

**THE GAZETTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

Part II of August 21, 2026

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 24.08.2026)



**POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
(AMENDMENT)**

A

BILL

**to amend the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance
(Chapter 218)**

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STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

Clause 2 - This clause amends section 54A of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) and the legal effect of that section as amended is to provide for the following acts to be offences under the principal enactment:-

- (a) manufacturing of methamphetamine; and
- (b) manufacturing of any dangerous drug set out in Groups A, B, C, D and E in Part I of the Third Schedule of the principal enactment, other than heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium and methamphetamine.

Clause 3 - This clause amends section 54AA of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to provide for the manufacturing of methamphetamine on the high seas to be an offence under the principal enactment.

Clause 4 - This clause amends section 83 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to amend the provisions relating to granting of bail by the Court of Appeal in respect of certain offences under certain circumstances.

Clause 5 - This clause amends the Third Schedule to the principal enactment and the legal effect of that Schedule as amended is to-

- (a) specify *Cannabis sativa L.* and any galenical preparation of *Cannabis sativa L.* as dangerous drugs under Group B of Part I of that Schedule; and
- (b) to make consequential amendments to Part III of that Schedule consequent to the amendment made by section 2 of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2026.

Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs
(Amendment)

L.D. - O 11/2026

AN ACT TO AMEND THE POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS
DRUGS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 218)

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. of 2026. Short title

5 2. Section 54A of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section as follows:- Amendment
of section 54A
of Chapter
218

10 (1) in paragraph (a) of that subsection, by the substitution for the words “heroin or cocaine or morphine or opium”, of the words “heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium or methamphetamine”; and

15 (2) by the insertion, immediately after paragraph (a) of that subsection, of the following paragraph:-

20 “(aa) manufactures any dangerous drug set out in Groups A, B, C, D and E in Part I of the Third Schedule, other than heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium and methamphetamine, shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance and shall, on conviction by the High Court without a jury, be liable to a fine not less than two hundred thousand rupees and not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees, or to imprisonment

Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs
(Amendment)

of either description for a period not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years, or to both such fine and imprisonment;”.

5 **3.** Section 54AA of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section, by the substitution for the words “heroin, cocaine, morphine or opium,” of the words “heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium or methamphetamine;”.

Amendment
of section
54AA of the
principal
enactment

10 **4.** Section 83 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of subsection (2) of that section and substitution therefor, of the following subsection:-

Amendment
of section 83
of the
principal
enactment

15 “(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 84 and 85, a person suspected or accused of an offence under subsection (1) of section 54A, subsections (1) and (2) of section 54AA and section 54B-

20 (a) of which the pure quantity of the dangerous drug, trafficked, imported, exported or possessed is one hundred grammes or above in terms of the report issued by the Government Analyst under section 77A or, in the absence of such report, the gross quantity of such dangerous drug, trafficked, imported, exported or possessed is one hundred grammes or above; and

25 (b) which is punishable with death or life imprisonment,

30 shall not be released on bail except by the Court of Appeal in exceptional circumstances:

Provided however, where the Court of Appeal takes cognizance and assumes jurisdiction under this subsection, such Court shall continue to exercise jurisdiction in respect of such matter, notwithstanding that the report issued by the Government Analyst under section 77A subsequently discloses that the pure quantity of the dangerous drug is less than one hundred grammes, unless the Court of Appeal, in the exercise of its discretion, directs that the matter be transferred to the relevant High Court.”.

5. Third Schedule to the principal enactment is hereby Amendment
amended as follows:- to Third

(1) in Section 1 of Group B of Part I of that Schedule, by the insertion immediately after item 26, of the following items:-

“26A	Cannabis	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.
26B	Cannabis	Any galenical preparation of <i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.”; and

(2) in Part III of that Schedule-

20 (a) by the substitution for the words and figures “(section 54A)” of the words and figures “(sections 54A and 54AA)”; and

25 (b) in the Table in that Schedule, by the substitution for the sub-heading “Cannabis”, of the sub-heading “Cannabis/*Cannabis sativa* L./ any galenical preparation of *Cannabis sativa* L.”,

6. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

