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Republic of Sri Lanka
(Fifth Session)**

Report of the

Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard.

Presented to Parliament by

Hon. Tiran Alles, M.P

The Chair of the Select Committee

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Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard.

Composition of the Committee

Hon. Tiran Alles (Chairman)

Hon. Sisira Jayakody

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

Hon. Asanka Navarathna

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Background of the Committee

Whereas the drug menace is currently spreading as a severe disaster in the country; and whereas this has had a severe impact on the well-being of society not only in urban areas but also in remote rural areas; and whereas people from all walk of life, regardless of gender, are being victimized; and whereas school children and young generation falling prey to drug addiction is rapidly increasing; and whereas the crimes that are committed by the organized groups related to drug trafficking have created a terrible situation in the society; and whereas if this situation is not controlled immediately, it will be difficult to restore the social, economic and health-related decline; a resolution was moved and passed by the following members on 08 June 2023, to appoint a Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard.

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga

Terms of Reference

Hon. Asanka Navarathna,— Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard,— Whereas the drug menace is currently spreading as a severe disaster in the country;

And whereas this has had a severe impact on the well-being of society not only in urban areas but also in remote rural areas;

And whereas people from all walk of life, regardless of gender, are being victimized;

And whereas school children and young generation falling prey to drug addiction is rapidly increasing;

And whereas the crimes that are committed by the organized groups related to drug trafficking, have created a terrible situation in the society;

And whereas if this situation is not controlled immediately, it will be difficult to restore the social, economic and health-related decline;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
(b) that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall not consist of more than twelve (12) Members.
3. The Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) Fix its quorum;
 - (b) Summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) Obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) Make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.
4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of six months (06) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.

Functioning of the Committee

The Committee held its first meeting on 27th July 2023 and 11 meetings have been held so far.

The Committee also published newspaper advertisements in three languages on September 13, 2023 calling for representations from the general public. At the end of the one-month period given for submissions, 58 representations were received. Additionally, 9 non-governmental organizations, activists in the field, and 10 government organizations provided their suggestions to the Committee.

The Committee invited government agencies, non-government agencies, and activists in the field of drug prevention before the Committee to gather their opinions and suggestions.

Taking into consideration the proposals and ideas presented to the Committee, as well as the public representations, the Committee decided to analyze the matters for drug menace control under three main themes as stated below.

1. Reducing the demand for drugs
- II. Reducing drug supply
- III. Treatment and rehabilitation

The Committee also decided to make a special consideration to the amendment of legislations to control the drug menace.

Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard.

Aim of the Committee

The primary aim is to create a moral and secure society by creating a spiritually rich citizen to control and eradicate the drug menace in Sri Lanka and to create a prosperous society by safeguarding the present and future generations from socio-economic and health consequences.

Objectives of the Committee

- i. To prevent all citizens, including children and youth, from being victimized by drug abuse.
- ii. To prevent the catastrophic situation caused by drug abuse and drug trafficking in the society.
- iii. To prevent social, cultural, moral, economic and health deterioration caused by drug use.
- iv. To take necessary steps to save the foreign exchange going out of the country illegally due to drug trafficking.
- v. To break down the illegal drug trafficking and distribution networks.
- vi. To implement laws designed to protect people from the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other ways of drug trafficking.
- vii. To create a citizen, family unit and society with a clear understanding of the myths related to the drug menace and the consequences of the menace internationally and nationally.
- viii. To establish robust and effective treatment and rehabilitation methods for the complete recovery of drug addicts.

Matters observed by the Committee

- i. According to the analytical data and facts submitted to the Committee, there is a reported tendency of drug proliferation in schools.
- ii. Demand for drugs alcohol and tobacco is not a natural demand but an artificially created demand.
- iii. The challenge posed by drugs is part of a terrible disaster within an international network, yet it has not been treated as a national priority and efforts to eradicate it have been insufficient.
- iv. Major Sri Lankan drug traffickers are distributing drugs within Sri Lanka from abroad.
- v. International drug traffickers are continuously using modern technology to facilitate trafficking, yet the technology used to prevent it has not been adequately updated.
- vi. High-tech equipments are not in place at Airports and Ports to detect smugglers traveling abroad.
- vii. There has been an unnecessary delay in the proposed amendments to the National Authority on Tobacco and alcohol Act.
- viii. There is an inadequacy of existing legal provisions on drugs, narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, tobacco, and alcohol.
- ix. It is observed that the use of drugs has increased due to the introduction of certain laws and regulations. Some of these laws and regulations undermine existing laws and international conventions that Sri Lanka has signed to prevent and eradicate drugs, necessitating amendments.
- x. There are malpractices in the prosecution of drug offenders, leading to prolonged completion times for drug-related cases.
- xi. Persons convicted of drug offenses should not be imprisoned with individuals convicted of other offenses.
- xii. Current penalties and fines for drug offenses are inadequate and not reviewed periodically

- xiii. There is a lack of adequate laboratories and field testing equipment to detect betel nut and tobacco-related drugs, narcotic and psychotropic substances, and other such abused drugs.
- xiv. Weaknesses exist in the process of verifying the identity of individuals using mobile phones when issuing SIM cards.
- xv. Inadequate manpower and infrastructure for government agencies involved in drug enforcement.
- xvi. There is insufficient inter-connection between government agencies act in prevention of drugs.
- xvii. There is no data system with sufficient information regarding drug users, individuals undergoing rehabilitation in government and non-government centers, those in prison, and those reintegrating into society after rehabilitation.
- xviii. There is a lack of minimum facilities for law enforcement officers participating in drug raids.
- xix. There is an absence of a scientific taxation policy for tobacco and alcohol, as well as a lack of a transparent mechanism for calculating such taxes.
- xx. Multi-day fishing vessels and small boats operating at sea are not investigated adequately due to limited human and physical resources.
- xxi. Support of the authorized officers of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority to be obtained for the raids carried out by Sri Lanka Police and other agencies related to illegal drugs.
- xxii. The methods currently used for the release and rehabilitation of drug addicts should be more comprehensive, with necessary monitoring to ensure complete freedom from drugs.
- xxiii. The awareness programs currently implemented in Sri Lanka should be executed in a more planned and quantitative manner.
- xxiv. A certain percentage of individuals released into society after rehabilitation return to drug use and distribution.

- xxv. The process of destroying seized narcotics before the conclusion of court proceedings has been initiated and is currently underway. Nevertheless the incinerator capacity needs to be enhanced

- xxvi. At present, the Department of Police, Armed Forces, Sri Lanka Customs, and other related agencies are implementing a significant joint program to prevent the flow of drugs into the country, in coordination with local and international intelligence agencies.

- xxvii. There is a possibility of synthetic drug production from precursor chemicals imported into Sri Lanka for other purposes.

Recommendations made by the Committee to control the Drug Menace

1. Controlling the demand for drugs

1.1 By awareness

1.1.1 Pre School Children

- i. Through teaching life skills, educating preschool children on the repercussions of using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, creating the ability of refusing alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Incorporating activities in the agenda of the National Policy of Early Childhood Development enabling children to identify and refuse the factors motivating them using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- ii. To implement the above process in pre-schools by Early Childhood Development Officers attached to Divisional Secretariats with the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to take necessary steps through the concerned line Ministry to monitor the programme.

1.1.2. Schools, Tertiary Educational Institutes, Vocational Educational Institutes and Youth

- i. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to implement programs to create necessary knowledge and understanding in school children to develop a good and healthy life and to educate them about the emptiness and reality of using drugs and to introduce appropriate programs explaining that using drugs is a boring and painful experience.
(Changes of attitudes observed in the student community as a result of above programs, will be scientifically measured based on the indicators recommended by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol, and will be reported to Zonal Education Directors by Principals)
- ii. Establishing and maintaining “Sumithuru Sansada” at school level. (The necessary technical assistance and guidance to carry out related activities will be provided by the officers of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board attached to the Divisional Secretariats)

- iii. Adhering to circulars issued by the Ministry of Education including necessary guidelines for establishing and maintaining the premises of educational institutions as zones free from the use, promotion and trade of tobacco products, alcohol and all other drugs and update the contents of those circulars as and when necessary. (Designate a special officer for each zonal education office to oversee this process who will be coordinating with field officers of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.)
- iv. Taking steps to control the content of online methods through the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, to prevent online drug promotion activities targeting school children.
- v. The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing awareness programs for teachers conducting private tuition classes to find out and prevent promotion activities of tobacco, alcohol and drugs in close proximity to their institutions.
- vi. Transferring the responsibility of monitoring the implementation process of the above programs in international schools and private schools including tuition classes to the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and the National Tobacco and Alcohol Authority.
- vii. Establishment of a high-level accountability mechanism comprising five officials at maximum representing National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development, Ministry of Health, University Grants Commission and all other relevant government agencies and representatives of voluntary organizations recognized in the field of drug prevention under the leadership of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to monitor and provide necessary guidance on reduction activities for created demand for tobacco, alcohol and drugs among children and youth.

- viii. With the aim of maintaining a national information system on incidents and complaints related to drug prevention and drug use around schools, vocational training institutes and universities, assigning the said responsibility to a committee that includes the heads of institutions and delegating the responsibility of data collection at national level, mapping and identifying trends to the Ministry of Education, the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board
- ix. To devise a suitable mechanism to address students in tertiary educational institutions, vocational educational institutions and youth community with technologically correct content.
- x. Educating teachers through relevant educational institutions.
- xi. To conduct a continuous course of action with effective content and methodology to prevent drug addiction in institutions such as vocational training institutes, youth corps etc, and to follow-up and monitor.
- xii. To formulate a mechanism jointly with the Heads of relevant Institutions, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol in order to implement above activities.

1.1.3 Through religious educational institutions

- i. Formulation of a mechanism that can address the children effectively in protecting them from the drug menace around “Dhamma Schools” (Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Islam) and taking measures to conduct awareness programs for “Dhamma Schools” teachers through the Departments of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim Religious Affairs. Preparation of a mechanism to facilitate the regional level collaborative action of the drug prevention treatment and rehabilitation officers attached to the Divisional Secretariats who are related to the Dangerous Drug Control Board, “Sasanarakshaka Balamandalayas” and other religious Institutions.

- ii. Provision of scientific knowledge in drug prevention for the religious students centralizing National Colleges of Education and “Piriven Schools” and to establish community- based drug prevention and treatment programs through those students.
- iii. Entrusting the implementation of practical drug prevention programs to the Ministry of Buddhasasana Religious and Cultural Affairs in order to make religious environments free from alcohol, tobacco and drugs focusing national religious festivals.

1.1.4 **Community**

- i. To enforce and implement the District Drug Prevention Committee under the leadership of the District Secretary and to enforce and implement the Regional drugs Prevention Committee headed by the Divisional Secretary of each Divisional Secretariat Division.
- ii. Rendering the leadership for the following activities through the said committees.
 - a. To implement awareness programs at the community level on how to identify people addicted to drugs and how to get help to get rid of drug addiction. To educate the public about the visible/invisible harms of alcohol use, loss of well-being, ways to reduce its harm, various aspects related to alcohol such as drug production, distribution, marketing, wholesale and retail trade.
 - b. To raise awareness among public on how the drugs including alcohol and tobacco are been promoted, how the usage of drugs is encouraged, factors existing against the control of drugs including alcohol, and tobacco and educating how such efforts are to be resisted.
 - c. To encourage public to inform relevant institutes such as Police, Department of Excise, Public Health Inspector’s office or Food and Drugs Inspector regarding the violations of existing laws against the use of drugs including alcohol and tobacco.
 - d. To educate public about the superstitions associated with certain behavior patterns of people who use drugs and thereby control the anti-social activities committed by such people.

- e. To establish family clubs with the participation of members from families affected by problems related to drugs including alcohol and tobacco in order to raise awareness about the harm caused by drugs including alcohol and tobacco.
- f. To prepare programs targeted at implementing for fishermen, bus drivers, construction industry workers and prison inmates who are identified as high-risk groups related to the use of drugs including alcohol and tobacco.
- g. To educate the fishing community about the possible consequences of drug transportation and drug trafficking in seas.
- h. Provision of advisory services based on scientific recommendations and technical data for effective implementation of necessary measures for drug abuse control.

1.2 Activiy and publicity of media and social media

- i. To educate the media institutes/journalists regarding the use of media so that an unnecessary publicity is not given to drugs and being vigilant on their activities. To introduce legal and institutional reforms in relation to advertisements through electronic or print media promoting any drug directly or indirectly so that action can be taken against the persons directly or indirectly responsible for such promotions.
- ii. To amend and strengthen the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Act No 25 of 1991 to regulate the content and access of social media networks used to promote tobacco products, alcohol and drugs.
- iii. Inclusion as a legal provision in the proposed amendment to the Online Safety Act No 9 of 2024 for the promotion of tobacco products, alcohol and drugs.
- iv. Establishment of an appropriate mechanism through the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka to identify, regulate and respond to online promotion and marketing activities violating legal provisions established domestically against drug promotion.

- v. Establishment of an appropriate mechanism to identify, regulate and respond to instances of overcoming legal barriers to drug promotion and provide guidance by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to media organizations in accordance with relevant laws. To amend the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board Act so that action can be taken against any violation of such guidelines.
- vi. To constantly review and update the prescribed guidelines to prevent wrongdoing by the media in relation to drug promotion.
- vii. Establishing a nationally organized media campaign, through public and private as well as social media, to bring awareness messages to children and young people about the dangers of the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and the tricks used to get children addicted to drugs.
- viii. Conducting awareness programs for journalists on a continuous regular basis to block the socialization of wrong opinions as a result of the failure to communicate the correct information and their unnecessary propaganda through social media.
- ix. Preparing a code of instructions on how the media should act in matters related to drugs, tobacco products and alcohol and implement a program to educate journalists about it and assign the related responsibilities to the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.

1.3 Responsibilities of Government Institutions

- i. To introduce a system for taxation in a transparent manner according to a scientific pricing formula with the aim of reducing the use of tobacco and alcohol so that the government receives not less than 80% of the tax revenue and levy taxes accordingly.
- ii. To introduce a transparent mechanism to calculate tax based on the methodology introduced by the World Health Organization as the Government loses huge tax revenue from tobacco and alcohol companies because of their erroneous reports.

- iii. To make arrangements to collect an indemnity tax based on the net profit of tobacco and alcohol companies in addition to the existing tax system, and thereby establish a fund and use the money directly for drug prevention treatment and rehabilitation.
- iv. Registration of anti-narcotics NGOs and related government organizations by the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the purpose of encouraging the collaboration between the aforesaid organizations and providing the government support to such organizations.
- v. Providing necessary help and support to social activists for building a strong opinion against the process of creating an artificial demand for alcohol, cigarettes and drugs in the society.
- vi. Passage of an Act with special provisions for recovery of unpaid liquor tax to the Government as per the Excise Department.
- vii. To amend relevant acts to make evasion and fraud of tobacco and alcohol tax a criminal offence. Furthermore, to introduce a transparent system for the tracking and tracing of tobacco and alcohol production and distribution and to formulate a mechanism to protect and encourage whistleblowers in relation thereto.

1.4 Drug Prevention

1.4.1 Involvement of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

- i. In the process of drug prevention, priority should be given to minimize and nullify the attractive image created about the relevant drug and the demand created for it while other activities need to be organized around it.
- ii. Integrated action by all government and non-government organizations to create the necessary social mindset to promote social responsibility in drug prevention treatment, rehabilitation and socialization.

- iii. During community-based drug prevention interventions, the risk groups (for instance, children from families whose mother has emigrated) children of incarcerated parents should be given special attention and action should be taken in a special approach. Assessment methods to identify risk groups should be strengthened and put into practice.
- iv. The community should be at the center of the drug prevention approach, and empowerment should be done by utilizing the resources and strength of that community. Furthermore, the community should also be responsible for measuring the progress of the program through indicators created by the community itself. Facilitation and coordination of this community approach should be done by the field officers as directed by the Divisional Secretariat.
- v. To appreciate individuals and organizations that contribute to drug prevention activities at the community level and building social mindset for drug prevention.
- vi. Socializing drug prevention messages using public spaces such as public gatherings at cultural festivals should be the responsibility of authorized officers operating under the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act.
- vii. It is the responsibility of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to coordinate with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Community Police Division and the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol to conduct training programmes on drug prevention with the involvement of government officials, officials of the health sector, law enforcement authorities and field officers in particular.
- viii. Inclusion of the responsibilities relating to drug prevention activities into the scope of the public officials dealing with various subjects at Grama Niladhari Division level in order to obtain their services for drug prevention and providing them with the necessary technical training. Village level Drug Prevention Committees should be established under the guidance of these officials with the participation of voluntary organizations and community leaders in the village, and drug prevention and treatment methodologies should be coordinated and implemented within the community through these committees. Reports on the progress of these activities should be reported to the

Divisional Secretary and be submitted to the relevant agencies as well, and a summary of the same should be submitted to the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, too. It is the responsibility of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board to supervise and monitor the above mentioned community based process.

- ix. In community-based drug prevention, the focus is to reduce the tendency of individuals to become addicted to drugs by way of implementing programmes to develop relationships between the individuals living in a family unit.
- x. In adopting community-based treatment methods for drug addiction, necessary understanding should be provided to the groups (peer groups) who work together and the necessary environment should be created for them to employ that method.
- xi. Obtaining the contribution of civil society organizations and community-level working groups in drug prevention and treatment should be done at the district, regional and village levels, too.
- xii. Ensuring the provision of prison-based treatment services for drug addiction and training the relevant officers for the same.
- xiii. Conducting biological and psychological screening tests on those who have been put in jail for drug-related offenses and, based on the results of those tests, referring them to centers with rehabilitation and treatment facilities.
- xiv. Instead of putting those who are arrested for minor offences in jail, subjecting them to a community-based correctional process under community based corrections orders and reintegrate them into society.
- xv. Establishment of under the Department of Community-Based Corrections centers that have the capacity to provide appropriate remedial measures to individuals who are experiencing complications in the process of giving up the habit of taking drugs.

- xvi. Taking steps to provide necessary support to drug addicts through self-help groups that are made up of persons who have given up taking drugs.
- xvii. Establishing advanced primary treatment services for drug addicts. Operating government / non-government service centers in order to address the current situation regarding drug abuse and to enable people from all levels of society to access services of higher quality.
- xviii. Making appropriate coordination within the health system to identify drug addicts with other disease conditions and to provide treatment services tailored to their needs.
- xix. Establishment of exclusive treatment and rehabilitation centers or conversion of the existing centers for the treatment of those who are repeatedly referred to the rehabilitation process.

Controlling the Supply of Drugs

2.0 Controlling the supply of drugs

2.1 Implementing a strict security arrangement

- i. Establishing a sub-committee with participation of Sri Lanka Police, Excise Department, Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Posts, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Rehabilitation, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol, the Navy, the Attorney General's Department, the Department of Prisons, and the Department of Community Based Corrections to monitor the proper implementation of the existing laws in the country related to the control of the drug supply and to make and implement the necessary amendments to the laws.
- ii. Providing necessary human resources and other facilities promptly to the Sri Lanka Police and other Law Enforcement Authorities for carrying out raids on drugs.
- iii. Integration of all the relevant institutes to combat the drug menace and operating based on a strategic plan.
- iv. Preparing a technological mechanism jointly by the Sri Lanka Customs and the Department of Posts for the introduction of a system to ensure protection with regard to goods received through Parcel Post.
- v. Establishing a special operations unit that combines all the drug-related law enforcement agencies.
- vi. Introducing a specific methodology for all the law enforcement institutes in the country that implement the laws against drugs to coordinate and support their activities, and establishing under the leadership of the Police Narcotics Bureau a Steering Committee made up of representatives of those agencies for easy exchange of information between such institutes.
- vii. Strengthening the Sri Lanka Coast Guard promptly by providing the necessary manpower, technology and vessels to reduce and prevent the importation of drugs into the country by sea.

- viii. Carrying out surveillance activities covering all the departure points for fishermen jointly by the Sri Lanka Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and increasing the frequency of coastal patrolling.
- ix. Making it mandatory to get the approval of the Ministry of Defence for the new owners of fishing vessels and other vessels when such vessels are purchased newly or when the ownership is transferred to other parties.
- x. To provide Navy and Coast Guard with a powerful technical system to monitor all surface vessels and update it where necessary.
- xi. Making arrangements to install a fingerprint capture system or machines with facial recognition facility and CCTV camera systems in all fishery Harbors.
- xii. Giving customs officials the power to access and control the CCTV camera systems in the international airports as well as in the air cargo sections at Airports.
- xiii. Improving the container scanning facilities available with the Customs and the Ports Authority within the port premises and deployment of specially trained police dogs for cargo inspection duties of Sri Lanka Customs and of the Ports Authority.
- xiv. Introducing a modern security system with serial numbers and QR codes that can be commonly used by all law enforcement Institutes for sealing the productions seized by those Institutes.
- xv. Categorizing the Police Divisions into three categories, namely easy-to-trace drugs, drugs not easily traceable and drugs untraceable, and keeping a constant vigil on the availability of drugs in different parts of the country.
- xvi. when profiling Police officers as well as when recommending them for promotions and salary increments, Considering the difference in availability of drugs in the Police Divisions where they have served as an indicator.

- xvii. The sale of tobacco and alcohol products to persons under the age of 21 is prohibited, but as this law is not strictly enforced, taking steps to implement this law. (Section 31 of the National Tobacco and Alcohol Authority Act No. 26 of 2006)
- xviii. Providing necessary training and devices with modern technology to all the law enforcement field officers for the detection of drugs.
- xix. Promptly introducing by the Attorney General's Department a Standard Operation Procedure (S.O.P) to be followed by the law enforcement institutes including the Department of Police in carrying out investigations related to drug offences.
- xx. Introducing a system to report to Sri Lanka Navy and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard through the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources the information available with the Department of Police and with the Ministry of Fisheries regarding the manufacture of new fishing vessels and handing them over to owners and to obtain recommendations.
- xxi. Introducing a low-cost method for tracking the route of small offshore fishing vessels.
- xxii. Establishing a detachment of Sri Lanka Coast Guard with required facilities at every fishery Harbor Port.
- xxiii. Facilitating the exchange of details between Sri Lanka Navy, Police Narcotics Bureau and other law enforcement agencies regarding all the vessels that depart for sea voyages.
- xxiv. Introducing a system to regulate the landfall of small crafts, registration of such landfall locations and publishing them in the Gazette. Establishment of Coast Guard posts at those locations.
- xxv. Constantly conducting research and studies to identify new trends in the production and use of drugs. Publishing a research agenda by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board in this regard and promptly updating the laws for the control of such identified drugs.

- xxvi. Introducing a geographic data system that includes details of areas having high levels of drug related activities and identifying areas with high levels of drug-related activities through that system and focusing on such areas. For that, the required mapping should be done by the Police Narcotic Bureau based on the information obtained from the Excise Department and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. The information should be updated at least once in 06 months.
- xxvii. Allocating necessary provisions to provide attractive rewards to persons who provide accurate information for carrying out raids on drugs, and ensuring the security of such persons while facilitating them to travel abroad if needed.

2.2 Using modern technological methods and updated information

- i. Limiting the maximum number of SIM cards that can be obtained using a single National Identity Card number from all the mobile service providers to 05 (Being able to obtain more than 05 SIM cards under special approval) and issuing regulations under Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act that would make it compulsory to prove the identity of the owner of the SIM card when a Police officer or an authorized officer examine the phone. Further, conducting SIM Swap API (Application Protocol Information) by mobile service providers before issuing SIM cards and introducing legal provisions that would make it compulsory for the user to prove his ownership of the SIM card when creating accounts using various apps of the internet (Whatsapp, Viber, IMO, etc.).
- ii. Mandatory verification of the identity of the recipient of the SIM card before issuing it to prevent SIM cards being obtained using stolen or deceased NICs. Introducing provisions to prioritize providing National Identity Card information of deceased persons to the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission as a specific responsibility of the Divisional Secretary.
- iii. Making mobile service providers legally bound to maintain a mechanism in their computer systems to identify transactions that take place using various mobile cash methods (eZ cash, M cash, etc.) and to report any suspicious transaction to law Enforcement Authorities.

- iv. Upgrading the prisons technologically to prevent the inmates using mobile phones to engage in various rackets.
- v. Establishing a dedicated prison complex, to securely detain and imprison identified drug racketeers, isolated from populated areas (a remote island). Further, keeping the inmates separated to prevent them having connections with each other.
- vi. Expediting the implementation of advanced technological measures (Bio Matrix) that would enable to identify racketeers who exit/come into the country via airports and ports. Further, obtaining the support of BRAC (Boarder Risk Assessment Centre) institute to make the aforesaid process successful.
- vii. Introducing advanced technological measures to identify persons who are under the influence of drugs, upgrading test kits that will enable to identify new drugs.
- viii. Taking necessary action to reach MOUs, conventions and charters after informing the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and other responsible government institutions on the agreements at the international workshops and seminars with regard to prevention of drugs reached by the government officers who take part in them.
- ix. Carry out random drug testings continuously for drivers using test kits with the capability of identifying at least 12 drugs initially, followed by Judiciary Medical examinations and take necessary legal actions.

2.3 Expanding of Legal boundaries and penalties

- i. Strengthening laws with regard to cannabis. Preventing legalization, cultivation and usage of cannabis.
- ii. Filing cases expeditiously against drug offenders.
- iii. Imposing life without parole against drug racketeers.
- iv. Expediting legal reforms and enforcement of laws identified as required by the Presidential Task Force on Drug Prevention.

- a. Immediately amending the Judicature Act No. 2 of 1978 as well as the Poisons Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) act No. 41 of 2022 to provide jurisdiction to the foreigners who are arrested regarding drug offences on sea.
- b. Making an amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure Act authorizing the special investigation techniques i.e. controlled deliveries of surveillance and observation, undercover operations video recordings, use of bugging devices. (Provisions with regard to the section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Act)
- c. Incorporation of the necessary legal background for joint investigations into the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- d. In terms of the amendment made to the section 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure by the Act No. 29 of 2023, include the definition of “electronic document” in the interpretation given for the “document” in the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- e. Urgent enforcement of a law related to proceeds of crime.
- f. Amending the Foreign Exchange Act No.12 of 2017 to reinstate criminal liability under the Foreign Exchange Act.
- v. Attention has been focused on preparing the legal background necessary to send prisoners to Home Detention after studying the overcrowding in prisons.
- vi. Expediting the measures under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act regarding the assets of top drug racketeers.
- vii. Taking expeditious measures to increase the number of officers serving as well as to provide office space, technical equipment and other required facilities to the Department of Government Analyst.
- viii. Creating fear to commit offences in relation to drugs through expeditiously concluding cases regarding drug offences by establishing separate courts in selected locations while focusing special attention on the safety of persons who provide information for the raids and by improving the trust of the society on the judiciary and the law enforcement agencies as well as by imposing due punishment to the guilty.

- ix. Amending laws regarding the management of rehabilitation centers run in Sri Lanka and to regulate such establishments run by illegal and unqualified persons.
- x. Allocating a percentage of the amount earned from the tax imposed on tobacco and alcohol for the health sector as well as for other government institutions for activities related to prevention of drugs, treatment and rehabilitation as well as obtaining the support of non-governmental organizations for the aforesaid activities.
- xi. Making the minimum rate of excise duty on cigarettes increased to 75% and setting up a system where the entire benefit goes to the treasury.
- xii. Amending the Excise Ordinance based on the National Policy on Alcohol 2016, which has been approved by the Cabinet, when granting temporary license.
- xiii. After studying the National Policy on Alcohol 2016 to identify matters that can be elevated into laws taking necessary measures to formulate new laws from them.
- xiv. Preparing a National Policy for the Control of Tobacco Related Products expeditiously similar to the National Policy on Alcohol.
- xv. Amending the relevant Acts and Ordinances to enable spontaneous information exchange between agencies engaged in the role of countering drug menace.
- xvi. Preventing issuance of liquor license on the pretext of promoting tourism even in areas where tourists do not visit.
- xvii. Making the required amendments to the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act No.41 of 2022, Community Based Corrections Act No. 46 of 1999 and National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act No. 27 of 2006 expeditiously.
- xviii. Making the following amendments expeditiously that are expected to be brought in the future for the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act No. 27 of 2006 to reduce the use of tobacco and alcohol.

- a. Amendment to prohibit selling of a single cigarette.
 - b. Amendment to prohibit selling of cigarettes or alcohol within a radius of 100 meters of an educational institute.
 - c. Amendment to declare to make public places smoke free zone. (including Beaches, Roads, Public Parks and enclosed spaces)
 - d. Amendment to the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act to make smoking a cognizable offense.
 - e. Amendment to revise fines with regard to the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act.
 - f. Amendment to ban promoting tobacco related products via online.
 - g. Amendment for standard packaging.
- xix. Taking policy decisions required to reach the conditions of international trade agreements while focusing primary attention to control the consumption of liquor within the country.
 - xx. To impose strict control over the importation of alcoholic products used for industries and to ensure that such imported chemicals are used only for the relevant productions.
 - xxi. Facilitating to enact section 35 of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act No. 27 of 2006
 - xxii. Discussing the progress of law enforcement as well as related new trends and existing issues with the participation of all law enforcement agencies related to drug control (at least every three months).
 - xxiii. Introduction of a licensing system for the sale of cigarettes and tobacco-related products and delegate the authority to relevant agency for the same.
 - xxiv. Drafting laws prohibiting the importation, sale, offer for sale, distribution and possession of e-cigarettes or electrically operated smoking devices.
 - xxv. Prohibiting consumption of alcohol in restaurants without liquor license since there is no legal provision that support it.
 - xxvi. Amend and enforce relevant laws to prevent the promotion of alcohol and tobacco and their use in public places. (According to the relevant act, alcohol and smoking are not allowed in public places, beaches, highways and parks etc.)

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- xxvii. Amending the Postal Act to enable the registration and regulation of courier service providers that operate locally and internationally. Regulations should also be in place regarding proper identification of the goods exchanger, service provider, recipient and supplier of goods.
- xxviii. Improving the capacities of the officers to identify drug rackets carried out via post.

Treatment and Rehabilitation

3.0 Treatment and Rehabilitation

3.1 Rehabilitation

- i. Establishing suitable centers to rehabilitate women who are addicted to drugs in Sri Lanka and conducting counselling services at village level.
- ii. Providing appropriate vocational training when reintegrating the former drug addicts to the society an integral part of the institutions established for rehabilitation.
- iii. Introducing a separate mechanism to rehabilitate school children who are addicted to drugs.
- iv. Conducting a mandatory follow up on the persons who reintegrated to the society after rehabilitation.

3.2 Treatment

- i. Developing psychiatric units of government hospitals as the most secured units since they offer rehabilitation and treatment services.
- ii. Developing a formal program for rehabilitation and treatment with a scientific basis with the intervention of the Ministry of Health, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and Sri Lanka College Of Psychiatrists.
- iii. Improving the skills of the medical officers with regard to treatment since there is a risk of treatment section being weakened due to the unavailability of adequate number of psychiatrics.
- iv. Promoting psychotherapy services to help persons be free of drug addiction and rejoin the society.
- v. In addition to the institutional treatment methods encouraging community based treatment methods and obtaining the support of the families of drug addicts and the community.
- vi. Formalizing the treatment methods related to prisons.

4.0 Establishment of a National Narcotic Control Commission

Introducing a new legal framework for the establishment of an apex body to be called the National Narcotic Control Commission with the composition suggested below to coordinate, instigate, monitor, advise and investigate public complaints at the national level.

Introducing a new legal framework called the National Commission on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Control Act. Specific suggestions are as follows.

4.1. Composition and Representation of the Commission

- i. Three Retired High Court/Appeal Court/Supreme Court Judges
- ii. A Retired Police Officer not below the rank of Senior DIG
- iii. A retired tri-services officer holding the rank of Major General or equivalent
- iv. A person with expertise in the field of drug prevention and rehabilitation
- v. A recognized social activist in the field of drug prevention

4.2. Establishment of an Advisory Council

Establishing an advisory council comprising of scholars to cover all areas related to drug prevention and treatment and appointing related sub-committees to provide necessary technical and expert advice to the Commission.

4.3. Powers and functions of the Commission

- i. To inspect, supervise, call for reports and make recommendations on the functioning of all institutions established in relation to drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and control and the implementation of relevant laws.
- ii. Investigate public complaints and make recommendations to concerned Institutions

- iii. Supervise and make recommendations to drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation institutions
- iv. Maintaining a division for authorizing government agencies or universities (commissioning authority) to conduct relevant research and obtain information and publish relevant information.
- v. Identify and maintain a resource pool of voluntary organizations and individuals with expertise in drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.
- vi. Establishment of the National Drug Control Fund and enactment of legislation related to fund management (crediting 50% of the value of fines and property acquisitions to the fund and imposing a 1% indemnity tax on tobacco and alcohol profits)
- vii. Preparation of National Policies, Submission of Annual Reports, Performance Reports and Special Reports to Parliament
- viii. Giving advice to the concerned Minister on policy and strategic approaches including law amendment (including recommendations on facilities and manpower required by Institutions)
- ix. Power to set standards and criteria for mass media and social media

4.4. Other provisions

- i. Government Officials giving information voluntarily or when questioned by Commission, should be immuned for their disclosures.
- ii. Power to request information relating to drug control from any Institution.

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Annexure 1

The government institutions, non-government institutions and activists in the field of drug prevention who have been summoned before the committee in it's 11 meetings held since July 27, 2023 are as follows.

Government Institutions

1. Ministry of Public Security
2. Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
3. Ministry of Education
4. Ministry of Mass Media
5. Ministry of Health
6. Ministry of Justice , Prison Affairs and Constitution Reforms
7. Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
8. Sri Lanka Navy
9. Sri Lanka Air Force
10. Sri Lanka Coast Guard
11. National Dangerous Drugs Control Board
12. Sri Lanka Police
13. Department of Immigration and Emigration
14. Sri Lanka Customs
15. Department of Inland Revenue
16. Department of Excise
17. Sri Lanka Ports Authority
18. Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited
19. Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
20. Department of Posts
21. National Authority of Tobacco and Alcohol
22. Attorney General's Department
23. Department of Prisons
24. Department of Community Based Corrections
25. Rehabilitation Commissioner General's Office
26. Department of Government Analyst
27. Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka

Non-Government institutions and activists in the field of drug prevention

1. Alcohol and Drug Information Centre
2. Mel Medura
3. CAD pre Sri Lanka
4. Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists
5. BAR Association of Sri Lanka
6. Mituru Mithuro Movement
7. Temperance Youth Organization of Sri Lanka
8. Sadisa Development Network
9. Sri Lanka Temperance Association
10. Healthy Lanka
11. Professor Diyanath Samarasinghe, Retired Psychiatrist
12. Mr. Nisal Gerard Perera, Psychologist
13. Dr. Wasantha Bandara
14. Mr. Kalyananda Thiranagama, Attorney – At - Law
15. Dr. Sarath Samarage
16. Mr. Pubudu Sumanasekara

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We the members of the Select Committee of Parliament to look into and identify the mechanisms to be implemented in order to immediately control and eradicate the rapidly spreading drug menace in the country and to submit observations and recommendations to Parliament in that regard, approve the report of this committee.

Hon. Tiran Alles (Chair)

Signed

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law

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Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola

Consent given over the phone as currently travelling overseas

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

.....

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

Signed

Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda

.....

Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

Signed

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

.....

Hon. Asanka Navarathna

.....

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Signed

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

.....

Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

Signed

Signed

Chintha Bulathsinhala

Secretary to the Committee and for Secretary-General of Parliament