



Sri Lanka Independence Act 1947

1947 CHAPTER 7 11 and 12 Geo 6

An Act to make provision for, and in connection with, the attainment by^[F1] Sri Lanka] of fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations. [10th December 1947]

Textual Amendments

F1 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

1 Provision for the fully responsible status of ^[F2]Sri Lanka].

- (1) No Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed on or after the appointed day shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to ^[F2]Sri Lanka] as part of the law of ^[F2]Sri Lanka], unless it is expressly declared in that Act that ^[F2]Sri Lanka] has requested, and consented to, the enactment thereof.
- (2) As from the appointed day His Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom shall have no responsibility for the government of ^[F2]Sri Lanka].
- (3) As from the appointed day the provisions of the First Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the legislative powers of .

Textual Amendments

F2 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sri Lanka Independence Act 1947. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F3 S. 2 repealed by [Revision of the Army and Air Force Acts \(Transitional Provisions\) Act 1955 \(c. 20\), Sch. 4](#)

3 **F4**

Textual Amendments

F4 S. 3 repealed by [Family Law Act 1986 \(c. 55, SIF 49:3\), s. 68\(2\), Sch. 2](#)

4 **Consequential amendments not affecting the law of [F5Sri Lanka].**

(1) As from the appointed day, the Acts and Regulations referred to in the Second Schedule to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments made by that Schedule . . . ^{F6}:
Provided that this subsection shall not extend to [F5Sri Lanka] as part of the law thereof.

(2) **F7**

(3) **F8**

(5) **F9**

Textual Amendments

F5 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

F6 Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\), Sch. Pt. VI](#)

F7 S. 4(2) repealed by [Interpretation Act 1978 \(c. 30, SIF 115:1\), Sch. 3](#)

F8 S. 4(3)(4) repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\), Sch. Pt. VI](#)

F9 S. 4(5) repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1953 \(2 & 3 Eliz. 2 c. 5\)](#)

5 **Short title and commencement.**

(1) This Act may be cited as the [F10Sri Lanka] Independence Act 1947.

(2) In this Act the expression “the appointed day” means such day as His Majesty may by Order in Council appoint.

Textual Amendments

F10 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 4.2. 1948 appointed by S.R. & O. 1947/2782 (Rev. III, p. 558: 1947 I, p. 204), art. 2

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SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 1.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF [F11SRI LANKA]

Textual Amendments

F11 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there should be substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

- 1 (1) The ^{M1}Colonial Laws Validity Act 1865, shall not apply to any law made after the appointed day by the Parliament of [F12Sri Lanka].
- (2) No law and no provision of any law made after the appointed day by the Parliament of [F12Sri Lanka] shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to the law of England, or to the provisions of any existing or future Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom, or to any order, rule or regulation made under any such Act, and the powers of the Parliament of [F12Sri Lanka] shall include the power to repeal or amend any such Act, order, rule or regulation in so far as the same is part of the law of [F12Sri Lanka].

Textual Amendments

F12 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M1 1865 c. 63.

- 2 The Parliament of [F13Sri Lanka] shall have full power to make laws having extra-territorial operation.

Textual Amendments

F13 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

- 3 Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this Schedule, sections seven hundred and thirty-five and seven hundred and thirty-six of the ^{M2}Merchant Shipping Act 1894, shall be construed as though reference therein to the legislature of a British possession did not include reference to the Parliament of [F14Sri Lanka].

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Textual Amendments

F14 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M2 1894 c. 60.

4 Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this Schedule, section four of the ^{M3}Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890 (which requires certain laws to be reserved for the signification of His Majesty’s pleasure or to contain a suspending clause), and so much of section seven of that Act as requires the approval of His Majesty in Council to any rules of Court for regulating the practice and procedure of a Colonial Court of Admiralty, shall cease to have effect in [^{F15}Sri Lanka].

Textual Amendments

F15 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M3 1890 c. 27.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 4.

AMENDMENTS NOT AFFECTING LAW OF [^{F16}SRI LANKA]

Textual Amendments

F16 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

1 **F17**

Textual Amendments

F17 Sch. 2 para. 1 repealed by [British Nationality Act 1948 \(c. 56\), Sch. 4 Pt. II](#)

2 **F18**

Textual Amendments

F18 Sch. 2 para. 2 repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1977 \(c. 18\), Sch. 1 Pt. XV](#)

3 **F19**

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Textual Amendments

F19 Sch. 2 para. 3 repealed by [Income Tax Act 1952 \(c. 10\)](#), **Sch. 25**

4 **F20**

Textual Amendments

F20 Sch. 2 para. 4 repealed by [Trustee Investments Act 1961 \(c. 62\)](#), **Sch. 5**

Visiting forces

5 The following provisions of the ^{M4}Visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act 1933, namely—

- (a) section three (which deals with deserters);
- (b) section four (which deals with attachment and mutual powers of command);
- (c) the definition of “visiting force” for the purposes of that Act generally which is contained in section eight thereof;

shall apply in relation to forces raised in [^{F21}Sri Lanka] as they apply in relation to forces raised in the Dominions within the meaning of the ^{M5}Statute of Westminster, 1931.

Textual Amendments

F21 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of [Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 \(c. 55, SIF 26:40\)](#), s. **1(4)**

Marginal Citations

M4 1933 c. 6.

M5 1931 c. 4 (22 & 23 Geo. 5).

Ships and aircraft

6 **F22**

Textual Amendments

F22 Sch. 2 para. 6 repealed by [Emergency Laws \(Repeal\) Act 1959 \(c. 19\)](#), **Sch. 4 Pt. I**

7 **F23**

Textual Amendments

F23 Sch. 2 para. 7 repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1977 \(c. 18\)](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. XV**

8 In the ^{M6}Whaling Industry (Regulation) Act 1934, the expression “British ship to which this Act applies” shall not include a British ship registered in [^{F24}Sri Lanka].

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Textual Amendments

F24 For references to “Ceylon” in this Act there are substituted references to “Sri Lanka” by virtue of Sri Lanka Republic Act 1972 (c. 55, SIF 26:40), s. 1(4)

Marginal Citations

M6 1934 c. 49.

Matrimonial causes

9 F25

Textual Amendments

F25 Sch. 2 para. 9 repealed by Family Law Act 1986 (c. 55, SIF 49:3), s. 68(2), Sch. 2

10 F26

Textual Amendments

F26 Sch. 2 para. 10 repealed by Copyright Act 1956 (c. 74), Sch. 9

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Changes to legislation:

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