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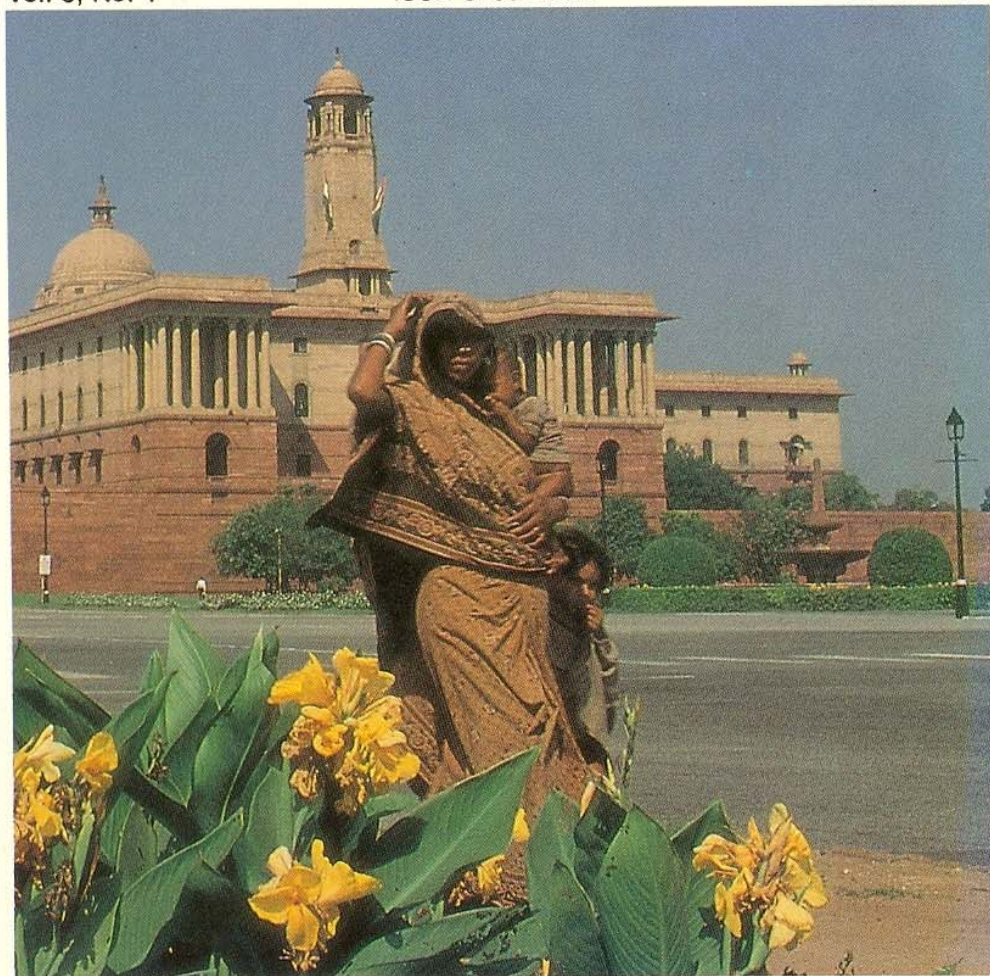
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How Serious is Ageing in Sri Lanka and What Can Be Done about It?

Structural changes necessitated by population ageing may demand a greater share of expenditure from the Government

By W. Indralal De Silva*

An ageing population is commonly defined as one with an increasing proportion of the population in the elderly age groups. Ageing is primarily a result of declines in fertility and mortality. Since the achievement of such declines is among the policy planning objectives of most developing countries, ageing may be viewed as one of the by-products of success (Martin, 1988; Philips, 1992). In Sri Lanka, ageing is occurring at a lower level of economic development compared with the experience of Western countries (Jones, 1988). With recent economic and social changes in Sri

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