



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA**

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**STATE LANDS (RECOVERY OF POSSESSION)  
(Amendment) ACT, No. 58, OF 1981**

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**[Certified on 9th September, 1981]**

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*The State Lands (Recovery of Possession)  
(Amendment) Act, No. 58 of 1981*

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L. D.—O. 5/81.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATE LANDS (RECOVERY OF POSSESSION)  
ACT, NO. 7 OF 1979.

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist  
Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:—

(i) the Land Reform Commission established  
of Possession) (Amendment) Act, No. 58 of 1981.

Short title.

2. The following new section is hereby inserted  
immediately after section 6, and shall have effect as section  
6A of the State Lands (Recovery of Possession) Act, No. 7 of  
1979 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal  
enactment”) :—

Insertion of  
new section  
6A in Act  
No. 7 of 1979.

“Applications  
for ejectment  
to be  
disposed of  
within cer-  
tain periods.

6A. Every application made under section  
5 shall be finally disposed of within a period  
of two calendar months from the date of  
such application and where a court makes,  
in pursuance of any such application, an  
order under section 7 or section 10, directing  
that any person be ejected from the land  
referred to in that order, the court shall make  
all such orders as are necessary to ensure that  
such persons are ejected from that land  
within a period of three months from the  
date of the application for ejectment.”.

3. The following new section is hereby inserted  
immediately after section 11, and shall have effect as  
section 11A, of the principal enactment :—

Insertion of  
new section  
11A in the  
principal  
enactment.

“Re-entry in  
land after  
ejectment to  
be an offence.

11A. (1) Any person who re-enters, except  
under a valid permit or other written  
authority of the State granted in accordance  
with any written law, any land within a  
period of ten years of his being ejected  
therefrom in the execution of an order made  
under section 7 or section 10, shall be guilty  
of an offence under this Act and shall be  
liable on conviction after summary trial be-  
fore a Magistrate to imprisonment for a term  
which may extend to five years or to a fine  
which may extend to one thousand rupees or  
to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Upon the institution of any proceedings against any person for an offence under subsection (1), the Magistrate shall, on proof that such person was ejected, in the execution of an order under section 7 or section 10, from the land in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed, forthwith order the ejection of such person and his dependants, if any, from such land pending the conclusion of those proceedings."

4. Section 14 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:—

(1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) of that section; and

(2) by the insertion, immediately after subsection (1) of that section, of the following new subsection:—

"(2) A competent authority shall not exercise any power conferred on him by section 3 in relation to any land vested in, owned by, or under the control of—

(a) the Sri Lanka Army or the Sri Lanka Navy or the Sri Lanka Air Force, except with the prior approval of the Minister in charge of the subject of Defence;

(b) the Urban Development Authority established by the Urban Development Authority Law, No. 41 of 1978, except with the prior approval of the Minister in charge of that Authority;

(c) the Sri Lanka Ports Authority established by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act, No. 51 of 1979, except with the prior approval of the Minister in charge of that Authority."

5. Section 18 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:—

(1) by the substitution, for the definition of "competent authority", of the following definition:—

"competent authority" used in relation to any land means the Government Agent, an Additional

Amendment  
of the  
of section 14  
principal  
enactment.

Amendment  
of section 18  
of the  
principal  
enactment.

Government Agent or an Assistant Government Agent of the district in which the land is situated and includes—

(a) the Commander of the Army, where such land is under the control of the Army;

(b) the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, where such land is under the control of the Sri Lanka Navy;

(c) the Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, where such land is under the control of the Sri Lanka Air Force;

(d) the General Manager of Railways, where such land is under the control of the Railway Department;

(e) the Commissioner for National Housing, where such land is under the control of the Department of National Housing;

(f) the Commissioner of Local Government, where such land is under the control of a local authority;

(g) any other public officer authorized by the Government Agent in respect of any matter or provision of this Act; and

(h) an officer generally or specially authorized by a corporate body, where such land is vested in or owned by or under the control of, such corporate body;

(2) by the substitution, for the definition of "State land", of the following definition:—

"State land" means land to which the State is lawfully entitled or which may be disposed of by the State together with any building standing thereon, and with all rights, interests and privileges attached or appertaining thereto, and includes—  
(a) land vested in, or under the control of, the River Valleys Development Board and the Mahaweli Development Board or any other authority charged with the function of developing State land or any local authority; and

(b) land vested in or owned by, or under the control of—

(i) the Land Reform Commission established by the Land Reform Law, No. 1 of 1972;

(ii) any corporate body established by or under the Rubber Research Ordinance, the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation Act, No. 4 of 1958, the State Agricultural Corporations Act, No. 11 of 1972, the Sri Lanka Tea Board Law, No. 14 of 1975, the Silk and Allied Products Development Law, No. 30 of 1975, the Tea Small Holdings Development Law, No. 35 of 1975, the Urban Development Authority Law, No. 41 of 1978, or the Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act, No. 51 of 1979, as the case may be.

6. The Schedule to the principal enactment is hereby amended in form C thereof, by the substitution, for the words and figures—

"Affirmed\*/Sworn before me by the deponent on this ..... day of ..... 197 .."

of the words and figures,

"Affirmed\*/Sworn before me by the deponent at..... on this..... day of ..... 19 .."

Amendment  
of the  
Schedule.