



# THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY

No. 10,759 — FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1955

(Published by Authority)

## PART I: SECTION (I) — GENERAL

### Government Notifications

My No. PF/1166.

January 28, 1955.

#### REFERENCE UNDER THE FISHERIES ORDINANCE

SIR,—In terms of section 18A (1) of the Fisheries Ordinance, No 24 of 1940, as amended by the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, No. 25 of 1952, I refer a dispute regarding fishing rights in Chilaw waters that has arisen between two groups of fishermen resident in Chilaw to a Committee consisting of—

R. R. Crossette-Thambiah, Esq., Q.C.,  
Chevalier C. H. Z. Fernando,  
Sir Philip Rodrigo, Kt., O.B.E.,

for public inquiry and report.

2. I nominate Mr. R. R. Crossette-Thambiah to be Chairman.
3. The subject matter of the dispute, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows —

A dispute has arisen between the fishermen resident in Chilaw Town and the fishermen resident on a part of the foreshore of Chilaw. For convenience, they will be referred to hereafter as the "town fishermen" and the "wadiya fishermen" respectively.

The town fishermen complain that the wadiya fishermen leave early for the fishing grounds and throw their bait consisting of bits of chopped fish to attract fish both for their net fishing and line fishing. The town fishermen use prawn for their bait which they are unable to collect before 5 a.m. in the morning or thereabouts as the prawns are not available earlier, and they arrive on the fishing grounds very much later than the wadiya fishermen. A further reason for their being late on the fishing grounds is the necessity to travel a longer distance than the wadiya fishermen to reach the fishing ground. When they arrive on the fishing grounds, they find no fish since the fish attracted by the bait thrown by the wadiya fishermen had either been caught or had taken the bait and escaped, never to return.

4. Since all matters in dispute may not have been specified in the representations already made I request the Committee to inquire into any matters incidental or related to the dispute as outlined above, and to make its report on all such matters.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
S. C. SHIRLEY CORRA,  
Minister of Commerce, Trade and Fisheries