THE CONSTITUTION (THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 1961.*

[ACT NO. XVII 1961.]
(The 26th August 1961)

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Third Amendment) Act, 1961.
   (2) It shall come into force on such date as the President may, by notification, appoint.

2. In section 21 of the Constitution,

   (a) for sub-section (1) the following shall be substituted as sub-section (1), namely:

   "(1) Buddhism being the religion professed by the great majority of the citizens of the Union shall be the State religion.;" and

   (b) after sub-section (4) the following shall be inserted as sub-section (5), namely:

   "(5) The Union Government shall render financial aid amounting to a minimum equal to 50 per cent of its annual current expenditure for matters connected with religions.

Explanation. ‘Religions’ means Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Animism mentioned in sub-sections (1) and (2) of this section.”

3. After section 21 of the Constitution, the following shall be inserted as sections 21 A, 21 B, 21 C and 21 D, namely:

   "21 A. Buddhism being the State religion of the Union, the Union Government shall-

   (a) promote and maintain Buddhism for its welfare and advancement in its three aspects, namely, pāriyattiśāsānā (study of the Teachings of the Buddha) patipatti sāsānā (practice of the Teachings), and pattiśāsānā (enlightenment).

   (b) honour the Tiratana, namely, the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha:

   (c) protect the said religion in its three aspects and the Tiratana from all dangers including insult and false representation, made by words, either
spoken or written, or by other means.

Explanation—'Sangharatana' means the religious Order of the Bhikkhus (monks) not individually but collectively as a whole irrespective of sects.

21 B. The Union Government shall—

(a) properly maintain and preserve the Tipitaka Pali Texts, the Commentaries and Sub-commentaries thereof, as re-examined and recited at the Sixth Great Buddhist Council;

(b) grant permission for printing the said Pali Texts, Commentaries and Sub-commentaries within the Union only to those who comply with such conditions as may be prescribed, in order that there may be no errors in printing the same.

21 C. The Union Government shall properly maintain the epigraphs of the Tipitaka Pali Texts recited at the Fifth Great Buddhist Council situated within the precincts of Maháloka Márajina Pagoda near the foot of the Mandalay Hill, and the epigraphs of the Commentaries and Sub-commentaries of Tipitaka situated within the precincts of Candâmuni Pagoda nearby.

21 D. The Union Government shall convene a meeting of the following Sayadaws at least once a year and submit to the said meeting a report on the measures taken for the State religion and shall hear the observations, advice and instructions made by the Sayadaws in connection with the measures taken.

(a) Abhidhajamaháratthaguru Sayadaws,

(b) Aggamahápandita Sayadaws.

(c) Union Ovádácariya Sayadaws, and

(d) The Union Vinayadhara Sayadaws.”

4. After section 43 of the Constitution, the following shall be inserted as sections 43 A and 43 B, namely:-

"43 A. The State shall give assistance and aid in the restoration of those ancient pagodas and temples which were built by the kings of old and famous in the Buddhist history as enshrining any relics of the Buddha, and which may have fallen into ruin on account of wars, insurrections, earthquakes, or other calamities

43 B. The state shall have hospitals provided for the Sangha throughout
the Union. In order that there may be no contravention of the Rules of Vinaya, such hospitals shall not be housed under the same roof and within the same walls with the hospitals provided for the laity but shall be such as are permissible to the monks. Such attention and food as are not inconsistent with the Rules of Vinaya shall be given to the monks in the said hospitals."