

OPPOSITION bulletin

S R I L A N K A



4th Day

Committee Stage Debate

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Parliament, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

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Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government Ministry of Labour

MPs participated in the debate



Today's Debate

Opposition Members of Parliament, including the Hon. Opposition Leader who joined the debate, emphasized that the government's continuous postponement of the Local Government Elections constitutes a breach of a promise made to gain power. The MPs stated that the government's delaying of elections by presenting financial constraints is not justifiable. They expressed that not holding Local Government Elections has turned these institutions into entities where officers make decisions without public representation, which challenges people's sovereignty. The MPs stressed that the government must immediately take steps to hold the Local Government Elections under the old system.

During the debate, the Opposition Leader commented on several matters falling under the Ministry's purview. He pointed out that while the current government implemented a three-phase salary increase in 2025, retirees were overlooked, with no increase in pensions for the 54,000 who retired between 2020 and 2024. He also requested that relief, including a cost of living allowance, be provided to the 130,000 persons who retired between 2016 and 2024, and that the elderly retired community be granted a 15% interest rate on fixed deposits, capped at LKR 1.5 million. The Opposition Leader also stated that allowances for Birth, Marriage, and Death Registrars should be increased and they should be given due recognition. He mentioned that, as a step to enhance their dignity, the proposal to provide Justice of the Peace positions covering the entire country should be implemented.

The Opposition Leader highlighted that Grama Niladhari officers have not been included in the Community Praja Shakthi movement, and its authority has been assigned to JVP representatives. He further pointed out that although the Grama Niladhari Service Minutes was gazetted, that gazette has not been implemented. The Opposition Leader also raised issues present in many Local Government institutions.

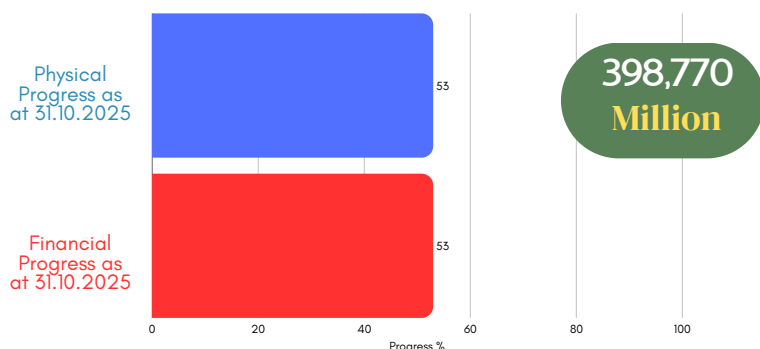
The government's proposal to implement a 20% and 40% salary reimbursement for government servants serving in Local Government Institutions has created a serious problem for many of these institutions.



Division called by Hon. Shanakiyan Rasamanickam for the heads of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

For
103
Against
09

Progress of the 2025 Budget Proposals



Payment of pensions for 723,000 pensioners including widows/widowers and orphan pension beneficiaries

- Payment of gratuity for 35,000 new pensioners
 - Payment of compensation for 40,258 deceased and wounded war heroes
 - Railway passes for pensioners
 - Development of Jaffna Library
- Information not submitted**

Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Ministry of Labour No budget proposals for 2025

The MPs indicated that the revenue streams of Local Government Institutions, such as stamp duties, levies, and fines, are insufficient to maintain these institutions. Furthermore, MPs also commented during the debate that the division of some Divisional Secretariat divisions into power zones was done on a political basis. Another issue highlighted during the debate was the shortage of Assessors in Pradeshiya Sabhas as a major problem affecting their revenue generation. Due to not receiving answers to their problems, development officers, retirees, and public servants have taken to the streets today and are engaged in protests. Reminding that the Gotabaya Rajapaksa government abolished the phased pension increase that was to be implemented following the doubling of public service salaries during the good governance era, the MPs pointed out that the government must work to correct the injustice caused to retirees.

Populous Grama Niladhari divisions should be reconfigured, and regulations should be established to make the Grama Niladhari service more efficient for the people. Steps should be taken to provide appointments as Grama Niladhari officers to the graduates currently serving as management assistants. The salaries of Grama Niladhari officers should be increased, and attention should also be paid to salary disparities in the Management Assistants' Service.

Commenting on the wage increase for plantation workers announced by the government, the MPs stated that when including the LKR 200 allowance, the total increase for plantation workers is only about LKR 1550. Highlighting the issues in the method of providing the attendance allowance for 25 days as per the budget speech, the MPs stated that the salary should be directly increased to LKR 1750. The MPs also expressed the need to update the services provided by the Employees' Trust Fund and the Employees' Provident Fund with modern technology.

The vehicle permit already granted to various professionals in the state service should be activated. The Good Governance government provided a Rs. 50,000 allowance to public officers instead of official vehicles. This allowance should be increased to Rs. 100,000 or more. Another point highlighted by opposition MPs during the debate was that for the Information Technology Service within the Combined Service to be utilized effectively, it is important to integrate it under the Digital Ministry.

Next Debate : 20th Nov - Thursday
Ministry of Energy



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