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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

අංක 30, ජනාධිපති මාවත, කොළඹ 01, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
இல. 30, சனாதிபதி மாவத்தை, கொழும்பு - 01, இலங்கை
No. 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

RTI 04

Dr. Kavan U. Ratnatunga
13, Vihara Road,
Mount Lavinia

Decision to Provide Information

Registration Number of the Request: 0001/2026

Date Request Received: 01.01.2026

Name of the public authority: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

This is to inform you that in accordance with section 25 (1) of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 (RTI Act), we have decided to provide you with the information for the request with the registration number of RTI 0001/2026 and such information is attached at 'Annex A' hereto.

Further, information requested under Questions No. 4 of the said request is rejected in terms of section 3(1) of the RTI Act as the same appears to be an opinion sought rather than information, which is in the possession, custody or control of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

If you are not satisfied with the information provided above, you may prefer an Appeal to the Designated Officer within two weeks by RTI 10 form. The name and the address of the Designated Officer are given below.

Designated Officer: -

Name: Dr. P. Nandalal Weerasinghe

Designation: Governor

Address: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.

Contact details: 011-2477000

Email: RTI@cbsl.lk

Yours faithfully,

Information Officer

Name: K.M.A.N. Daulagala

Designation: Senior Deputy Governor

Date: 14.01.2026

Information requested under the RTI application

In 2002, when the market price of a gold sovereign exceeded Rs 8,000—the original sale price of the 1998 50th Anniversary of Independence gold sovereign—the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) correctly suspended sales and obtained authorization to revise the sale price of commemorative coins based on prevailing market prices of gold and silver, together with the original cost of production.

In March 2025, the 1957 Rs 5 Buddha Jayanthi silver coin was sold by CBSL at Rs 18,700, when the intrinsic silver value of the coin was approximately Rs 7,800 as at 2025, March 1. In December 2025, the same coin was sold at Rs 35,650, when the silver content was valued at approximately Rs 15,000 as at 2025, December 1. This price was substantially above the prevailing numismatic market value of this coin, which is currently available for under Rs 20,000.

In this context, I respectfully request the following information under the Right to Information Act:

Question 1:

How does CBSL compute the sale price of commemorative coins?

Answer 1:

The selling prices of commemorative coins are assessed using a structured pricing framework. Under this framework, the value of the applicable item is assessed under three separate approaches, namely (i) the prevailing local market price of the relevant metal, (ii) the internationally quoted price published by recognized commodity exchanges (including alloy composition where applicable), and (iii) the original minting and production cost of the coin.

From these separate assessments, the highest value is determined as the final selling price.

Question 2:

From what source does CBSL obtain circulated 1957 Rs 5 Buddha Jayanthi silver coins?

Answer 2:

CBSL does not obtain circulated 1957 Rs 5 Buddha Jayanthi silver coins from any source.

Question 3:

What price would CBSL pay if a member of the public were to offer circulated 1957 Rs 5 Buddha Jayanthi silver coins for sale to CBSL?

Answer 3:

CBSL does not engage in purchasing the commemorative coins from the general public.

Question 4:

Why was the Rs 2,000 CBSL Commemorative Folder not permitted to be sold together with the Rs 2,000 commemorative note, when other numismatic products combining commemorative coins and banknotes are being sold, despite the apparent drafting error in Section 48(4) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act, No. 16 of 2023, which currently prevents CBSL from selling any numismatic item together with commemorative currency notes or coins above face-value until the Act is amended?

Answer 4:

Your request for information is rejected in terms of Section 3(1) of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 (RTI Act), as the same appears to be an opinion sought rather than information which is in the possession, custody or control of the CBSL.