

**CROW ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The Crow Island situated in Mattakkuliya is being developed by the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction to provide 1,000 housing units together with the required infrastructure such as roads, open spaces, a school, shops, water supply, sewage, drainage and power supply. The proposed site is a marshy area about 36 acres in extent, of which about 20 acres have already been reclaimed by the Colombo (Low Lying Areas) Reclamation Board. It is located North of the Colombo harbour and South of the Moya where Kelani Ganga discharges into the sea.

About 70% of the land area earmarked for development will be utilised for construction of houses, the balance being for infrastructures. Houses will be two storey terraced type. Out of a total of 1,000 units 80 percent will have a floor area of 400 sq. ft., 15 percent, 800 sq. ft. each and 5 percent, 1,200 sq. ft. each. Each house will be provided with a ground floor, living area, kitchen and a toilet and bed rooms upstairs. Private rear and front garden space will be made available to each unit. This housing type has been selected to create a sociologically acceptable environment with low-rise buildings, and moreover, in view of the poor soil conditions high-rise buildings would have necessitated heavy expenditure on foundations.

The virgin soil was found to vary from coarse to fine sand with organic matter to peaty soils and peat. The site is being filled to +3.00 MSL<sub>2</sub> so that a minimum depth of fill of about 4 ft. would be available. Foundations bear on the filled earth and the bearing pressure on the weak virgin soil has been kept under 450 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>. Reinforced concrete strip footings are provided for the walls which are of load bearing brickwork or precast concrete panels. The suspended floor slabs will be constructed using standard precast reinforced concrete units manufactured in a factory. The roof will consist of half-round tiles placed on corrugated asbestos sheets supported on concrete purlins; use of timber has been minimised in view of its scarcity. About 250 houses out of the total of 1,000 planned for construction will be built using prefabricated concrete components for walls, floor slabs, staircase units etc.

Water supply will be from the C.M.C. mains and storage will be provided in an 100,000 gallon overhead tank and a 60,000 gallon ground level sump. Storm

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water drainage will be provided through a system of underground pipes leading into the existing canal around the site. This canal will be dredged for water to discharge into the Kelani Ganga. An independent sewerage scheme will be provided because the existing C.M.C. sewerage lines are inadequate.

The total estimated cost of development excluding reclamation work is about Rs. 52 million. Construction work is already in progress and it is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1979.

Design and Construction: *State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka.*

**METRICATION — SEMINAR ON BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION**

The State Engineering Corporation and the A.P.O. Society of Sri Lanka, together with the National Metric Conversion Authority, are sponsoring a 3-day seminar on the above subject to be held from the 27th to the 29th of July this year. The seminar will be for engineers, architects and all other persons engaged in design, planning and execution of buildings so as to acquaint them with the metric design and codes which have been drawn up and to discuss the most effective way of implementing these new concepts. It is planned to tie up with the Government's Building Programme for Housing. It is also anticipated that by the end of this year, the laws relating to building under the House and Town Improvement Act and the By-laws of Local Authorities will be changed.

The lecturers will be from the State Engineering Corporation, Universities of Ceylon, Peradeniya and Katubedde campuses, the A.P.O. Society of Sri Lanka and the public and private sectors.

It is also proposed to prepare metric designs for houses for evaluation by the participants on the last day of the seminar, in relation to the use of metric drawing practices and the use of metric components. The participants will be provided with a complete set of documents and lunch on all 3 days plus tea in the mornings and afternoons. The seminar fees will be in the range of Rs. 300 to Rs. 350.