

පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක: 222

ආයතනයේ නම: සමෘද්ධි සංවර්ධන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සභාගත කරන ලද වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර නියෝග අංක 119(4) යටතේ ගරු අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ හා ගනු ලබන පියවර පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டுத் தொடர் இலக்கம்: 222

நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர்: சமுர்த்தி அபிவிருத்தித் திணைக்களம்
பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரசு கணக்குக் குழுவினால் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட
அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119(4) இன் கீழ்
கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புகளும் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக
எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Parliamentary Series No: 222

Name of the Institution: Department of Samurdhi Development

Submission of observations of Hon. Minister and steps taken with regard to the reports tabled by the committee on Public Accounts in terms of Standing Order No: 119(4)

Parliamentary Publication Series No. -222

Department of Samurdhi Development

Serial No.	Lapses identified by the Committee	The measures taken by the Institution to rectify the lapses / current situation
01	<p><u>Having problems regarding the payment of pensions to the officials.</u></p> <p>The committee which observed that no proper solutions have been found for the existing problems regarding the payment of pensions to the officers absorbed from the authorities during the establishment of the Samurdhi Development Department inquired about the reasons for not implementing the Supreme Court judgment on this matter.</p>	<p>Action taken by the Institution to Correct the Situation two cases, SC/APP/45/2025 and SC/CONT/07/2025, related to the levy of the 6% government contribution from the Employee Provident Fund of the officers involved, are currently pending before the Supreme Court. These cases were filed under Section 44(e) (ii) of the Samurdhi Act.</p> <p>A Cabinet decision has been issued on 20.02.2023 to get levied an interest at the rate of 4% on the 60% to be levied from these officers. Accordingly, the Department of Pensions has not paid the arrears of pensions for those who were paid pensions after 20.02.2023.</p> <p>As per the Cabinet Decision Notification Letter No. CP/25/1323/818/085 dated 12th of August 2025, in getting levied the 60% Government contribution of the Employees Provident Fund, 4% interest will only be levied once on the amount of 60% Government contribution, and the Director General of Pensions has been instructed to prepare pensions for levying the amount and to get levied the amount from the Pension Gratuity and from arrears of pension.</p> <p>Accordingly, you are kindly informed that the necessary action is being taken at present to get levied the 4% interest on 60% from all the officers who have been awarded pension after 20.02.2023 and to pay the relevant arrears of pension.</p>

02	<p><u>Revision of the Approved Cadre.</u></p> <p>The Committee observed the need to revise the approved staff to solve the job related problems of the officers of the Department of Samurdhi Development and inquired about the status of the new staff revision.</p>	<p>The answers for the Questionnaire prepared by the Department of Management Services and submitted to the Secretary to the then Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment to carry out a review of the Staff of the Department were forwarded to the Department of Management Services along with a copy to the Committee through the Secretary to the Ministry on 12.09.2023.</p> <p>Accordingly, the approval of the Department of Management Services has been received for the new staff which has comprised of 25732 of the Department.</p> <p>The directives have been made at the Committee on Public Accounts held on 10.01.2024 to prepare time frames for the new Schemes of recruitment and promotion related to the staff thus approved and to provide the relevant progress as at the 15th of each month.</p> <p>Accordingly, the relevant progress as on 15.08.2025 has been referred to the Committee on Public Accounts on 12.09.2025.</p>
03	<p><u>Implementation of programmes to empower the Samurdhi beneficiaries.</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the progress of the Samurdhi Beneficiary Empowerment Programme during the 25 years since its inception. The committee emphasized that it is not enough to give benefits to empower the poor community and that these Samurdhi beneficiaries should be directed to self - employment or other work arrangements that can generate income and</p>	<p>The Department of Samurdhi Development has been implementing various programmes at the national, district, regional and divisional levels under the categories of directing the said families towards a sustainable livelihood, strengthening income earning channels, getting liberated them from the mentality of subsidy dependency and providing coverage from a social safety network, with the intention of getting liberated the poor and low-income families from economic and social issues such as poverty, social justice disparities and getting provided financial funds for various financial requirements for which they faced over the past three decades, and action was taken to provide the benefits to the targeted community.</p>

<p>should be monitored regularly. The Committee also stated that these programmes can be implemented jointly with other appropriate institutions, and a formal plan should be prepared in this regard. The committee also specifically pointed out that it is essential to provide the families participating in the Samurdhi movement with the goals to be met within a certain period of time, and the necessary provisions and guidance should be given for that, and follow-up should be done.</p>	<p>With the implementation of the “Aswesuma” programme instead of Samurdhi Subsidy Programme based on a policy decision in the year 2023, the responsibility of empowering the low-income families including “Aswesuma” has been entrusted to the Department of Samurdhi Development.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Department of Samurdhi Development prepared a long-term plan within a period of 05 years from 2025 to 2029 to empower 20 lakh families, including those who receive and do not receive “Aswesuma” and the target of empowerment under the same in the year 2025 is 04 lakhs families.</p> <p>According to the plan, it is expected to make every citizen of the country a prestigious shareholder of the national economy by empowering low-income families through 05 main areas such as promotion of livelihood, psychosocial empowerment, financial integration, social security, training and guidance.</p> <p>A family development plan is prepared for each family selected for the empowerment, and business plans are prepared for the beneficiaries selected from such families. Thereafter, livelihood technical training and vocational/ proficiency training are provided to those beneficiaries. Action is being taken to provide livelihood assistance to the beneficiaries in need and refer to the relevant financial services and for employment opportunities for the unemployed youths.</p> <p>There are 232,146 appropriate families who have been identified for empowerment under the empowerment programme at present. Furthermore 126,613 family development plans have been prepared and 6,608 business plans have been prepared. There are 13,065 youth have been identified for vocational training and 239 youth out of them have been referred for employments.</p>
--	--

		The Department of Samurdhi Development has implemented programmes with the intention of uplifting the living conditions of low-income families using Treasury provisions and funds of the Samurdhi Department. (Annexure-01).
04	<p><u>Programme to empower 12 lakh families identified under the Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Scheme.</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the steps taken so far regarding the implementation of the Samurdhi movement in parallel with the Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Scheme.</p>	<p>Under the Cabinet approval received for the Cabinet Papers bearing Nos. CP/730/604/073 and CP/23/1811/604/178 prepared and submitted by the Welfare Benefits Board, empowerment of 12 lakhs of poor and extremely poor beneficiary families was entrusted to the Department of Samurdhi Development.</p> <p>02. Accordingly, a programme to empower 12 lakhs of Aswesuma beneficiary families has been prepared to implement from 2024 to 2029 and approval has been obtained submitting the same to the Cabinet of Ministers on 11.03.2024 through the Cabinet Paper bearing No. CP/24/0456/629/006.</p> <p>03. It has been proposed at a meeting held at the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment to prepare a new programme inclusive of all the social categories and the families who have received Samurdhi subsidies (who do not receive Aswesuma benefits at present).</p> <p>04. According to the proposal, action is being taken to identify 20 lakhs of families who will be empowered as follows.</p> <p>Aswesuma beneficiary families - 1,500,000</p> <p>Low-income families who received Samurdhi subsidy (who do not receive Aswesuma at present)- 500,000</p> <p>A Cabinet paper has been prepared for these new families and arrangements have been made to submit the same for the Cabinet approval.</p> <p>Under this new programme, identification of Aswesuma beneficiary</p>

		<p>families and low-income families who have received Samurdhi subsidies is being carried out at the level of GramaNiladhari Divisions. Preparation of family development plans has also been commenced to direct such families for the following sectors for the promotion of livelihood.</p> <p>i. Reference for business opportunities (self-employments)</p> <p>ii. Reference for local / foreign employments after the vocational training.</p> <p>You are further informed that arrangements have been made to provide government financial assistance and Samurdhi Bank loans for the promotion of livelihood.</p>
05	<p><u>Functioning of Samurdhi Banks</u></p> <p>According to the audit analysis, the Committee observed that Samurdhi Bank has assets of 255 billion rupees and the value of financial assets is Rs. 220 billion at present. However, the Committee noticed that loan balance of Samurdhi Banks is Rs.70 billion, of which Rs. 10 billion belong to employees' loans, and the value of investments is Rs. 150 billion.</p>	<p>Accordingly, as at 31 July 2025, Samurdhi Community Banks have total assets amounting to Rs. 321 billion, while the value of investment stands at Rs. 183 billion.</p> <p>Samurdhi Community banks have a total balance of Rs. 151 billion as at 31.07.2025 and a total disbursement of Rs. 105 billion. The Breakdown of the Rs. 105 billion is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total employee outstanding loans as at 31.07.2025 • Total number of employee outstanding loans: 18,057 • Percentage of employee outstanding loans: 4.67% • Amount of outstanding loans issued to beneficiaries: Rs. 100,298.4 million • Total number of outstanding loans issued to beneficiaries: 1,002,254 • Percentage of beneficiary outstanding loans: 95.33% <p>The following loan programs have been implemented to increase the total loan portfolio to Rs. 105 billion.</p>

		<p>To increase the amounts of loans provided by Samurdhi Community Banks at low interest rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Samurdhi Community Banks possess deposits amounting to Rs. 162 billion as at 30.06.2025, and the outstanding loan balance is Rs. 103 billion. The following loan schemes have been introduced and implemented in order to get increased the outstanding loan balance of Samurdhi Community Banks and Banking Societies since the year 2024. ➤ LiyaSaviya Loan Scheme through 2021/16 (New) Fourth Collection dated 14.02.2024. ➤ SamurdhiArunaluSahana Loan Scheme for SamurdhiCommunity-Based Organizations through 2024/01 dated 27.03.2024. ➤ SamurdhiLaksara Loan Scheme for Public employees through 2024/04 dated 18.04.2024. ➤ Granting loans for pre-school teachers through LiyaSaviya Loan Scheme by Circular letter dated 20.05.2024. ➤ To increase the amount of Entrepreneurial Development Loans from 20 up to 50 to improve the income generating projects of small scale and medium scale entrepreneurs further through the new SamurdhiEntrepreneur Development Loan Scheme through the First collection to 2020/22 dated 29.10.2024. <p><u>For the empowerment of Aswesuma eligible families who are not the members of the Samurdhi Movement</u></p>
--	--	--

		<p>➤ Introduction of the Samurdhi Empowerment Loan Scheme for lowincome families who receive Aswesuma social benefits identified under the Community Empowerment Programme -2025 through Circular 2025/10 dated 07.08.2025 and the SamurdhiRanpatha Loan Scheme is being implemented for lowincome families who have received Samurdhisubsidies. (Annexure 02)</p>
--	--	--



C.D. Kaluarachchi
 Director General
 Department of Samurdhi Development

C.D. Kaluarachchi
Director General
Department of Samurdhi Development
4th Floor, Stage 01, "Sethsiripaya",
Battaramulla.

Sampath Manthrinayake
 Secretary
 Ministry of Rural Development, Social
 Security and Community Empowerment