FERTILISER RATIONING, 1946

It had been hoped that the fertiliser position in 1946 would be a good deal easier ; in fact it was expected that fertiliser rationing might come to an end by the middle of the year. It now seems most unlikely that these expectations will be realised. At the moment of writing all the indications are that nitrogenous manures, particularly, ammonium sulphate, will still be in short supply and though every effort is being made to impress the authorities in the United Kingdom of the urgent necessity for increasing the nitrogen deliveries to Ceylon, it still remains quite uncertain whether the supplies asked for will be received in full.

The difficulty will be further increased by the partial substitution of Ammonium Nitrate in place of the Ammonium Sulphate. When Ammonium Nitrate was originally supplied to Ceylon, sufficient stocks of organic manures, such as groundnut cake, were available for use as conditioners or driers in the fertiliser mixtures then in use. In these circumstances no undue difficulty was experienced in storage.

This, however, will be different in the future as at present there are no stocks of Groundnut Cake available and little prospect of obtaining this from India.

Fertiliser permits for 1946 have been issued to estates and deliveries will begin early in January.

Tea.—In spite of the difficulties referred to above, quotas for 1946 allow for a 50 per cent increase in the original basic *nitrogen* allowance per acre and it is anticipated it will be possible to maintain this rate of distribution. Full details showing how the quota is made up are given on the face of the permit and the duplicate copy of the latter should be retained for reference.

The actual tonnage of manure deliveries may vary from time to time as this figure will depend on the composition of the mixture. It is hoped it may be possible, for most of the year at any rate, to use a 320 lb. mixture containing 45.32 lbs. nitrogen, 25 07 lbs. phosphoric acid and 9.0 lbs. potash. Details of the various mixtures which have been in use, with their conversion factors, are given below :—

T. 500
(Old Basic Mixture)

		lbs.
Groundnut Cake	...	430
Saphos Phosphate	...	60
Muriate of Potash	...	10
		500
giving :—		
Nitrogen	...	30.1
Phosphoric Acid	...	17.7
Potash	...	6.0

T. 240

		lbs.
Ammonium Nitrate	...	80
Organic Mixture	...	65
Saphos Phospate	...	85
Muriate of Potash	...	10
		240
giving :—		
Nitrogen	...	30.15
Phosphoric Acid	...	20.07
Potash	...	6.0

T. 300

	lbs.
Ammonium Sulphate ...	220
Saphos Phosphate ...	65
Muriate of Potash ...	15
	300
giving :—	
Nitrogen ...	45.32
Phosphoric Acid ...	19.17
Potash ...	9.00

T. 320

	lbs.
Sulphate of Ammonia ...	220
Saphos Phosphate ...	85
Muriate of Potash ...	15
	320
giving :—	
Nitrogen ...	45.32
Phosphoric Acid ...	25.07
Potash	9.0

It will be noted that while the old mixtures contained 30 lbs. nitrogen, T. 300 and T. 320 contain 45 lbs. From the point of view of nitrogen content, which is the chief factor concerned, 500 lbs. T. 500, the first basic mixture, are therefore equivalent to 240 lbs. of T. 240, 200 lbs. of T. 300 and 213.3 lbs. of T. 320.

RUBBER

No change is being made in the quotas except that, in the case of young rubber, the allowances are increased in accordance with the age of the rubber. Quotas, as before, have been issued in terms of R. 400, R. 215 and Saphos, but a more concentrated mixture, in which the nitrogen is provided by Ammonium Nitrate, is likely to be used during part of the year instead of R. 400.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence in regard to *quotas* and the *issue of permits* should be addressed to the Organiser, Fertiliser Rationing, St. Coombs, Talawakelle.

Correspondence in regard to *orders* and *deliveries* should be addressed to the Fertiliser Control Bureau, P. O. Box No. 123, Colombo.

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