

Mangala Moonesinghe Select Committee 1992

The Parliamentary Select Committee on constitutional reform (1991–93) chaired by Mangala Moonesinghe; produced devolution proposals that did not become law.

Between 1991 and 1993 a Parliamentary Select Committee chaired by Mangala Moonesinghe (SLFP) was tasked with reviewing constitutional reform on the ethnic question. It produced majority proposals broadly favouring an asymmetric devolution model and minority reports from Sinhala-nationalist and Tamil parties. None of its recommendations were enacted. The committee is part of the long ledger of post-1972 domestic constitutional reform attempts that exhausted before reaching legislation.

§1 The proposals

The majority report proposed an asymmetric devolved unit covering the Northern Province with consultation arrangements for the Eastern Province, alongside a second-chamber Senate. The Tamil parliamentary parties produced minority reports calling for a federal solution; the Sinhala-nationalist parties produced minority reports rejecting any merger.

§2 Outcome

No bill was tabled. The committee's report joined the 1984 All-Party Conference and the 2000 Constitutional Draft as documented domestic reform attempts that did not progress. These three exhausted attempts are the standing rebuttal to the framing that 'Tamils never engaged with constitutional reform within the unitary state'.

Sources

- welikala-cpa-2012
- icg-srilanka

What this is not

- This page does not adjudicate which party caused the failure.
- This page does not name individual committee members beyond the chair.