

## Unlimited transport of goods to Jaffna

The government has allowed the private trade to transport by land and sea unlimited quantities of goods to Jaffna other than banned items such as explosives, to ease the heavy burden being placed on the people of the Northern peninsula due to LTTE terrorism.

A spokesman for the commissioner General of Essential Services said yesterday that a new scheme of shipment of goods to Jaffna had been introduced last week and was now in effect.

Any private trader was permitted to transport

non-banned items such as foodstuffs, textiles, bicycles, toiletries etc. without any restriction.

A military spokesman said that a special warehouse for all northern bound goods was in operation in the port of Colombo.

All goods were checked by special joint security teams comprising the army, navy and the police, before they were permitted to be loaded on board ships.

Similarly, checking of north-bound goods trucks had been stream-

lined, so that although maximum security will be maintained to ensure that banned items were not smuggled, trucks carrying goods would be processed speedily, with minimum delays.

Government shipments of essential supplies will continue, they said.

A total of 4500 barrels of kerosene were shipped monthly to Jaffna. In addition, 500 bicycles were already being unloaded at Point Pedro by the MV Wadduwa.

Both the spokesmen for the Commissioner

General of Essential services and the military spokesman stressed that these measures had been taken on humanitarian grounds so as to ensure availability of goods to the people of Jaffna.

The multipurpose cooperatives, too, could make their purchases direct.

But, tight security to prevent explosives and materials used by the LTTE for terrorism continued to be strictly banned.

Lankapuvath