



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT
ACT, No. 11 OF 1994

[Certified on 7th June, 1994]

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Science and Technology Development
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L. D.—O. 53/93

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SRI LANKA; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT RESPECTIVELY, OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION, THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, THE COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF SRI LANKA, THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND THE ARTHUR C. CLARKE INSTITUTE FOR MODERN TECHNOLOGIES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Science and Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994, and shall come into operation on such date (hereinafter referred to as the "appointed date") as the Minister may appoint, by Order published in the *Gazette*.

2. The objects of this Act shall be—

- (a) to promote the use of science and technology as an integral part of the effort to achieve rapid economic development, and improved quality of life and to alleviate poverty, and to involve scientists and technologists in the formulation of policy and in decision making;
- (b) to foster scientific and technological activity in all its aspects with a view to developing self reliance in scientific and technological capability, and to ensure the allocation of a reasonable proportion of the gross national product for science and technology activities;
- (c) to support the development of indigenous technology wherever feasible whilst promoting the import, adaptation and assimilation of technology for rapid growth in industry, agriculture and services;
- (d) to ensure that institutions of higher education and technical education and research institutions produce scientists, technologists and technicians of high calibre and competence and to secure the provision of incentives to them with a view to ensuring their retention in Sri Lanka;

1. Apr. 1998

Short title
and date
of operation

Object
of Act.

- (e) to provide adequate opportunities for all persons to acquire a basic education in science and its practical applications;
- (f) to cultivate among the people, an appreciation of the value of science, scientific method and technology and of the integral role that science plays in modern society;
- (g) to disseminate the benefits of science and technology activity to all sectors of the people;
- (h) to encourage and strengthen cooperation in science and technology between scientists in Sri Lanka, and between scientists in Sri Lanka and scientists outside Sri Lanka, and to provide access to global scientific and technological knowledge and activity;
- (i) to develop the capability to continuously plan, evaluate and review strategies, legislation, and the institutional framework for science and technology in Sri Lanka;
- (j) to identify priority areas of science and technology likely to be of benefit to Sri Lanka and to promote research and development in such areas.

Minister to have regard to objects set out in section 2.

3. In formulating policies relating to science and technology and in implementing such policies, the Minister shall have regard to the objects set out in section 2 and shall consult the National Science and Technology Commission.

PART I

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (NASTEC)

Establishment of National Science and Technology Commission.

4. There shall be established a Commission to be called the National Science and Technology Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission").

5. The functions of the Commission shall be—
- (a) to advise the Government on policies and plans for the development of science and technology including policies and plans relating to—
- (i) the application of science and technology to stimulate economic growth ;
 - (ii) the impact of science and technology on the efficiency and competitiveness of industry, agriculture, services and the economy ;
 - (iii) the impact of science and technology on health, nutrition and poverty alleviation, with a view to improving the quality of life of the people ,
 - (iv) the development of human and other resources needed for science and technology, in consultation with the authorities responsible for education, training and research ;
 - (v) the development and management of the natural resources of Sri Lanka ;
 - (vi) the identification and prioritization of science and technology areas that are likely to be of national importance ;
 - (vii) the creation of a climate conducive for the build up, retention and attraction of science and technology expertise ;
 - (viii) the establishment of management strategies conducive to the productive application of science and technology ;
 - (ix) the allocation of funds for science and technology, including the priority of funding research and development in science and technology institutions ;
- (b) to submit a report annually, to the Government, reviewing the science and technology activities in Sri Lanka in the preceding year, in relation to the objects set out in section 2 and on, the effectiveness of measures for the development of human resources, the performance of science and techno-

4 **Science and Technology Development
Act, No. 11 of 1994**

logy institutions, the effectiveness of public spending on science and technology and the use of science and technology by public sector and private sector undertakings;

- (c) to review the progress of science and technology institutions in relation to the objects set out in section 2;
- (d) to consult relevant science and technology institutions before advising the Government on policies and plans relevant to those institutions;
- (e) to convene the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology biennially, with the prior approval of the Minister, and to provide a forum for the discussion of science and technology in Sri Lanka in relation to the objects set out in section 2; and submit a report to the Minister on such discussion.

**Constitution
of the
Commission.**

6. (1) The Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the President, in consultation with the Minister, from among persons who have distinguished themselves in the fields of science, technology, agriculture, commerce or industry.

(2) A person shall be disqualified from being appointed or continuing as a member of the Commission if he is a Member of Parliament or a member of Provincial Council or is a Secretary to a Ministry or head of a department or institution, concerned with science and technology development.

(3) A member of the Commission may resign his office by letter addressed to the President, and such resignation shall be effective from the date on which it is accepted by the President.

(4) The President may remove a member of the Commission from office, without assigning any reason therefor.

(5) Subject to the provisions of subsections (3) and (4) the term of office of a member of the Commission shall be three years.

(6) Where a member of the Commission dies, resigns or is removed from office, the President shall, having regard to the provisions of subsection (1), appoint another member in his place.

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(7) A member appointed under subsection (6) shall hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

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(8) A member vacating office by effluxion of time shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(9) (a) The quorum for any meeting of the Commission shall be four.

(b) The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Commission. In the absence of the Chairman from any meeting of the Commission, a member chosen by the majority of the members present at such meeting shall preside at such meeting.

(c) The Chairman of any meeting of the Commission shall, in addition to his own vote, have a casting vote.

(d) The Commission shall meet at least once every month.

(e) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Commission may regulate the procedure in regard to its meetings and the conduct of business at such meetings.

(10) The members of the Commission shall be paid remuneration at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister in charge of the subject of the Finance.

(11) The Commission may act notwithstanding any vacancy among its members and no act or proceeding of the Commission shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of the existence of a vacancy in the Commission or any defect in the appointment of a member of the Commission.

7. (1) The President may appoint one of the members of the Commission to be the Chairman of the Commission.

Chairman of
the Com-
mission

(2) The Chairman may resign from the office of Chairman by letter addressed to the President and such resignation shall be effective from the date on which it is accepted by the President.

(3) The President may remove the Chairman from the office of Chairman, without assigning any reason therefor.

(4) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) the term of office of the Chairman shall be his period of membership in the Commission.

(5) The President may appoint another member of the Commission as an executive member of the Commission to assist the Chairman.

(6) The Commission may delegate any of its powers, functions and duties to the Chairman or the executive member appointed under subsection (5).

Powers of
the
Commission.

8. The Commission shall have the power—

(a) to appoint such study groups or committees as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Commission, consisting of persons with the prescribed qualifications, and to define the objectives of such groups or committees ;

(b) to request and receive information relating to scientific and technological activity, from individuals, and bodies of persons, to analyse such information and to recommend priority areas for future development :

Provided however that no information received from any such individual or body of persons which such individual or body of persons is required to treat as confidential by any agreement between such individual or body of persons and the person to whom the information relates, shall be disclosed by the Commission ;

(c) to monitor the progress of projects and programmes in Science and Technology Institutions ;

(d) to prepare rules for the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology, with the concurrence of the Minister ;

- (e) to enter with the approval of the Minister, into agreements for co-operation with institutions abroad having objects wholly or partly similar to those of the Commission, for the exchange of technical personnel and generally, for such purposes as may be conducive to the attainment of their common objects;
- (f) to submit before March thirty-first of the following year, a report of the work done by the Commission during the year, to the Minister, who shall cause such report to be laid before Parliament;
- (g) to appoint a secretary and such other officers and servants as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its functions.