

Ceylon Railways to Install C.T.C. and Relay Interlockings

The Ceylon Government Railway, a nationalized enterprise of nearly 100 years' standing, has decided to modernize the service on the lines to and from Colombo. One stage in the programme is the introduction of relay signal interlockings and centralized traffic control (C.T.C.), for which L M Ericsson recently received an order, comprising equipment and supervision of its installation, amounting to some 7½ million kronor.

The area of Ceylon is about 66,000 sq. kilometres, and its population numbers 9 million. The railway network within this small country covers 1,500 kilometres of track, and the railways are of extreme importance for the economy of the country, carrying a heavy traffic both of goods and passengers.

The present project will be completed in three stages. The first stage will be the provision of a single relay interlocking plant for the two Colombo stations of Colombo Fort and Maradana including intermediate shunting yards, with the control room in the railway administration building at Maradana. This installation will comprise no less than 114 electrically operated points, 93 light signals and 84 track circuits. Signals and points will be operated on Ericsson's Line-To-Line method (LTL). The control office will have a miniature track diagram depicting the track system, on which train movements, signal aspects, point conditions etc. are indicated. The LTL method implies that all points and signals governing train routes can be controlled at one time by simultaneous throwing of two keys on the track diagram, one at the start and the other at the end of the route.

The second stage will comprise relay interlocking plant and automatic block for the double-track line between Colombo and Veyangoda, a distance of some 36 kilometres, and on the single-track branch line between Ragama and Ja-ela, about 10 kilometres. This installation will comprise 52 electrically operated points, 132 signals and 207 track circuits. The entire line will be equipped with C.T.C., the interlocking machine being in the same office as that for the Colombo stations. The C.T.C. operation will also be on the LTL principle.

The third stage will cover the double-track line to Panadure southward (about 30 kilometres). This will comprise 35 electrically operated



Ceylon Government Railway network

- Control office for relay interlocking plant and C.T.C.
- C.T.C., single-track Ragama—Ja-ela
- C.T.C., double-track Panadure—Colombo—Veyangoda

points, 88 signals and 161 track circuits. This line as well will be equipped with C.T.C.

LM Ericsson Contract with Venezuela

LM Ericsson recently signed a contract with Venezuela for the delivery and installation of telephone equipment for some 11 million kronor. The equipment will give the capital city of Caracas modern telephone communications with several places of importance in the eastern parts of the country. In particular, the communications with Ciudad Bolívar, centre of a large mining district, and with the ore shipment port of Puerto Ordaz will be extended and brought up to date.

These new facilities will consist of a carrier telephone system operating on radio links. By this method a large number of telephone conversations can be conducted simultaneously on one route. The terminal equipment of the carrier telephone system is to be manufactured by the L M Ericsson Telephone Company, and the company will also take care of the radio link construction. The radio links will be manufactured by the Elektrisk Bureau in Oslo, Nor-

way, a company associated with the Ericsson Group.

The first exchange delivered by L M Ericsson to Venezuela was in 1916, a manual switchboard at Ciudad Bolívar. Since then the firm has supplied automatic exchange equipment to some twenty Venezuelan towns.

One Million Crossbar Lines in Ten Years

An order was recently received for crossbar exchange equipment for Petersham, Sydney, Australia. With this order the Ericsson group has passed the million mark in terms of crossbar lines installed and on order for public automatic exchanges. This remarkable result has been achieved within a ten-year period. The first L M Ericsson crossbar exchange installed abroad was cut over at Helsinki in 1950. Ericsson crossbar exchanges are now installed on every continent and, as the order book shows, the interest in this automatic telephone system is constantly increasing.

L M Ericsson's stand at the last German Industrial Fair at Hanover, at which the Ericofon took a prominent place.

