

My No : EST-6/04/LON/0202  
Ministry of Public Administration,  
Provincial Councils and Local Government  
Independence Square  
Colombo 07.

13.01.2026

Secretaries to Ministries  
Chief Secretaries of Provinces  
Heads of Departments

**Revision of Section 13, Chapter XXIV of the Establishments Code**  
**Festival Advance**

Your attention is hereby drawn to sub-sections 13:2 and 13:5, Chapter XXIV of the Establishments Code revised by Public Administration Circular 21/2015 dated 17.08.2015.

02. It has been decided at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 12.01.2026 to revise sub-section 13:2 in the following manner.

13:2 An advance of Rs. 15,000/- can be paid for the celebration of one of any annual festivals of the officer's choice. The permissible limits on deductions referred to in sub-section 3:5 will not apply to this advance. This advance is free of interest.

03. The above revision will be effective from 01.01.2026 and other provisions in this regard will remain unchanged.

04. Further, officers who obtained the festival advance during the period from 01.01.2026 to the date of issuance of this circular under the provisions existed at that time, can be granted the opportunity to obtain the remaining amount of the festival advance available under these provisions. Once such payments are made, the recovery of installments must be revised in accordance with the new provisions.

Sgd/ S. Alokabandara  
Secretary  
Ministry of Public Administration,  
Provincial Councils and Local Government

Telephone : 011-2699399  
Fax : 011-2692158  
Email address : ad-6-est@pubad.gov.lk