

Last Census cost Rs. 1.7 bn

By SAMAN INDRAJITH

International Monetary Cooperation Minister Dr. Sarath Amunugama told Parliament yesterday that the last census, held during the years 2011-'12, had cost Rs. 1,730 billion (Rs.1,732,277,222).

Of that sum Rs. 870 million (Rs. 868,742,666) had been spent on salaries and allowances of the officials who took part in the census, the minister said.

Responding to a question raised by UNP Colombo District MP Ravi Karunanayake, Dr. Amunugama said that 99,000 persons had been employed to gather data. There had been 81,000 enumerators, 16,000 supervising officials and 2,000 officials of the Department of Census and Statistics, attached to the District and Divisional



Secretariats, deployed to collect information, Minister Amunugama said.

According to the census Sri Lanka's population was 20,263,723 and of them 15,173,820 were Sinhala, 3,113,247 were Tamil, 1,869,820 Sri Lanka Moor, 37,061 Burgher, 40,189 Malay, while 29,586 fell under the 'Other' category. Religionwise the population was divided as follows: Buddhist 14,222,844; Hindu 2,554,606; Islam 1,967,227; Roman Catholic and other Christians - 1,509,606 and Others 9,440.

Dr. Amunugama said that there were 5,165,331 houses in Sri Lanka and the Gampaha District had the highest number (592,064). Colombo District came second in the list of districts lined up according to the number of houses with 555,926.



P. Amunugama