

**RIGHT TO PROPERTY, AND THE ACQUISITION OF
LANDS ON 'PUBLIC PURPOSE RULE' IN SRI LANKA: AN
ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL FRAME WORK, GAPS AND
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**



by

T. SEWWANDI PALLIYAGURUGE

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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka acquires large amounts of lands. Postwar development initiatives are carried both in urban and rural areas. Southern highway, Hambantota port, Uma oya project, and Norochcholai coal power plant are among the major development projects that sparked public debate recently. Due to the value associated with land, the government of Sri Lanka must acquire both public and private property. This study's primary goal is to examine Sri Lanka's laws and regulations governing land acquisitions. The most well-known policy document that describes the method of land acquisition in the current Sri Lankan environment and was created to accomplish the aforementioned goals is the Land Acquisition Act, No. 09, 1950. The National Involuntary Resettlement Policy was introduced by the government in 2001 to address the shortcomings of Land Acquisition Act No. 09, which was passed in 1950. The legal situation and the Land Acquisition Act No. 09, 1950, are, however, the subject of intense debate as well as social conflict. Fundamentally, this is qualitative research that begins with secondary data and is supported by a content analysis methodology. Secondary data was gathered from publications including books, journals, reputable papers, websites, and more. The study shows that there are questions surrounding the legal meaning of terminology like "urgent land acquisitions," "public purpose," and others in this statute. Contradictions are made when this approach is followed and land is acquired for development. The investigation also discovered that, while land acquisition was taking place, the government frequently failed to adopt the National Involuntary Resettlement Policy on behalf of the impacted population. The study's last recommendation was that the government should effectively enforce the Land Acquisition Act's demand that the National Involuntary Resettlement Policy be a mandatory component.

Key Words: Land Acquisition, Government, Public Purpose, Act, Policy