

NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AND THE COCONUT PLANTER

The National Planning Council has made the following recommendations regarding coconut plantations in Ceylon.

- (a) A fertilizer subsidy scheme. This was launched in 1956. Under the scheme owners of coconut lands over 20 acres received a subsidy of $\frac{1}{3}$ the cost of fertilizer used whilst small-holders owning 20 acres or less receive a subsidy of $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost.
- (b) A scheme to assist the replanting of superannuated acres through subsidizing the cost of planting materials and of fencing. Seedlings costing Rs. 1 from nurseries are supplied by Government at 35 cents. The market cost of fence posts are around Rs. 1.80 each whilst barbed wire costs about Rs. 70 per cwt. It is proposed to give a subsidy of Rs. 1 on each fence post used for replanting by estates over 20 acres and Rs. 1.30 on each post used by small-holdings under 30 acres. For barbed wire a subsidy of Rs. 50 per cwt. is proposed for both estates and small-holdings, thus bringing down the price to about Rs. 20 per cwt.

(Page 171—Ten Year Plan of the National Planning Council).

Editor's Note

Recommendation (a) of the plan is now in operation. Seedlings are supplied at the rate of 30 cents by the Coconut Research Institute.

Suggestion regarding fence posts and barbed wire has not yet been implemented.