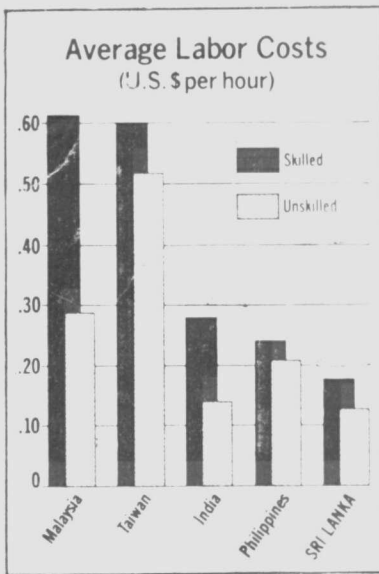


GARMENTS FOR EXPORT A ZOOMING IPZ INDUSTRY

Sri Lanka's ready-made-garments industry moved into high gear when the GCEC factories at Katunayake came on stream in 1978. Nine of the first 13 factories here were producing garments for export and the attraction of this zone appeared to be mainly for foreign investors in the textile garments sector. The enthusiastic response on the part of the GCEC authorities to setting up of unlimited capacities, in the early stages, appeared to be with the hope that the demonstration effect would "lend credibility" to the government's drive for attracting foreign investments. There are many positive features arising from these modern factories such as the high standards of workmanship and quality control being insisted on by highly skilled and experienced foreign technicians in supervisory positions, as seen at the picture at right.



Pictures at left and bottom give a view of the inside of two factories; the first consignment of garments to be shipped from the IPZ by LMK Browns and; below one of the frequent visitors either investor's or business consultants and commentators who visit the zone.



Sri Lanka's attraction for the foreign investor in the GCEC is its educated, intelligent and highly trainable labour force claimed a recent supplement in the US journal 'Business Week' which says that "it is as low as \$1 to \$2 per day, which makes Sri Lanka's labour among the least expensive in Asia."

The provision of jobs is the highest priority in the IPZ. Over 90 percent of the 6,000 workforce here were employed in making garments and most of them are girls.

