

12th February 2026

Hon. Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka



PROTECTION OF OCCUPANTS BILL

RENT (REPEAL) BILL

Five petitioners in SC/SD/6/2026 to SC/SD/10/2026 invoked the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution challenging the constitutionality of the Protection of Occupants Bill. One petitioner in SC/SD/11/2026 similarly challenged the constitutionality of the Rent (Repeal) Bill.

At the hearing of the said applications, learned Senior Solicitor General Mr. Sumathi Dharmawardena, by tendering a copy of the letter dated 06.02.2026 addressed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice to the Hon. Attorney-General, informed Court that the aforesaid two Bills would not be proceeded with in their present form, but would instead be referred to an expert committee for consideration, and that thereafter appropriate steps would be taken to present them as new Bills. A copy of the said letter is annexed hereto.

In view of the said undertaking, the petitioners in SC/SD/6/2026 to SC/SD/10/2026, who had challenged the Protection of Occupants Bill, withdrew their petitions.

On the same basis, there was no necessity to proceed with the hearing in respect of the Rent (Repeal) Bill in SC/SD/11/2026.

Accordingly, this Court determined that there was no necessity to make formal determinations in respect of the aforesaid two Bills in terms of Article 121(3) of the Constitution.

Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena
Judge of the Supreme Court