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## North to get three CWE outlets by end July

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Visit by ministers to Jaffna bears fruit By Santhush Fernando Minister of Trade, Marketing Development, Co-operatives and Consumer Services, Bandula Gunawardene, has assured Jaffna consumers of the availability of consumer goods at fair prices with the setting up three Co-op City outlets by end of this month. The Minister stated during a ministerial delegation visit to Jaffna this week.

Speaking to The Nation Minister of Indigenous Medicine, Tissa Karalliadda explained that Minister Bandula Gunawardene had assessed consumer woes while Minister of Power and Energy Mahindananda Aluthgamage involved in finalising the timeframe for electrification of North and he was entrusted with the upliftment of indigenous medicine there. "During a meeting with the Jaffna Chamber of Commerce, Jaffna Traders and Agrarian Associations organised by Minister Douglas Devananda, Minister Gunawardene promised Jaffna business leaders that he will set up three Co-op City outlets in Jaffna and to link them with the Narahenpitiya Dedicated Economic Centre." Minister Karalliadda said. "We were told by traders that it costs Rs 130,000 as sea-freight to ship a 30-foot container but we calculated that we can send containers by land costing less than that amount. There are 24 cooperative societies in Jaffna and each has two lorries, so that gives us nearly 50 lorries for a start," he added. "The farmers also discussed problems in obtaining the fertilizer subsidy. At a separate meeting with Fisheries Minister Felix Perera, fishermen of Jaffna had expressed their gladness in relaxing restrictions on fishing. We are glad that although it is a mere two months after complete end of hostilities we have achieved this much although it needs to be accelerated," the Minister said. Minister Karalliadda said that Jaffna Kaithadi Hospital would be upgraded with Rs 17 m under President Mahinda Rajapaksa's directive and added two ward complexes. Five new ayurvedic dispensaries were set up in Settikulam Vavuniya while another 33 pradeshiya ayurvedic centres would be set up with registered, graduate and consultant Auyurvedic practitioners.

On June 28 lorry loads of northern produce, including two freezer truck loads of famed crabs and prawns were dispatched to Colombo by land for the first time in two decades showing a clear sign of growing North-South commerce.

Earlier District Secretary of Jaffna K. Ganesh told The Nation that because of the growing demand they have now decided to keep the road open for private goods convoys every other day compared to every ten days earlier.

Courtesy: nation.lk