submitted as an immediate measure to control this issue. As a result of this, the local importers have been allowed to import selected 10 essential food items (Dry chillie, Sprats, Potatoes, Bombay Onion, Dhal, Wheat Flour, Sugar, Rice, Milk Powder and Gram) under Open Accounts System.

Accordingy the supply of certain consumer items could be ensured at reasonable prices without any shortage, whilst controlling the prices of essential items in the market and in the meantime, arrangements were introduced under the Indian Credit Line to import essential food items. Further price control has been applied for the egg market as a measure to maintain a stable price in the egg market. Under such measures, the Ministry could look forward managing the cost of living of people and ensuring food security.

Concurrently to the above measures, the Minisrtry implement steps to direct the functions of the Consumer Affairs Authority to control the inbalance in the market, and to ensure the protection of consumer avoiding shortage of goods and services.

Further a Cabinet Memorandum has been submitted by me to establish Consumers' Setvice Committees to ensure the supply of food items and other essential items without any shortage, to improve the production of local food items, enhance food security, to follow a proper method for the distribution of consumer items and as per the decision of the Cabinet, Action has been taken to establish Consumer Services Committees in every Divisional secretariats.

It is expected by these Consumer Services Committees to promote the awareness of people on nutrition, collect information of the malpractices in the market, inform farmers to cultivate agricultural crops so as not to exceed the requirement, introduce farmers to cultivate crops which can be exported.

Action has been extended through the Dedicated Economic Centers all over the Island to ensure an extensive market for the local agricultural products, deliver vegetables and fruits to the consumers without any shortage, whilst assuring a reasonable price to the farmer. Further action has been taken to establish an appropriate management structure reviewing the existing structure in the management of those Dedicated Economic Centers.

The education and trade exhibition, which was conducted continuously under Lalith Athulathmudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarships Trust Fund, has been suspended at present and action has been taken to commence it during this year. This exhibition will pave way for the sale of local items, increase the scholarships of the students waiting for university entrance, promoting the products of local entrepreneurs and specially enhancing the knowledge and skills in the field of technology of students.

In addition to the above, action has been taken through the Department of Cooperative Development under the Line Ministry and Department of Cooperative Development under provincial councils to further continue the relevant projects. In the meantime, arrangements have been prepared to launch home garden concept mainly in Colombo and Gampaha districts targeting urban areas before the end of this year using Rs. 100 million from the balance of provisions with a view to enhance nutrition level of low-income people and their income with the assistance of Sri Lanka State Trading General Corporation.

Further action has been taken to review the functions of Lanka Sathosa and Sri Lanka State Trading General Corporation, which are carrying out commercial activities, to maintain them as profitable institutes whilst supplying essential items at a lower price than other supermarket networks.

Finally, I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Hon. State Minister of Trade, Hon. State Minister of Rural Economic Affairs, Secretary of the Ministry and State Ministries, Head of Departments and the staff for their commitment.

Nalin Fernando (M.P.)

Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

Word from the Secretary to the Ministry...



One of the main objectives of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security is to ensure higher contribution for the enhancement of the life standard of Sri Lankans in line with the policies of the present government. Accordingly, the rights of the consumers, business community and manufacturers will be ensured shouldering the role of the leader, performing service and monitoring activities. Our aims are to establishment, maintaining and monitoring a national policy, which ensures the rights of trade and commerce in line with national and international standards, and thereby build a sustainably developed Sri Lanka. Our mission is uplifting the living standards and quality of life of Sri Lankans.

Even amidst the economic crisis, it is expected to maintain without interruption the distribution network of essential food and services paying special concern on essential items whilst protecting the consumer and covering all the communities of the country.

We could successfully carry out special measures such as establishment of Consumer Services Committees covering every divisional secretariat assuring food security by maintaining buffer stocks of essential food, minimizing the shortages of food by importing food items.

Further maximum contribution of the Ministry and Institutions under the Ministry has been assured in the achievement of objectives such as avoiding instability of the prices and shortages of items due to market imbalances, extension of market opportunities for the products of local farmers, supply of higher quality items to the market, assisting to improve the earning of foreign exchange.

Therefore, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Hon. Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security and Hon. State Ministers for their guidance in the implementation of these projects and the staff of the Ministry and the Heads of Institutions under the Ministry for their commitment to make our effort a success.

S.T. Kodikara
Secretary

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Chapter I

Vision, Mission, Objectives, Functions and Institutions

1.1. Vision

“Sustainably Developed Sri Lanka”

1.2. Mission

“Establishing, maintaining, and monitoring a national trade policy in line with local as well as international standards, which ensures the equality and rights of manufacturers, traders, suppliers of measurement services or other services, whilst ensuring leadership in the trade sector, performing service and monitoring activities, obtaining new market opportunities entering in to bilateral, multilateral, and regional trade agreements, contributing to ensure a higher life standard enhancing the quality of consumer items and services of Sri Lankans.”

1.3. Objectives

- i. Enhancing the income from exports and aligning the market of Sri Lanka whilst achieving objectives relevant to local and international market based on import and exports to suit to the global trade
- ii. Formulation of policies to ensure the rights of local manufacturers and consumers through the national trade policy.
- iii. Taking action to enhance the exports encouraging productions.
- iv. Maintaining the cost of living at the minimum possible level maintaining the prices of essential items including vegetable, fruit at such occasions where the prices of goods at the markets are escalating.
- v. Providing necessary guidance to implement programmes to the government institutions such as Lanka Sathosa, Sri Lanka State Trading General Corporation in an open market environment.
- vi. Ensuring the application of measurement standards for the benefit of business community as well as consumers.
- vii. Enhancing legal framework with infrastructure facilities to maintain buffer stocks of essential items within the country to assure food security.
- viii. Preparing mechanism to maintain a data base relevant to the institutions under the Ministry, update such data bases, and make links with external information providers.
- ix. Extending legal assistance and consultancy services for the encouragement of exports at national level
- x. Providing guidance to implement the measures relevant to protect the proper standards of local products and export items.
- xi. Making contribution to maintain welfare programs to encourage children for higher education.
- xii. Making directions to implement conservation process for the protection of national intellectual properties
- xiii. Guiding for accreditation services conforming to the national and international standards

- xiv. Establishment of the institutional background and encouragement of connected institutions in order to protect and promote the economic and commercial interests of Sri Lanka and encourage the exporters for opportunities in international market.
- xv. Providing necessary legal assistance and coordination in signing trade agreements with various countries in the export activities of Sri Lanka.

1.4. Main Functions

- i. To formulate trade policies in relation to the subject of trade in line with the policy manifesto 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' and based on other policies, which are expected to apply by the Government.
- ii. To implement the projects, which are fallen under the national budget, investments of the Government and national development programme.
- iii. To formulate and implement the subjects and functions, policies, programmes and projects, which are related to them, of the Departments and institutions under the Ministry, and carry out follow up actions and evaluation.
- iv. To carry out coordination activities in relation to the establishment of a national trade policy.
- v. To ensure legal provisions, which are required for the implementation of price control measures in order to safeguard the local consumer.
- vi. To intervene as a mediator for the purpose of controlling the fluctuations in prices in the local market.
- vii. To ensure full contribution for the Task Force for reviving the Economy and Eradication of Poverty.
- viii. To encourage institutions for exploring opportunities to make new bilateral, multilateral and regional trade agreements and identifying new opportunities for exports in the world market and provide infrastructure facilities for the purpose.

1.5. Institutions under the Ministry

- i. Department of the Commissioner of Foods.
- ii. Department of Measurement Units Standards and Services.
- iii. Department of Commerce
- iv. Sri Lanka National Intellectual Property Office
- v. State Trading (General) Corporation
- vi. Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment
- vii. The Co-operative Wholesale Establishment (Sathosa)
- viii. Lanka Sathosa Limited
- ix. Lalith Athulathmudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund
- x. Dedicated Economic Centers
- xi. Consumer Affairs Authority
- xii. Department of Cooperative Development
- xiii. Co-operative Employees Commission
- xiv. National Cooperative Development Institute

Chapter II

Highlights

2.1. Importation of essential items under Indian Credit Line

A financial facility of one billion USD was granted under Indian Credit Line and that loan has been allocated for the importation of consumer items in the following manner.

Essential food items	USD .371 million
Raw material for industries	USD.194 million
Fuel	USD.200 million
Essential drugs	USD 200 million
Miscellaneous	USD. 35 milliobn

Essential food items, which were imported under Indian Credit Line up to 15.10.2022 on request of importers after issuing recommendations

Table No 2.1

Serial No	Name of the item	Annual Requirement (M T.)	Recommended amount (M.T.)	Imported Amount (M T.)
1	Rice	2,400,000	184,346	44,100
2	Wheat Grain	1,080,000	90,000	29,500
3	Wheat Flour	780,000	46,759	4,473
4	Sugar	600,000	160,192	18,259
5	Milk Powder	100,200	200	-
6	Red Dhal	240,000	15,700	-
7	Bombey Onion	300,000	13,047	1,084
8	Red Onion	75,000	1,901	-
9	Potatoes	192,000	2,050	-
10	Dry Chili	49,800	8,333	2,337
11	Gram	24,000	9,843	601
12	Cumin Seed	3,000	756	27
13	Fennel Seed	1,800	168	14
14	Fenugreek	-	500	-
15	Mustard	2,400	1,139	64

2.2. Recommendations for importation of essential food items under Open Account System

Recommendations have been given to import 10 essential food items during the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.09.2022 under open accounts system to ensure supply of essential

goods to consumers without any shortage, maintain supply parallel to the demand and provide relief to consumer controlling adverse situations due to escalation of prices.

Amount of imports, which were made as per recommendations

Table No. 2.2

Serial No.	Name of the item	Annual Requirement (M T.)	Recommended amount (M.T.)	Imported Amount (M T.)
1	Rice	2,400,000	187,200	89,650
2	Wheat Flour	780,000	16,560	7,962
3	Sugar	600,000	64,800	18,259
4	Milk Powder	100,200	11,200	1,318
5	Red Dhal	240,000	37,440	18,980
6	Bombay Onion	300,000	40,000	32,596
7	Potatoes	192,000	20,800	13,485
8	Dry Chili	49,800	5,600	2,969
9	Dry Sprats	24,000	4,800	2,306
10	Watana	24,000	4,800	2,016

2.3. Establishment of Consumer Services Committees at Divisional Secretariat Level

A crisis has arisen in the supply of essential food and essential items due to the economic crisis prevailing in the country. The people of the country are experiencing severe hardships under such circumstance and this may be the cause for malnutrition of the community in future. Therefore, Consumer Service Committees are being established in every divisional secretariat with the participation of Divisional Secretaries covering all over the Island under the direction of the Ministry of Trade Commerce and Food Security in order to provide relief to the consumers. The inauguration of the establishment of such Consumer Services Committees has been held in Ja – Ela Divisional secretariat which chaired by Hon. Minister on 25.10.2022 and accordingly 190 such committees have now been established covering all over the Island.

2.4. Implementation committee for food security

The Committee, which held its meeting chaired by Hon. Minister of Trade Commerce and Food Security under the Cabinet approval, has made recommendations to the Committee for Cost of Living and further coordinated relevant Ministries and institutions for food security whilst providing solutions for the issues arisen in the field. However, this task has now been entrusted to Committee of Food Policy.

2.5. Awareness Programmes

Awareness programmes have been conducted for the benefit of university and school students by the institutions under the Ministry such as Consumer Affairs Authority, National Co-Operative Development Institute, Department of Measurement Units, Standards and Services, and Lalith Athulathmudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund regarding their services and ensuring rights of consumers.

2.6. Cabinet Memorandums

By October 2022, Ministry has been taken action to promote trade affairs, food security, protection of consumers, development of Co-operative activities, Higher Education and human resources development and enhance efficiency by way of submitting 47 cabinet memorandums.

2.7. Subsidies on foods and drugs

Subsidies have been granted by countries such as India, Malayasia, and China in the form of food items considering the economic crisis of the country.

Table No. 2.3

Serial No	Donor	Items	Amount (M.t)
01	India	Rice	40,000
		Milk Powder	500
		Drugs	101
02	India (Madras Rotary Club)	Rice	100
		Rice. Milk Powder, Fuel	13
03	China	Rice	5,000
04	Malayasia	Milk Powder	2.52

2.8. Distribution of the subsidies provided by India

- i. 40,000 Mt of rice and 500 Mt of milk powder to the value of Rs. 2 million granted under the Indian Humanitarian Aids programme have been distributed among districts as per the approval of the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance (NPD/HRD/2022/Gen/01 dated 20.05.2022). (Accordingly, the list of items to be distributed among districts has been prepared based on the statistics of the amount below 04 of the poverty indicator of Survey on the income and expenditure of Housing Units 2019 of the Department of Population and Statistics.)

Table No. 2.4

Serial No	District	Distributed Amount	
		Rice (bags of 50 kg.)	Milk Powder (bags of 50 kg.)
1	Colombo	53,153	1,266
2	Gampaha	49,452	2,124
3	Kalutara	67,171	2,000
4	Kandy	60,766	2,050
5	Mathale	23,550	1,100
6	Nuwareliya	44,885	1,450
7	Galle	18,767	1,300
8	Matara	21,540	900
9	Hambantota	16,309	1,110
10	Jaffna	33,487	1,500
11	Mannar	9,334	150
12	Vavuniya	6,175	275
13	Mullativu	8,350	325
14	Killinochchi	10,629	450
15	Batticaloa	26,434	1,422
16	Ampara	25,323	1,200
17	Trincomalee	21,945	850
18	Kurunegala	41,375	3,200
19	Puttalam	22,023	1,098
20	Anuradhapura	39,610	1,495
21	Polonnaruwa	19,545	800
22	Badulla	43,661	2,024
23	Monaragala	29,087	1,100
24	Rathnapura	64,059	2,450
25	Kegalle	37,268	1,500
26	Distribution to other institutes	5727	0
	Grand total	799,625	33,139

2.9. Rice subsidies from China

5000 Mt of rice provided under this stream has been handed over to the Ministry of Education.

2.10. Distribution of food items provided by Madras Rotary Club of India

Divisional secretariats joining with Rotary club of Sri Lanka have distributed food items provided by M.R.C of India among low income families who are recommended by the divisional secretariat

2.11. Subsidies from Malaysia

These aids provided to Dr. Bodagama Chandima Thera have been distributed among low income families identified by Divisional Secretariats and students and bhikkhus who are studying in Pirivenas.

2.12. Construction of a stores complex at Dambulla, which has the capacity for 5000 metric tons under controlled humidity and Temperature for storing vegetables and fruits

Cold stores complex with the capacity of 5000 M.t is constructed at Dambulla area in order to store the excess of potatoes, onion and vegetable produced for issuing them to the market at the season where production is low and encourage local farmer giving maximum value to the producer minimizing post harvesting damages. Physical progress of the constructions is nearly 95%.

2.13. International recognition for the National Measurement Laboratory of Sri Lanka

The measurement capabilities of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department as the National Measurement Institute of Sri Lanka has been included for the first time in the data base of Calibration & Measurement Capability (CMC) of the website (www.bipm.org/kcdb) at Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM). It is a great achievement as a country that Sri Lanka has become the second country in South Asia after India, which has been given such recognition. Accordingly, it is certified that the Calibration & Measurement given in the field of trade and other fields by us are recognized at international level.

Therefore, the publishing of our capabilities in measurements in BIPM data base of KCDB marks the first turning point of our journey towards international recognition and accordingly a stamp and a first day cover is due to be issued on 20 May 2023, on which World Measurement Day is celebrated.

2.14. Trade promotion through Department of Commerce

i. Recommendation residence visa

Reviewed and recommended 76 expatriates in trading and services sector and 44 of their dependents to the ministry to proceed the issuance of residence visa recommendations.

ii. Online system for issuance of certificates of origin

A system has been developed to issue the issuance of certificates of origin by online and further registration of companies and other assisting services were delivered without interruption.

**Issuing certificates of origin (COO) to exporter and providing other services
from 01.01. 2022 up to 30.09. 2022**

Table No. 2.5

Serial No	Provided Services	Demand for services	Supply of services
01	Certificates of origin issued (Under ISFTA, PSFTA, APTA, SAFTA, SAPTA, GSTP, Japan GSP, USA.GSP, Australian GSP, Turkey GSP, Europa Economic Union EAEU GSP, Europa Union GSP, United Kingdom GSP	22,250	22,250
02	Reserving quotas under ISFTA	2,541	2,541
03	New registration under generalized system of preference	157	157
04	EU-REX registration (Declaration of exporters)	40	40
05	Approval for cost statements	2,497	2,497
06	Issued Aaffidavits	473	473
07	Issued Verification certificates	296	296
08	Services for making clarifications/ descriptions to exporters	12,580	12,580

iii. Issued Tariff Rate Quota Certificates (TRQC) under Indu Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)

Table No. 2.6

Month	Number of requests made by Registered Companies	Number of certificates issued	Number of shares issued
January	247	247	450,499
February	330	330	675,786
March	322	322	675,344
April	225	225	533,249
May	273	273	704,483
June	279	279	973,604
July	417	417	1,045,490
August	238	238	703,441
September	189	189	839,718

iv. Opening foreign market opportunities

- Action has been taken to provide facilities in foreign markets for 25 future exporters of Sri Lanka and further particulars of foreign buyers of spices have been given to the Department of Exports for the preparation of data base.
- Assistance has been provided to 48 institutes for settling issues on exports and imports such as importers of Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, and Pakistan have been introduced to the export companies of Sri Lanka for promotion of productions.
- Step by step the activities (SBSF) process of Sri Lanka Trade Information Portal (SLTIP) has been introduced to the business community of Sri Lanka for application it in their business.

v. Settling issues arisen on foreign markets

Assistance has been given to 48 companies to obtain observations from relevant parties to arrive at peaceful settlements for disputes connected to export and import trade.

vi. International Trade Exhibitions and Conferences

Facilities have been made by Commercial Officers who are serving Foreign missions in 10 countries to participate in 12 international trade fairs and conferences for promotion of trade, investment and tourism. Accordingly, opportunities have been provided for Sri Lankan Exporters to improve foreign trade affairs and to obtain opportunities for exports and earn foreign exchange.

2.15.Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organization

The 12th ministerial conference of World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in Geneva on 17 June 2022 and at that conference, decisions were taken regarding the following trade issues important to Sri Lanka.

- **Immediate reaction for insecurity**
With a view to lend hand to the countries with food insecurity like Sri Lanka, members of the conference agreed not to impose limits and restrictions on exports for purchase of food items made by World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Releasing right of intellectual property for the production of COVID-19 vaccines.**
Giving opportunity to countries like Sri Lanka, which have low capacity to produce drugs, to purchase Covid vaccines at a lower price.
- **Ageement on Fisherman Subsidies**
Granting a concessionary period of two years for removal of subsidies provided to fishermen in the developing countries including Sri Lanka, who catch huge volumes of fish, and occupy in unreported and unmonitored fisheries activities, within their specific regions
- **Response of WTO to COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for future pandemics**

According to this decision, opportunities will be given to provide productive solutions to the countries going beyond the limits of WTO at pandemic situations to face the crisis of balance in payment and food security.

2.16. Trade discussions conducted under Free Trade Agreements (FTA)/ Preference Trade Agreements (PTA)/ Joint Committees (JC)

With India and Pakistan two bilateral free trade agreements are implemented. A process has been commenced to conclude OPC under free trade agreement with India. Free Trade Agreement signed with Singapore is being reviewed.

In connection to the activities of Economic Trade Cooperation Agreement with India, Thailand, China and Malaysia are either at study level or exchanging basic documents in this regard. Further the PTA with Bangladesh is at the discussion level.

2.17. Revising Intellectual Property Act

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted for the revision of Intellectual Property Act. Accordingly, the second draft bill with revisions of the same has been submitted to the Department of Legal Draftsman and once it is approved also by the Consultative Councils on Intellectual Properties activities pertaining to revision will be completed.

2.18. Approach to MADRID system

Action has been taken to make amendments to the Intellectual Property Act in order to approach the Madrid System governed by World Intellectual Property Organization, which provides facility for registration of local trade marks at international arena. The local as well as foreign applications filed under Madrid System and promotion of foreign investments have contributed for the enhancement in national income.

2.19. Making facilities for registration of Geographical Indicators

Geographical indicators are applied to prove to the consumers and traders that the origin of a material or production in a certain geographical area and their specific qualities, features and goodwill derive from the geographical origin. A special method has so far not applied in Sri Lanka to register geographical indicators in Sri Lanka but only a certification under trademarks has been done so far.

Therefore, it is expected to create a wide market for Sri Lankan productions such as tea, coconut and cinnamon, which have a geographical identity, by way of registering geographical indicators.

2.20. Solving the issue of paying the royalties for artists

A Committee of operation has been appointed by the Minister in Charge of the Subject in year 2021 for determining the royalty to be paid by the media institutions pertaining art pieces used by them in reality shows. Final report containing recommendations is now issued.

2.21. Improving Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS), which is the software of National Intellectual Property Office.

After the renewal of the agreement made with Sri Lanka Institute of Communication Technology Agency, commencing the process for including their NIPO IPAS data system in e-cloud and commencing an e-filing method.

2.22. Minimizing the loss of the State Trading (general) Corporation.

The income from operation of the institution has marked an increase by 293% in year 2022 when comparing with the 3rd quarter of year 2021.

When considering as a self-financing institute, it could increase the net profit by 359% even though the operational expenses shows a little increase by 6%.

When the it was highly necessary the intervention of a government institution for importation of rice, State Trading (General) Corporation contributed to control the artificial escalation of the prices of rice by way of importing rice under Indian credit line and selling it at a reasonable price at the market.

2.23. Awarding Accreditation

Accreditation certificates have been awarded by 30th September 2020 to 07 Research Laboratories, 03 Medical Laboratories, 01 Calibration Laboratory, 01 research Institute, 01 Production Research Certifying Institute, 02 System Certifying Institutes and the total number of institutes is 15. The income collected by this process is Rs. 54.4 million and 27% out of it is in USD.

2.24. International recognition for accreditation activities

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board is a full member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and two world accreditation institutes such as International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

2.25. Foreign Institutes, which have made inquiries for accreditation

Inquiries have been made by South Asian Countries as well as Middle Asian Countries to get the service of Sri Lanka Accreditation Board and action is now being taken to provide them to service. With the higher demand in this regard, Sri Lanka expect a higher income in foreign exchange.

Table No. 2.7

Country	Institute	Scope for which request has been made	Expected income within an accreditation circle of three (USD)
India	One Cert International India	Textile Exchange standards	13,110.00
India	Arpan Shah Director Infinity Group India	ISO 9001, 14001 and ISO 45001 :2018	13,110.00
India	Varun Marar Genesis Evaluations Private Limited India	ISO 9001, ISO 22000	13,110.00
Lebanon	Dr.Mahmoud Salim AL-Lababedi IQS International Lebanon	ISO/IEC 17021-1 accreditation	18,185.00

2.26. Utilizing the underground fuel stores of Cooperative Wholesale Corporation, which are so far inactive

In the face of the fuel crisis in the country from March 2022, the distribution of essential goods has been obstructed and action has been taken at that time to repair the underground fuel tanks at main stores of sathosa (Capacity of 32000 L) , which were not in use for more than 20 years, and to store fuel from Lanka Petroleum Corporation and then to maintain distribution of essential items using this fuel and obtaining lorries on rental form by Lanka Sathosa Limited.

2.27. Opening a Green Sales Center by Sathosa Constructions and Engineering Pvt Limited (Green Super)

Arrangements have been made to facilitate consumers to purchase higher quality items by way of opening a Green sales center (Green Super) at the expense of Rs. 30 million at the ground floor of the Ministry of Trade.

2.28. Super Market at Dambulla city

The land situated at Dambulla city was obtained on long term lease from Urban Development Authority has been granted to Lanka Sathosa on lease to construct a super market with 3800 sqft to the cost of Rs. 23 million and to maintain it with modern facilities using the funds of the institute.

2.29. Modifying the rice processing center at Pannegamuwa

There was a budget allocation of Rs. 50 million for the modification of rice processing center at Pannegamuwa and increasing its capacity, that project could not be implemented as it was required to spend Rs. 35 million for reconstruction of buildings and Rs. 74 million for machinery as a result of the increase in foreign exchange.

2.30. Lanka Sathosa minimizing its loss

Lanka Sathosa could reduce its loss by 53% during the period up to the third quarter of 2022 comparing the previous period.

2.31. Improving Mahapola Scholarship Further

At present Rs. 1,183 million is already spent for 46,320 (for 03 academic years) students who have been selected from all Universities for the scholarship, and it is expected to extend this number by 17,000 spending additional amount of Rs. 434 million in year 2022.

2.32. Mahapola Scholarships for the students of Technical Collages and other higher education institutes

The amount spent for the scholarships of 6,000 students of 19 Technical Collages at the rate of Rs. 2,500 per student as one installment, it is expected to spend Rs. 20 million for 1916 students at other higher education institutes.

2.33. Network for purchasing and selling goods

Contribution has been made by the special economic centers to ensure a wide distribution network Island wide building coordination between the producer and consumer. When considering the present economic and social situations of the country, it was observed that the efficiency and productivity of those economic centers should be further enhanced and there is a possibility to achieve this target also.

Further Management Trusts chaired by the District Secretary of the relevant district and representing relevant parties have been established for the management and administration of the 13 special economic centers, which are already functioning, and 05 centers to be established.

2.34. Making consistency guideline compulsory for the business community who carry out business online.

The majority of consumers had to rely on ordering their goods through internet under the situation that arose in year 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic, therefore with a view to formalize this sector, a guideline has been prepared with the assistance of International Trade Center for the benefit of business community who carry out their business through internet. Accordingly, these guidelines have been altered by a committee which consists of officers and specialists of the field to suit to the Sri Lankan context. Programmes have been organized to make the business community using internet and then the draft guideline has also been submitted to them. The approval of the Board of Directors has been granted to these Guidelines, which has been improved considering the suggestions of them.

2.35. Registering the business community, who carry out their business online

Under section 27 of the Consumer Affairs Authority, pilot project has been initiated at the Divisional Secretariat, Ja-Ela for registering business community and the registration process was carried out as planned.

2.36. Committee of Specialists for quality assurance and certification

In order to avoid the violation of the rights of consumers due to the poor quality of foods and non-food items, further to certify the standard and quality of foods and no food items, and also to protect the rights of consumers, it was decided to appoint a committee consisting of specialists from the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs Authority, National Medicines Regulation Authority, Industrial Technology Institute, University of Moratuwa, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Institute of Chemistry.

Further the understanding on the market is highly necessary for the price decisions taken by the government and also to bring the enthusiasm of business community at optimum level. Therefore, the necessity for the establishment of Pricing Forms for essential goods and services, which determine bearable prices and ensure stability of the business, has been identified. Accordingly, action has been taken to establish a committee for pricing in order to use the knowledge of veterans and to take decisions on process based on data.

2.37. Amending the Consumer Affairs Act.

The first phase of amendments of the Consumer Affairs Act No. 09 of 2003 has been completed and they have been approved both by the Department of Legal Draftsman and Attorney General's Department. These amendments are due to be tabled at the Parliament in November 2022.

2.38. Human Resources Development of the Cooperative field

The National Institute of Cooperative Development, which is the leading institute for the human resource development of the said field, has taken action to enhance the capacity of human resource conducting various courses spending the funds of the institution.

Chapter III

Progress - 2022

3.1. Ministry

Description	Revised Allocation for year 2022 Rs. Mn	Financial progress up to 30.09.2022		
		Actual Expenditure Rs. Mn	%	Bills in hand Rs. Mn
Recurrent expenditure	287.80	150.57	52.32	1.31
Capital expenditure	12.40	2.87	23.16	0.62
Capital projects	4,305.00	3,150.32	73.18	45.00
Home Based food Security Programme	3,000.00	898.24	29.94	-

3.2. Co-operative development division

Project/ Activity	Revised budget Allocation for year 2022 Rs. Mn	Financial progress up to 30.09.2022		
		Actual Expenditure Rs. Mn	%	Bills in hand Rs. Mn
Cooperative development programme	15	5.8	38.7	1.3
Home Based Mini Super Market	8	4.8	66	12.6

3.3. Food Commissioner's Department

Serial No	Project/ Activity	Budget allocations for year 2022 Rs. Mn	Revised budget allocations for year 2022 Rs. Mn	Targets at 30.09.2022		Progress up to 30.09.2022		Physical progress s up to 30.09.20 22
				Financi al (%)	Physical (%)	Actual Expend iture Rs Mn)	Bills in hand Rs Mn	
1	Construction of Dambulla Temperature and Relative Humidity Controlled Storage Facility	150	150	7.5	100	-	No	95
2	Renovation of existing paddy stores, (Navatkuli, Boossa, Kekirawa, Orugodawaththa and Hambantota)	15	15	-	100	10.07		100

3	Providing grants to Small and Medium Scale Rice Millers	50	50	40	80	20	70
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3.4. Department of Measurement Units Standards and Services

Serial No	Project/ Activity	Targets at 30.09.2022		Financial Progress up to 30.09.2022	Physical progress up to 30.09.2022 %
		Financial (Rs Mn)	Physical (%)	Actual Income (Rs Mn)	
1	Issuing calibration certificates	2.61	75	3.44	68
2	Issuing of registration/Registration certificates after assessment of manufactures, importers, sellers and repairers.	0.9	75	0.75	58
3	Complete the pattern approval test process in minimum time period.	0.9	75	0.22	13
4	Conducting verification program in district basic according to the annual plan	337.5	75	203.13	42
5	Conducting raids according to the annual plan	-	75	-	22
6	Conducting awareness programmes as per the annual plan	-	75	-	67

3.5. Department of Commerce

Trade exhibitions and sales promotion meetings -2022

Country	Activity	Outcome
Saudi Arabia	Visit Jeddah to organize B2B meetings for Sri Lankan Exporters	Sri Lanka Tea Board and one exporter from Sri Lanka participated. Due to pandemic the participation was less.
South Korea	Subscription fee for KOIMA database	To facilitate the Sri Lankan exporters to find buyers.
Brazil	Organize Super Rio Expo Food 2022	Sri Lanka Embassy in Brazil organized the Sri Lanka's participation at the exhibition to promote Sri Lankan food and beverages.
Dubai	Organizing meeting with business community	Hon. Minister met with the business community in Dubai
Los Angeles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Natural Products Expo West 2022 in California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Sri Lankan companies participated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Tea Expo 2022 in Los Vegas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Lanka Tea Board along with 3 Sri Lankan companies participated
Japan	Purchase TSR Database	To facilitate the Sri Lankan exporters to find buyers.
Canada	Visit to SIAL 2022 Exhibition	Sri Lanka Tea Board along with 5 Sri Lankan companies participated.
Pakistan	Sri Lanka's participation at My Karachi Exhibition	Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Karachi along with 3 companies participated at the Exhibition to promote Sri Lankan food and beverages and services.
Washington	Subscription fee for Panjive Inc. database	To facilitate the Sri Lankan exporters to find buyers.
France	Subscription fee for LSA database	To facilitate the Sri Lankan exporters to find buyers.
Los Angeles	Participation at the Souvenir and Resort Gift Trade Show 21-23 September 2022 in Los Vegas.	To find the main traders, find new opportunities and observe new trends and meet with members.
Vietnam	Participation at Vietnam International Trade Fair 1-3 December 2022	Pending

3.6. Sri Lanka National Intellectual Property Office

Issuing patents - (From 01.01. 2022 to 17.10. 2022)

Task	National	International	As per Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)	Total
Number of applications	121	10	189	320
Number of applications accepted for registration after secondary test	70	23	92	185
Number of applications, which defects were informed and rejected after the secondary test	600	35	131	766
Number of applications published	73	15	94	182
Number of registrations	58	11	47	116

Technical plans (From 01.01. 2022.to 17.10. 2022)

Task	National	International	Total
Number of applications	102	24	126
Number of applications accepted for registration after secondary test	58	20	78
Number of applications rejected at secondary test	38	05	43
Number of applications published	71	17	88
Number of registrations	49	16	65

Trade marks (From 01.01. 2022 to 30.09. 2022)

Task	National	International	Total
Number of applications	4,188	2,450	6,638
Number of applications subjected to secondary test	2,628	2,047	4,675
Number of applications accepted	3,413	2,543	5,956
Number of applications rejected at secondary test	1,352	344	1,696
Number of applications published	2,497	2,037	4,534
Number of applications	1,437	1,477	2,914

3.7. Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment has given its accreditation services for 172 institutes including Research and Calibration Laboratories, Medical Research Laboratories, Testing institutes, Institutions for certifications, and Verification institutions.

3.8. Lanka Sathosa Limited

Serial No	Project/ Activity	Budget allocation for year 2022 (Rs. Mn)	Revised budget allocation for year 2022 (Rs. Mn)	Targets at 30.09.2022		Financial Progress up to 30.09.2022		Physical progress up to 30.09.2022 %
				Financial (%)	Physical (%)	Actual Expense (Rs Mn)	Bills in hand (Rs Mn)	
1	Supply of fixed Assets for expansion of Lak Sathosa and refurbishment of existing outlets	50	30	37.50	75	50	-	100

3.9. Dedicated Economic Centers

Financial Progress of Dedicated Economic Centers (From 01.01.2022 up to 30.09. 2022.)

Dedicated Economic Centre	Total income (Rs. Mn)	Total expenditure (Rs. Mn)	Net profit/ Loss (Rs. Mn)
Dambulla	169	167	2
Nuwaraeliya	9.4	9.1	0.3
Keppetipola	27.6	30.4	-2.8
Thambuththegama	18.50	17.80	0.7
Embilipitiya	3.6	4.2	-0.6
Meegoda	11.9	9.1	2.8
Welisara	12.3	10.03	2.27
Veyangoda	9.5	5.5	4
Narahenpita	55.79	33.45	22.34
Rathmalana	15.9	13.9	2
Piliyandala	6.9	5.1	1.8
Kandehandiya	-	0.089	-0.089
Kurunduwaththa	1.9	0.97	0.93
Total	342.29	306.639	35.651

Progress of the works performed by the Trust Funds of Dedicated Economic Centres

Dedicated Economic Center	Development activities	Estimated Cost	Physical progress (%)	Financial progress (%)
Nuwaraeliya	Renovation of the electric lamps of ABCD buildings of the center	325,875.00	100	100
	Installation of 05 cameras for CCTV system and theirs repairs	281,800.00	100	100
Thambuththegama	Renovation of Plumbing system	125,545.22	100	90
	Laying concrete close to the back gate, painting and fixing grills and fixing iron covers to the drainage system	234,072.69	100	90
	Installation of CCTV camera system at the economic center	2,773,855.00	100	90
	Establishing a protection roof to the milk bar at economic center	264,768.20	100	90
Rathmalana	Renovation of the building of new office	1,241,373.50	100	90

	Fixation of concrete poles to the entrance of main building	481,867.41	100	90
	Renovation of electricity lines of new office	256,077.65	100	90
	Connection of CCTV system with new office	495,235.00	100	90
	Laying iron sheets to the roof top of main building	520,380.00	95	0
Narahenpita	Establishment premises for meat	2,341,796.19	100	95
	Establishment of additional part for the consumers, who purchase meat/fish	256,365.00	100	100
	Establishment of two stalls for fish sales	1,749,174.92	100	100
	Renovation of H-05 to H -11 premises	1,887,000.00	100	95
	Repairing and painting the roof of the premises for vegetable sale	2,193,357.57	100	95
Meegoda	Maintenance of the gully system	217,702.00	100	100
	Establishing a parking area	1,881,070.00	60	-
	02 security points	1,720,750.00	50	-
Embilipitiya	Renovation of electricity system of main hall	373,205.50	100	100
	Fixation of an aluminum wall cupboard	289,000.00	100	100
	Installation of an airconditioner	284,874.00	100	100
	Repairing floor scales	98,450.00	100	100
	Repairing the gates	87,175.00	100	100
Dambulla	Laying electricity cable from the switch to main board to supply electricity for stalls by generator.	1,467,520.00	100	100
	Repairing motors/ Removing electric lamps and circuits, which are not in use from the roof /purchasing safety lamps for the damaged ones/ repairing electricity circuits	2,146,200.00	100	80
	Repairing the electricity room and fixing relevant materials to the filter of drainage system	754,155.45	25	20
	Designing a website / preparing information programme	310,000.00	35	40
Welisara	Renovation of common toilets	892,609.96	100	90

	Renovation of the damaged gutters of the premises	913,000.00	100	90
	Modification of the vacant part of 100 sqfts at building dividing it to 03 parts and making a room for civil security officers	3,200,000.00	100	-
	Repairing the gutters and downspouts of the roof of the center and repairing the damaged places of roof	1,269,900.00	100	-
	Making a canopy at the business building of D premises and repairing the roof	524,134.65	100	-
Piliyandala	Laying stones on the floor among buildings	601,482.78	100	90
	Renovation of electricity cables	587,960.00	100	90

Progress of the works performed by the provisions given by General Treasury

Special Economic Centre	Modifications	Revised Provisions Rs. M	Actual Expenditure Rs.	Financial Progress (%)	Physical Progress (%)
Kande Handiya	Laying electricity cables and plumbing system to shops	15	2.3	13.3	100

3.10. Consumer Affairs Authority

Work	Amount
Consumer protection and relief services	
Raids at market	8,662
Filing cases at court	7,949
Fines (Rs)	64,687,899.00
Programmes for awareness of consumers	
Awareness programmes for general public	154
Awareness for traders	35
Awareness programmes for school children	20
Mobile awareness programmes	201
Issuing media notifications (Including social media)	20
Establishing consumer services committees (up to 30.09.2022)	100
Ensuring rights of consumers	
Unit for consumers' complaints	
Complaints received	2,181

Complaints settled	264
Complaints referred to other institutes	110
Complaints referred for raids	60
Complaints referred to conformity and enforcement unit	25
Complaints for which actions are to be taken	1,434
Complaints of consumers – District offices	
New complaints received	426
Complaints referred from head office	30
Complaints of which matters were concluded	321
Complaints referred to other institutes	6
Complaints referred to conformity and enforcement unit	77
Complaint for which action cannot be taken	16
Complaints for which actions are to be taken	36
SMS service 1977 for consumers	
Total number of complaints	3,132
Successful raids	720
Unsuccessful raids	387
Closing of shops	118
Complaints which are not fallen under Consumer Affairs Authority	27
Warnings	837
Failing to identify places	76
Total number of complaints for which action has been taken	2,165
Complaints for which actions are to be taken	967
Providing relief measures for consumers against unreasonable practices of trades	
Appeals	
Receipt of appeals	271
Determining to file cases	96
Cases for warning	30
Appeals to be submitted to the Appeal Board for decisions	145
Reporting the conditions of market	
Testing samples	
Samples tested	76
Samples which were conformed with	16
Samples which were not conformed	15
Reports are to be issued	18
Testing LP gas samples	25
Samples which cannot be tested	02

3.11. Department of Cooperative Development

Serial No	Project/ Activity	Budget allocations for year 2022 (Rs. Mn)	Revised budget allocations for year 2022 (Rs. Mn)	Targets as at 30.09.2022		Financial Progress up to 30.09.2022		Physical progresses up to 30.09.2022 %
				Financial (%)	Physical (%)	Actual Expenditure (Rs Mn)	Bills in hand (Rs Mn)	
1	Lakmal Uyana Project	15	-	10	100	-	8.99	80
2	Project for establishment of 100 Cooperative shops all over the Island	10	10	10	100	10	-	83

Accordingly, programmes have been launched to attach voluntary advisors to the Cooperative shops all over the Island which are inactive but have the capacity for development joining with Line Ministry and Department of Cooperative Development. As a result of this, 82 advisors have been appointed for 109 Cooperatives from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022.

3.12. National Institute of Cooperative Development

Progress of the academic division of the institute from 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022				
Serial No.	Target course	No of courses conducted	No of Participants	Income (Rs.)
1	Permanent courses	01	40	688,400.00
2	Diploma courses	05	121	1,949,550.00
3	Certificate courses	03	79	711,000.00
4	Short term courses	13	389	854,548.32
	Courses conducted on request of external institutes in the field	01	51	333,605.00
	Short term courses- free of charge	19	697	
5	Training workshops for export-oriented productions	01		
Total				4,537,103.32

Chapter IV

2023 - Action Plan

4.1 Ministry

i. Maintaining a buffer stocks of essential food items and their distribution

An allocation of Rs. 15,000 million is expected for maintaining buffer stocks of foods in order to manage urgent requirements with the direct intervention of the government assuring accountability on food security and avoiding shortages of quality foods in the market for satisfactory of consumer's needs.

ii. Coordinating the implementation of consumer services committees at the level of Divisional Secretariat

Objective of this measure is to make the rural community aware of the behaviors of market, send productions promptly to the market, strengthening the links between consumer and the manufacturer

iii. Completion of the works at Tharampuram Cooperative Village Project -Rs. 688 million

Completion of the remaining work of these buildings without delay are planned get in to action to hand over to suitable institute for maintenance of services.

4.2 Department of the Commissioner of Foods

- i. Constructions of humidity-controlled stores complex at Dambulla Rs.149 million.
- ii. Distribution and clearance of food items given to the country by World Food Programme.
- iii. Renovation of existing rice stores at Hingurakgoda, Polonnaruwa, Vavuniya, and Kahandawa. Rs. 100 million.
- iv. Launching renewable electricity projects using sola power on the roof of the stores of Dambulla and Veyangooda- Rs.20 million.
- v. Maintaining an 8000 MT buffer stock of rice- Rs. 1996 million.
- vi. Further leading loans further to small and medium scale rice millers - Rs. 100 million.

4.3 Department of Measurement Units, Standards and services

- i. Updating the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Act and other regulations.
- ii. Supply Laboratory facilities for Consumer Affairs Authority for conducting their quality services.
- iii. Widening the role of National Measurement Laboratory for 5 measurement fields.
- iv. Improving the training division of the Department enabling to provide recognized vocational training courses- Rs. 3 million.
- v. Facilitating to obtain international recognition to other institutes, which provide national quality infrastructure facilities.
- vi. Preparation of network of automated processes -Rs. 100 million.
- vii. Preparation of automated network system

Estimated cost is Rs. 100 million. It is expected by this measure to link 25 district offices with Head Office and ensure accurate and credible measurement service to consumers with the preparation of trade data system.

- viii. Obtaining international recognition to National Measurement Laboratory of Sri Lanka. Including data pertaining to the capabilities in the Key Comparison Data Base (KCDB) website of International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

4.4 Department of Commerce

i. Making facilities for trade Promotions

Following trade exhibitions and other trade promotion activities are proposed to be held.

- 2023 Canton Fair exhibition, China
- 2023 Gulfood exhibition, Dubai
- Exhibition on appeals, Paris (February 2023).
- Foodex 2023- Jedah.
- Natural and Organic productions exhibition in U K, Europe (April 2023)
- Fintec festival, Singapore.
- Exhibition of imported items in South Korea (IGF) - July 2023.
- World Prizes Exhibition, India.

The financial allocation expected for publicity works in this regard is Rs. 9.5 million.

- ii. Providing charges for the issuance of export promotion certificates in USD.
- iii. Conducting programmes, workshops and meetings in Sri Lanka.
- It is expected to ensure more efficient service by way of conducting awareness programmes for the benefit of exporters, trade community and the general public on the services provided by the institute and increase opportunities to earn foreign exchange.

4.5 National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka

- i. Rs. 10.9 million is expected to establishment of file management system by way of digitalizing intellectual property documents.
- ii. Approaching Madrid System which includes the registration process of trade marks at international level.
- iii. Preparation of a guideline for registration of Integrated Circuit (IC).
- iv. Preparation of a project report for approaching Hague system, which facilitates for registering technical plans at an international level.
- v. Establishment of facilities for registering geographical indicators within Sri Lanka.
- vi. Updating Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS), which is the software system of National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka, to the next level.
- vii. Introducing online payment system for the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka.
- viii. Conducting workshops for building a project for Intellectual Property Environment System in order to expedite innovations and commercialization of intellectual properties at local and international levels.
- ix. Strengthening further the mechanism applied of payment of royalties to the creators of songs, and other musical creations played in electronic media.
- x. Obtaining Lanka Government Cloud facility to National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka

- xi. Actually, participation in external exhibitions and promotional programmes.

4.6 Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation

- i. Provide facilities to attract a number of buyers from both public as well as private sectors and minimizing the expenses of the institute as far as possible in line with the policy of government for minimizing expenses whilst ensuring maximum results from expenses.
- ii. Popularizing the name of STC among people by way of brand promotion which is one of the main targets of the 5-year plan.
- iii. Introducing goods suit to the timely requirements, which are identified by market researches, to the market under STC brand and ensuring their sale.
- iv. Minimizing the operational expenses of the institute as far as possible in line with the policy of government for minimizing expenses whilst ensuring maximum results from expenses.

4.7 Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

i. Digitalizing the accreditation process

It is expected to commence the digitalizing process in 2023 in line with the policy of the government to enhance the productivity of public services. Main objectives of this project are to minimize the time in the service delivery, ensure more benefits to the recipients by way of minimizing expenses such as courier charges, stationary etc.

ii. Widening the scope of accreditation to cater to the buyers of foreign countries and assist the testing laboratories.

Action is taken to widen the scope of accreditation of the laboratories, which has the capacity, in order to ensure parameters and testing reports to the exporters. This measure will pave way to minimize the time taken for issuing reports and the cost of testing.

iii. Widening accreditation schemes of institutes to assist industries and obtaining international recognition

It is planned to enhance the capacity of service delivery in 2023 for the benefit of proficient testing providers (PTP). This will help to the testing laboratory to participate in the proficient testing programmes provided by proficiency testing providers in Sri Lanka, who have obtained international recognition through mutual recognition agreement. (ILAC MRA).

4.8 Lalith Athulathmudali Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund

- i. To assist, to establish and to manage the higher education institutes with a view to provide opportunity for youths to enhance their vocational and professional education, which is indicated under provision 05 of the objectives in Mahapola Scholarship Trust Fund Act No. 66 of 1981. With a view to achieve above mentioned goal, action has been taken to establish new universities and new technological universities and it is expected to provide opportunities to local students, who have had qualifications for university entrance at

G.C.E. A/L, for obtaining a foreign degree in Sri Lanka and further to increase foreign exchange and minimize the outflow of money by opening universities for foreign students on recovery of charges for their education. Initiatives in this regard have been made in year 2022. It is expected to bear full expenses for the infrastructure facilities of the project by Mahapola Fund.

- ii. Promotional programmes have been prepared in order to obtain contribution to the fund from those who have completed their education under Mahapola Scholarships. It is expected to launch this programme from January 2023. It is expected to use printed and electronic media as well as social media platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. The expectation of such measure is to enhance the Mahapola Fund by adding additional contributions.
- iii. Mahapola Education and Trade Exhibitions
Conducting at district level the education and trade exhibition for the awareness of school children and trading community. Participation of institutes under the Ministry and trading community is to be obtained in this regard.

4.9 Consumer Affairs Authority

- i. Taking action to avoid releasing unhealthy items to the market.
- ii. Making standards to ensure the health safety of consumer items.
- iii. Ensuring reasonable pricing method for goods and services to protect the rights of consumers.
- iv. Conducting awareness programmes for business community, school and university students.
- v. Amending the Act of Authority in order to strengthen legal provisions further.
- vi. Rs. 9.25 milion for the implementation of digital services management system

4.10 Department of Cooperative Development.

It is expected to implement programmes as purchase and sale of rural productions joining with Cooperative Societies for uplifting rural economy, programmes for enhancing agri seeds production, programmes for centralized ordering and distribution by way of making a network with institutes connected with the Department.

Promoting the export of productions made by members of Cooperative societies and modifying Cooperative shops.

4.11 Co-operative Employees Commission

Amending the Co-operative Employees Commission Act No. 12 of 1972 amended by Act No.51 of 1992 with a view to ensure more productive monitoring process for stability of Co-operative movement and enhance to human resource in the field.

4.12 National Cooperative Development Institute

- i. Taking action to commence degree programmes on Cooperative management.
- ii. Opening a language training center.
- iii. Improving the existing syllabuses considering the timely requirements and focusing mostly for practical activities.

- iv. Launching programmes for sharing experiences.
- v. Making necessary innovations to obtain NVQ levels for selected courses.

4.13 Co-operative Development Division

- i. Introducing a new software to the Cooperative field and thereby ensuring high quality service to consumers and managing it by a one system and engaging Co-operative societies under one network.
- ii. Establishment of School Co-operative Societies.
- iii. Establishment of Youh Brigades' Co-operative Societies.
- iv. Directions of selected Co-operative Societies, which have focused on export-oriented businesses to new fields

4.14 Dedicated Economic Centers

- i. Restructuring the management trusts which has established relevant to special economic centers increasing representation of farmers' community of farming areas and providing necessary guidelines in this regard.
- ii. Preparing a combined management process by building a proper coordination among special economic centers of the Island whilst performing the management and administration of special economic centers further by the management trusts established at such centers.
- iii. Implementing a joint programme with public and private participation in order to enhance further efficiency of the operations of special economic centers whilst ensuring a wide network of distribution.
- iv. Identifying and implementing a wide programme with the coordination of district officers and political authority of the area in order to use special economic centers, which have been constructed with building and infrastructure facilities but not yet opened. More productive way to suit to the special requirements of the area and present economic and social conditions.

4.15 Projects which are implemented under foreign aids

i. United Nations Industrial Development Organizations

This project is proposed to be implemented in order to enhance food production, food safety, and quality in the agricultural sector with the provision of Euro 6500 during the period from 2021-2024.

ii. Project for strengthening infrastructure facilities qualitatively in Northern and North Central province of Sri Lanka

Implementing the phase two of the project for strengthening quality services of Sri Lanka using aids of Euro 0.8 million during the period from 2019-2023.

iii. Digitalizing intellectual properties

This project is implemented with the contribution of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka using allocation of Rs. 90 million under technological and financial aids of WIPO during the period from 2022-2023.

Attachment

1. Gazette notifications published on consumer affairs by the Consumer Affairs Authority

Date	Number of the Gazette	Subject
28.01.2022	2269/68	Rescinding the order, no 51, by which a maximum retail price has been prescribed for local mineral water bottles.
27.04.2022	2277/51	Prescribing every maker, producer, supplier, distributor or trader to keep either a bill or invoice, receipt at hand for the items which are under his custody
02.05.2022	2278/02	Prescribing a maximum retail price for local rice
10.06.2022	2283/43	Prescribing a maximum retail price for local white raw rice
24.06.2022	2285/18	Prescribing that rice or paddy should not be used for animal food directly or as an imported material
29.06.2022	2286/26	Prescribing that the weight, volume, maximum retail prices should be in a label affixed on the items for sale
08.07.2022	2287/37	Prescribing liquefied petroleum gas, a specific item
19.08.2022	2293/69	Prescribing a maximum retail price for eggs
30.08.2022	2295/05	Prescribing that the conditions in the gazette should be followed in importing, selling, storing and marketing the items mentioned specifically in the gazette.

02. Service facilities provided by Commercial Officers for the promotion of foreign trade

Following services were provided without interruption during the year 2022 and The Department will take action to continue similar services even in year 2023.

Serial No.	Activities of the Commercial Officers	From 01.01.2022 to 30.09.2022	Proposed for 2023
1	Organizing business matchmaking (B to B Meetings)	974	1,046
2	Organizing business networking sessions	112	93
3	Organizing Sri Lankan trade promotional events overseas (e.g- Business forums, Seminars etc.)	117	64
4	Organizing Sri Lanka's participation at overseas trade exhibitions/ trade fairs	87	77
5	Organizing inward buying missions to attend exhibitions/trade fairs in Sri Lanka	14	38
6	Organizing visit of trade delegations to host country from Sri Lanka	57	33
7	Attending to trade complaints	92	45
8	Attending to trade inquiries for exports	758	733
9	Providing market intelligence reports	133	99
10	Promoting Sri Lankan exhibitions in host/accredited countries	26	125
11	Meetings with potential business partners and trade chambers	738	559
12	Involving in market access issues	47	38
13	Other trade related activities (e.g- publicity for tenders etc.)	853	240
14	Conducting investment seminars	30	55
15	Attending to investment proposals	98	73
16	Organizing investment promotional programmes	47	50
17	Other Investment related activities (e.g- attending investment inquiries etc.)	59	68
18	Organizing/facilitating Tourism Promotional Activities	195	88
19	Organizing/facilitating Sri Lanka's participation at overseas tourism exhibitions	39	39
20	Other Tourism related activities (e.g- attending to tourism inquiries etc.)	562	355



ජා-ඇල බෝපිටිය ප්‍රදේශයේ මත්ස්‍ය අභිජනන මධ්‍යස්ථානයක් නිරීක්ෂණය කිරීම
 ஜ-எல போபிடிய பிரதேசத்தில் மீன் உற்பத்தி நிலையத்தை மேற்பார்வை செய்தல்.
 Observing the fish breeding centre at Bopitiya, Ja Ela



උස්වැටකෙයියාව ප්‍රදේශයේ ධීවර ප්‍රජාවගේ ගැටළු සාකච්ඡා කරමින්
 உஸ்வெடகெய்யாவ பேசன் கடல் ஓர பிரதேசத்தில் உள்ள மீனவர்களுக்கு
 உள்ள பிரச்சினை சம்பந்தமாக கலந்துறையாடல் செய்தல்.

Discussing the issues of fisheries community at Uswetakeyyawa area



ஓன்டிச சனாவளென் மெரஓஓ டௌஷூ மானுஷீச ஈமிர நௌசை லார ஂதீமே ஂவசீஓவ
 இந்தியா மக்களிடமிருந்து இந் நாட்டிற்கு கிடைக்கப்பெற்ற
 நன்கொடையை பெற்றுக்கொள்ளல்

Accepting humanitarian aids from Indian community



එක්සත් ජාතීන්ගේ ලෝක ආහාර වැඩසටහන යටතේ ජපන් ජනතාවගේ ප්‍රදානයක් ලෙසින් මෙට්‍රික්
 ටොන් 2000ක වටිනාකමින් යුතු ආහාර නොගය වෙළෙඳ අමාත්‍යවරයා හට හාර දීම
 ஐக்கிய நாடுகளின் உலக உணவு வேலைத்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் ஜபான் மக்களின் தலைமையில்
 மெட்ரிக் தொன் 2000 ம் உணவு தொகையை வர்த்தக அமைச்சருக்கு கையலித்தல்.

Handing over to Minister of Trade the foods (2000MT) received from Japanese community under
 United Nations World Food Programme

වෙළෙඳ, වාණිජ හා ආහාර සුරක්ෂිතතා අමාත්‍යාංශය

අංක 492, ආර්. ඒ. ද. මැල් මාවත, කොළඹ 03. දුරකථනය: 0112435511 ෆැක්ස්: 0112432255 විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල: info@trademin.gov.lk

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