STATE-TRADING ENTERPRISES

Notification Pursuant to Article XVII.4(a) in Reply to the Questionnaire Contained in Document L/1014 of 3 July 1959

CEYLON

Corrigendum

In accordance with the suggestion made at the sixteenth session that individual contracting parties should bring up to date their notifications as and when changes occur in their State-trading activities, the Government of Ceylon has advised that fish, dried or salted, are now subject to State trading.

The following information on this subject has been provided by the Government of Ceylon.

1. Product brought under State trading

Fish, dried or salted

2. Reasons for introducing State trading

The principal objective in introducing a State-trading monopoly for fish, dried and salted, is to secure its sufficiency, its equitable distribution and its availability at fair prices.

The import of fish, dried and salted, has been brought under individual import licensing by Import Control Notice No. 33/61. Licences, however, will only be issued to the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment.

3. Description of the functioning of the C.W.E.

The C.W.E. of Ceylon was started in 1943 as an emergency government activity to handle imports of essential foodstuffs for distribution through the medium of Co-operative Stores Societies. The organization, however, was divorced from direct government control and reconstituted into a statutory corporation under the C.W.E. Act No. 47 of 1949. It, however, remains wholly financed by the government and comes under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping.
The objects of the C.W.E. as defined in the Act are:

(a) to procure and supply the requirements of Co-operative Societies and Unions,

(b) to carry on business as importers and exporters and as wholesale and retail dealers in goods of every description,

(c) to carry on any such other trade or business as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objectives,

(d) to carry on the business of insurance of every description.

The C.W.E. has developed into a general importing organization, though it continues to serve as a medium of distribution to the Co-operative Stores Societies. Its wholesale business is not confined, however, to selling to such societies, as it sells wholesale to private retailers. The C.W.E. is engaged in retail sales as well. Apart from the fact that it is a State-sponsored Corporation, the C.W.E. has enjoyed to date no special or exclusive privileges in its trading activities. On the contrary, it has been engaged in free competition with the private trade. The import of fish, dried and salted, is the only item in which it holds a special position as sole importer.

4. **Statistical information**

Figures of imports for the last three years are annexed.

5. **Reasons why no foreign trade has taken place**

Not applicable.

6. **Additional information**

None.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Product</th>
<th>Volume (cwt)</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Volume (cwt)</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Volume (cwt)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fish, dried or salted - sprats dried (031-02.02)</td>
<td>139,323</td>
<td>14,053</td>
<td>157,617</td>
<td>12,566</td>
<td>165,564</td>
<td>18,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fish, dried or salted - other (031-02.99)</td>
<td>4,431</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>15,942</td>
<td>1,509</td>
<td>11,863</td>
<td>2,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fish, salted and dried (031-02.10)</td>
<td>642,122</td>
<td>53,775</td>
<td>504,325</td>
<td>47,064</td>
<td>616,963</td>
<td>59,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Prawns dried (031-03.01)</td>
<td>15,770</td>
<td>1,618</td>
<td>40,353</td>
<td>4,308</td>
<td>24,594</td>
<td>2,985</td>
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