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Ahead of Target: Achievement of Replacement Level Fertility in Sri Lanka before the Year 2000

*Sri Lanka will have a rapidly ageing population, and
this change will require substantial shifts in
policies to cater for changing needs*

By W. Indralal De Silva*

Sri Lanka, like several other developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region, has entered the third stage of demographic transition, the phase of declining fertility, as has been evident since the early 1960s. The first stage of high birth rates, around 40 per thousand population, and high death rates of 20 per thousand population ended in the mid-1940s when mortality started to fall dramatically (Caldwell, 1986). During the second

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Readers of the *Journal* are invited to suggest topics for future coverage and to comment on the articles already published herein. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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