

^{26/05/00} ^{Island}
**CEB warns public of possible
power cuts – a reply**

The above titled warning appeared in *The Island* of 20-5-2000 and appropriately with the picture of Maskeliya Town along with the Siva Devale which were submerged in the construction of Mousakalle Reservoir. When this reservoir was constructed, more valuable tea plantation and seven hundreds of families were displaced. So were, in the other Hydro reservoirs Victoria, Bowatanne etc.

The Hindus, Buddhists, and the scattered Christians in these areas did not object. Not even the Buddhist priests, *Kurukals* in Hindu Kovils and mosques for they understood the importance of electricity for the development of the country apart from enriching the standard of daily life with supply of electricity for domestic use. Undoubtedly, they were adequately compensated and those who were affected and displaced, leaving their traditional homeland, today live in a contended life in their new surroundings.

Strangely the same attitude has not been shown by the Catholic Church and those influenced by the Church and other interested

parties, to construct the much needed Coal Plant at Norochcholai, just because of the presence of the Talawila St. Anne's shrine. Experts locally and internationally have guaranteed that no harm will come over the hallowed Shrine and the environment, but the objection continues. Unless the Catholic Church takes a more national, humane attitude and put country before the faith, which is one's own belief, the country at large will suffer economically, for which the entire nation will blame the inhabitants and the Church, in this barren area; and those who misled them.

CEB has come to the end of the tether, as far as the Norochcholai Coal Plant is concerned, and now it remains for all of us to pray to St. Anne of Talawila to have mercy on us and the country, which is in dire straits, not to be burdened with further catastrophies, and make the Church to see reality and give the green light. This will strengthen our faith in St. Anne and adore.

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