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OF

The Seventh Parliament of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
(First Session)

REPORT

OF

SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015

Presented by
Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva
Chairman of the Committee

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*Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries
Selected from the Budget Estimates of 2015*

Committee:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
Hon. Mahinda Samarsinghe
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Kandiah Premachandran
Hon. Pon Selvarasa
Hon. R. Yogarajan
Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam
Hon. Silvastrie Alantin
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Janaka Bandara
Hon. (Mrs.) Rosy Senanayake
Hon. Hunais Farook

REPORT

The following motion moved by the Leader of the House of Parliament on 21 October 2014 was approved by the House.

2. The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Select Committee of Parliament to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of the Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2015,—

Whereas the period of time allocated to the Committee stage programme for the Budget Estimates of the year 2015 is 17 days;

And whereas a period of time of approximately 2 hours have been allocated for each Head of Expenditure since the Heads of Expenditure of several Ministries have to be discussed on a single day as approximately 8 hours have been allocated per day for the Committee stage programme of the budget thereby limiting the period of time for the discussion of the Heads of Expenditure within each Ministry;

That this Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to enable the Members to meet and discuss the Heads of Expenditure of the 22 Ministries and the Secretariat for the Special Purpose in the Annexure which were decided at the Committee on Parliamentary Business with the concurrence of the Chief Government whip and the Chief Opposition Whip.

2. (a) The Committee and its Chairman shall be nominated by Mr. Speaker.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order No. 95, the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) Members selected from both the Government and the Opposition.

3. The Committee shall have power to—

(a) Fix its quorum; and

(b) Send for persons, papers and records, order any person to attend before Parliament or before such Committee.

4. The Committee shall present its report to the Parliament on or before the day on which the Committee stage debate on the votes of the said selected Ministries commences.

Annexure:

1. Secretariat for Special Purposes
 - (i) Minister of Good Governance and Infrastructure
 - (ii) Minister of Human Resources
 - (iii) Minister of Rural Affairs
 - (iv) Minister of Food Security
 - (v) Minister of Urban Affairs
 - (vi) Minister of Social Welfare
 - (vii) Minister of Consumer Welfare
 - (viii) Minister of National Resources
 - (ix) Minister of Scientific Affairs
 - (x) Minister of International Monetary Co-operation
2. Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs
3. Ministry of Postal Services
4. Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
5. Ministry of Resettlement
6. Ministry of Social Services
7. Ministry of Disaster Management
8. Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development
9. Ministry of Private Transport Services
10. Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs
11. Ministry of Public Management Reforms
12. Ministry of Productivity Promotion

13. Ministry of National Heritage
14. Ministry of Plantation Industries
15. Ministry of Technology and Research
16. Ministry of Minor Export Crop Promotion
17. Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development
18. Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology
19. Ministry of Culture and the Arts
20. Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation
21. Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
22. Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation
23. Ministry of Special Projects

Accordingly, Hon. Speaker on 23 October 2014 appointed the following Members to serve in the Committee with Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva as its Chairman.

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
Hon. Mahinda Samarsinghe
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
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Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Janaka Bandara
Hon. (Mrs.) Rosy Senanayake
Hon. Hunais Farook

According to the motion approved by the House, Heads of Expenditure relating to 22 Ministries and the Secretariat for Special Purposes had been selected for consideration by Your Committee.

Your Committee, at its first meeting held on 23 October 2014, resolved that the Heads of Expenditure relating to the 22 Ministries and the Secretariat for Special Purposes selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2014 be considered from 04 November to 12 November 2014 from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Your Committee prepared a programme and circulated it among all Members of Parliament on 25 October 2014, intimating that all Members of Parliament may participate in the discussions of the Committee, as Your Committee wished all Members to participate in an open and fruitful dialog. The Committee wishes to note that such discussions held during the past have paved way to clear many unclarified issues. The Programme circulated among the Members of Parliament which included Heads of Expenditure taken up for consideration each day is given in **Appendix 1** of this Report.

Your Committee also decided to summon the Secretary to the Ministry and the other relevant officials of the relevant Ministry and institutions coming under such Ministry, and also the officials of the General Treasury, the Department of National Budget, the Department of National Planning and the Department of State Accounts to participate at the discussions of the Committee, to

provide clarifications that may be required during the course of discussion.

Your Committee commenced its discussions at 10.30 a.m. on 04 November 2014 and concluded at 4.30 p.m. on 12 November 2014.

The practice of discussing Annual Estimates of selected Ministries continued for the fifth time this year, after the previous occasions in 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. Your Committee wishes to reiterate that this procedure of discussing Annual Estimates at a Select Committee before the Committee Stage has proved very successful and productive as many serious and outstanding matters have been discussed at length with the relevant Ministers, key officials of the relevant Ministries and the officials of the General Treasury and clarifications obtained and resolved at these meetings. Your Committee appreciates the interest of the Members of Parliament towards this Select Committee and contribution made during its discussions.

Your Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the services of the Chairman of the Select Committee— the Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management and the Leader of the House Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva - who chaired the meetings as moderator during discussions relating to all the Ministries and his valued contribution to make this event a success, using his over 25 years of experience in Parliamentary Practice and Procedure. He also has shown a keen interest in discussing many important public matters and directing the discussions towards an acceptable and feasible settlement for the benefit of the country.

Your Committee appreciates the services of the Hon. Ministers to whom the subjects and functions under above mentioned Ministries were assigned, for their presence and contribution made during the presentation of their Ministries' progress and future plans, in explaining matters to the Members and answering the issues raised.

Your Committee also wishes to place on record its appreciation for the participation and contribution made by the Members of the Committee both from the Government and the Opposition, as well as all the Members of Parliament who were present at the meetings of the Committee in discussing various matters relating to the Ministries and Institutions under each Ministry.

Your Committee also noted that, when certain Ministries are examined, key officials like Chairman of certain Corporations, Boards and other Statutory Institutions were not present at the meetings of the Committee, and their absence created disadvantages to the discussions of the Committee. Your Committee, therefore, recommends to all Secretaries that instructions be issued to all key officials like Chairman and General Manager of all Corporations, Boards and other Statutory Institutions to be present at the meetings of the Committee when the Heads of Expenditure of their Ministries would be taken up for consideration.

Your Committee appreciates the contribution made by the Secretaries to the Ministries and the other key officials who were present at the meetings and thank them for making exhaustive and very informative presentations when the Heads of Expenditure of their Ministries were discussed.

Your Committee is also thankful to the officials of the General Treasury, who were present at all the meetings to assist the Committee and provided the Committee and other Members with all necessary data and information.

Your Committee is very much pleased to note that the services rendered by the Parliament Secretariat in this endeavor were extremely efficient during this short period of time.

Your Committee states that all the deliberations that took place with the officials of the Ministries and the other Institutions were very useful, cordial and friendly and many outstanding issues could be rectified through discussions and clarifications.

Your Committee wishes to recommend to Parliament that this procedure be improved and continued in future, and it is suggested that it would be more productive if the Estimates of all Heads of Expenditure are considered by a Select Committee before the Committee Stage debate

every year. This will provide a good forum for the Members of Parliament to have matters clarified with the officials which facility is not available in Parliament during the Committee Stage debate of the Budget. It will also pave the way to place before Members of Parliament, the progress made during the current year and the development plans for the ensuing year.

Therefore, with a view to improving this procedure, Your Committee recommends that a permanent Standing Committee be appointed for this purpose, which can continue its deliberations throughout the year.

Verbatim Records of all the meetings of the Committee have been printed, bound and placed in the Library for easy reference of the Hon. Members of Parliament. The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee are given in **Appendix 2** of this Report.

The 2015 Estimates under Heads of Expenditure relating to each Ministry considered and approved by Your Committee, together with a summary of the discussion and matters agreed upon at the meetings are given below.

The Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers)

Head 3 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers)	Rs.'000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure		411,216	533,000	529,100
Recurrent Expenditure		305,780	367,350	376,000
Capital Expenditure		105,435	165,650	153,100
01 - General Administration and Establishment Services				
Total Expenditure		113,632	127,550	132,800
Recurrent Expenditure		110,391	123,500	128,600
Capital Expenditure		3,242	4,050	4,200
02 - Minister (Senior) for Good Governance and Infrastructure				
Total Expenditure		42,672	28,100	36,200
Recurrent Expenditure		20,343	24,100	25,900
Capital Expenditure		22,328	4,000	10,300
03 - Minister (Senior) for Human Resources				
Total Expenditure		19,364	25,850	37,000
Recurrent Expenditure		18,858	23,350	24,000
Capital Expenditure		506	2,500	13,000
04 - Minister (Senior) for Rural Affairs				
Total Expenditure		19,633	42,075	30,350
Recurrent Expenditure		18,020	23,375	24,450
Capital Expenditure		1,612	18,700	5,900
05 - Minister (Senior) for Food Security				
Total Expenditure		29,703	24,225	25,800
Recurrent Expenditure		19,475	21,925	22,900
Capital Expenditure		10,229	2,300	2,900
06 - Minister (Senior) for Urban Affairs				
Total Expenditure		18,181	28,650	32,200
Recurrent Expenditure		15,982	20,450	22,100
Capital Expenditure		2,199	8,200	10,100
07 - Minister (Senior) for Social Welfare				
Total Expenditure		18,275	37,125	26,675
Recurrent Expenditure		17,525	23,325	23,775
Capital Expenditure		750	13,800	2,900
08 - Minister (Senior) for Consumer Welfare				
Total Expenditure		22,001	36,225	32,050
Recurrent Expenditure		18,917	30,125	24,950
Capital Expenditure		3,084	6,100	7,100

09 - Minister (Senior) for National Resources

Total Expenditure	31,836	38,725	27,800
Recurrent Expenditure	22,144	23,825	24,700
Capital Expenditure	9,692	14,900	3,100

10 - Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs

Total Expenditure	63,285	114,250	117,250
Recurrent Expenditure	22,286	27,050	27,550
Capital Expenditure	40,999	87,200	89,700

11 - Minister (Senior) for International Monetary Co-operation

Total Expenditure	32,633	30,225	30,975
Recurrent Expenditure	21,839	26,325	27,075
Capital Expenditure	10,794	3,900	3,900

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 3 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers).

The Committee, whilst reiterating its recommendation of the previous year, and stressing a need for a forum to discuss matters coming under these Ministries, strongly recommends that early steps be taken to appoint a Consultative Committee for the Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers) after discussing with the Hon. Speaker.

The Committee noted that a National Steering Committee had been set up to implement the recommendations of the COPE report, and was of the view that there should be an effective way to inform the Members of Parliament regarding the development of activities in these Ministries.

The Committee also considered the steps taken to cure and prevent expanding Kidney Disease in the country and noted that an Action Plan would be implemented through 11 line Ministries. It was also informed that Cabinet approval has been sought to establish a National Steering Committee to monitor, review and evaluate National Food System and initiate action to formulate National Food Policy and National Food Plan for 2015-2020.

On the request of the Hon. Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs stressed the need to ensure continuous availability of funds for the activities in the Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) which was now functioning as a 3 year project approved by the Cabinet, the officials of the Treasury explained that allocation of funds under a Head of Expenditure could be considered only if a permanent institution was established for 'COSTI'.

The Committee appreciated the work plan and efforts of the Hon. Minister of Scientific Affairs and wished to reiterate its earlier recommendation to the Treasury that the total funds required for the activities under such Ministry be provided in the annual Budget.

Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs

Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,774,082	2,000,216	1,955,000
Recurrent Expenditure	931,364	1,277,225	1,205,000
Capital Expenditure	842,717	722,991	750,000
101 - Minister of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	603,201	665,136	613,880
Recurrent Expenditure	118,246	171,010	147,650
Capital Expenditure	484,955	494,126	466,230
201 - Department of Buddhist Affairs			
Total Expenditure	681,937	846,470	808,430
Recurrent Expenditure	578,050	766,420	714,680
Capital Expenditure	103,887	80,050	93,750

202 - Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	178,533	91,690	150,115
Recurrent Expenditure	58,198	60,640	77,965
Capital Expenditure	120,335	31,050	72,150
203 - Department of Christian Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	88,163	143,705	124,240
Recurrent Expenditure	61,227	121,865	100,025
Capital Expenditure	26,936	21,840	24,215
204 - Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	186,232	214,810	214,980
Recurrent Expenditure	81,374	120,660	123,455
Capital Expenditure	104,857	94,150	91,525
205 - Department of Public Trustee			
Total Expenditure	36,016	38,405	43,355
Recurrent Expenditure	34,269	36,630	41,225
Capital Expenditure	1,747	1,775	2,130

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 101,201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

The Committee was informed by the Secretary to the Ministry that the previous Committee's recommendation to give additional marks to the Dhamma School Certificate at the interviews had been forwarded to the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs for suitable action, and special attention would be paid to the Dhamma School Certificate when recruiting teachers.

In regard to the establishment of new religious places, it was informed by the Secretary to the Ministry that wide publicity had been given through newspapers regarding the procedures to be followed before constructing new places of religious worship.

On inquiry, the Committee was informed that the Christian Bishops Council had indicated that school text books could be used in Christian Dhamma Schools, and hence no separate books would be required for Christian Dhamma Schools.

The Committee agreed with submissions made by Hon. Members about the urgent need to take steps to create a good religious environment and to give religious education for all school children to grow up as in the past education was done under religious guidance, since the increasing cultural and social problems in the society today were mainly due to lack of religious feelings and discipline in the young generation. The Committee recommends that this matter be discussed at the relevant Consultative Committees of Buddha Sasana and Education and a suitable policy be drafted in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education.

It was brought to the notice of the Committee that due to the practice of releasing funds to the relevant District Secretary to provide financial assistance to the required religious places, in certain instances, expected rehabilitation work was not carried out as expeditiously as required and agreed to the request that funds be released to the relevant Parish Councils governing the religious places.

The Committee also pointed out the need to amend the present Laws governing religious affairs so as to mitigate the differences between Common Law and Religious Laws.

Ministry of Plantation Industries

Ministry of Plantation Industries	Rs.'000	2013	2014	2015
			Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure		2,724,020	4,255,360	4,616,000
Recurrent Expenditure		1,151,898	1,405,360	1,416,000
Capital Expenditure		1,572,121	2,850,000	3,200,000

135 - Minister of Plantation Industries

Total Expenditure	1,922,913	3,156,560	3,278,000
Recurrent Expenditure	954,221	1,176,060	1,180,000
Capital Expenditure	968,692	1,980,500	2,098,000

293 - Department of Rubber Development

Total Expenditure	801,107	1,098,800	1,338,000
Recurrent Expenditure	197,677	229,300	236,000
Capital Expenditure	603,430	869,500	1,102,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 135 and 293 - Ministry of Plantation Industries.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the services done by the Ministry for the success of the tea small holders.

As it was pointed out that the government is not taking action to get the profits which the Government was entitled as the Golden Share holder of Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs), which might have barred as per the lease agreements and MOUs signed with the private owner companies, the Committee recommends that a suitable mechanism be introduced to persuade the owner companies to contribute a part of their profits for the development of estate infrastructure.

The Committee also recommends that the RPCs be requested to cooperate with the government agencies on matters relating to use of unutilized estate lands for development purposes other than cultivation.

Ministry of National Heritage

Ministry of National Heritage	Rs. '000	2013	2014	2015
			Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure		1,187,789	1,570,762	1,640,000
Recurrent Expenditure		853,678	1,029,687	1,090,000
Capital Expenditure		334,111	541,075	550,000
142 - Minister of National Heritage				
Total Expenditure		195,973	329,620	306,500
Recurrent Expenditure		98,654	161,060	162,550
Capital Expenditure		97,320	168,520	143,950
207- Department of Archaeology				
Total Expenditure		695,646	817,950	775,500
Recurrent Expenditure		571,681	649,660	689,500
Capital Expenditure		123,965	168,290	86,000
208 - Department of National Museums				
Total Expenditure		151,218	252,245	282,296
Recurrent Expenditure		105,923	125,195	138,646
Capital Expenditure		45,296	127,050	143,650
209 - Department of National Archives				
Total Expenditure		144,951	170,047	275,704
Recurrent Expenditure		77,421	93,772	99,304
Capital Expenditure		67,531	77,175	176,400

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 142, 207-209 - Ministry of National Heritage.

The Committee wishes to appreciate the support and assistance given by Sri Lanka Army and Sri Lanka Police for investigations in archeological sites, and recommends that the "Deeghawapi Dageba" in the eastern province be rehabilitated and opened for devotees to worship as it is the only Buddhist temple which has relics of Lord Buddha.

The Committee discussed that it would neither be feasible nor practical for the Ministry of National Heritage to preserve all buildings which are over 100 years old, and that it would be more appropriate if such buildings are maintained and used for public purposes thus preserving its outward appearance. The Committee therefore recommends that a sub Committee be appointed under the Consultative Committee on National Heritage, to make amendments to *National Heritage Wilderness Areas Bill* to consider this matter and make suitable recommendations including any amendments necessary in law to adopt a more practical approach.

Considering the fact that there were many vacancies in the senior positions in the Department of Archaeology which need to be filled early, the Committee recommends that a Cabinet Paper be submitted for approval for change of schemes of recruitment, with a view to expediting filling of such vacancies, reiterating its previous year's recommendation that early action be taken to fill all the vacancies in the Department of Archaeology.

Ministry of Culture and the Arts

Ministry of Culture and the Arts	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,377,530	1,913,690	2,650,000
Recurrent Expenditure	82,647	1,064,04	1,150,000
Capital Expenditure	514,883	849,250	1,500,000
177 - Minister of Culture and the Arts			
Total Expenditure	1,036,221	1,322,340	1,915,985
Recurrent Expenditure	562,537	658,640	711,985
Capital Expenditure	473,684	663,700	1,204,000
206 - Department of Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	341,309	591,350	734,015
Recurrent Expenditure	300,110	405,800	438,015
Capital Expenditure	41,199	55,550	296,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 177 and 206 - Ministry of Culture and the Arts.

The Committee observed that filling of vacancies in the Department of Cultural Affairs had been delayed due to a pending FR case in the Supreme Court which situation had arisen in most of the institutions due to changes in salary structures introduced by the Salaries and Cadre Commission, and therefore recommends that early steps be taken to resolve these issues in the salary structures.

Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration

Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	416,467	576,250	707,800
Recurrent Expenditure	256,707	314,550	357,800
Capital Expenditure	159,760	261,700	350,000
134 - Minister of National Languages and Social Integration			
Total Expenditure	330,723	473,090	588,250
Recurrent Expenditure	193,988	242,840	279,350
Capital Expenditure	136,735	230,250	308,900
236 - Department of Official Languages			
Total Expenditure	85,744	103,160	119,550
Recurrent Expenditure	62,719	71,710	78,450
Capital Expenditure	23,025	31,450	41,100

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 134 and 236- Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration.

The Committee noted that most of the LLRC recommendations relevant to the Ministry had already been implemented and a 5 year Road Map has been drafted to implement a precise policy in training teachers.

The Committee, having observed that the procedure followed in recruiting Social Integration Development Officers for Divisional Secretariats did not address the social requirements, and a deviation from current procedure had not been approved, which was due to the initial Scheme of Recruitment not being prepared addressing these issues properly, recommended the Ministry to submit a special Cabinet Paper explaining this situation and requesting to change the Scheme of Recruitment.

Ministry of Resettlement

Ministry of Re-settlement	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	486,980	403,458	378,050
Recurrent Expenditure	167,878	174,605	192,000
Capital Expenditure	319,102	228,853	186,050
145 - Minister of Re-settlement			
Total Expenditure	486,980	403,458	378,050
Recurrent Expenditure	167,878	174,605	192,000
Capital Expenditure	319,102	228,853	186,050

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 145 - Ministry of Re-settlement.

The Committee noted that 90% of the resettlement work has now been completed and 228,838 families had already been re-settled as at 30th September 2014 whereas only 7840 families are to be resettled.

Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs

Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	226,297	376,700	426,830
Recurrent Expenditure	62,407	78,700	76,830
Capital Expenditure	163,890	298,000	350,000
183 - Minister of Public Relations and Public Affairs			
Total Expenditure	226,297	376,700	426,830
Recurrent Expenditure	62,407	78,700	76,830
Capital Expenditure	163,890	298,000	350,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 183 - Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs.

The Committee observed that it was proposed to build six rest houses in Jaffna, Mulativu, Polonnaruwa, Mihinhale, Kataragama and Mahiyanganaya, and out of them rest houses in Mihinhale and Mahiyanganaya would be opened before the end of 2014. The Members requested that a list of rest houses, facilities available in each rest house and reservation charges etc. be made available to Members of Parliament.

Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation

Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,156,227	1,533,508	1,510,900
Recurrent Expenditure	380,368	505,600	515,000
Capital Expenditure	775,859	1,027,908	995,900

188 - Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation

Total Expenditure		150,383	94,900
Recurrent Expenditure		64,750	64,950
Capital Expenditure		85,633	29,950

294 - Department of National Zoological Gardens

Total Expenditure	523,499	725,725	808,500
Recurrent Expenditure	172,076	208,750	211,850
Capital Expenditure	351,424	516,975	596,650

322 - Department of National Botanical Gardens

Total Expenditure	632,727	657,400	607,500
Recurrent Expenditure	208,292	232,100	238,200
Capital Expenditure	424,435	425,300	369,300

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 188, 294, 322 - Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation.

The Committee recommends that suitable programme be prepared to get the private sector involved to develop the tourism sector and public recreational places in Sri Lanka, and where necessary steps be taken to relax the existing rules and regulations to facilitate this aspect.

It was brought to the notice of the Committee that a master plan was being prepared to develop and modernize the Dehiwala Zoological Gardens jointly with the CECB & UDA, wherein development of the aquarium also was included.

The Chairman and Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva commended the progress achieved by Laksala and said that now government institutions developed their sales outlets far better than those of private sector, and Laksala was a good example for same.

The Committee recommends that steps be taken to provide recreational facilities to the plantation sector employees. The Committee also recommends that a Leisure Park be established in the beach side of the Negombo area.

Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation

Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,095,166	1,541,400	1,400,000
Recurrent Expenditure	601,556	707,300	730,000
Capital Expenditure	493,610	834,100	670,000
179 - Minister of Wildlife Resources Conservation			
Total Expenditure	98,302	103,475	96,700
Recurrent Expenditure	74,438	80,025	86,700
Capital Expenditure	23,864	23,450	10,000
284 - Department of Wildlife Conservation			
Total Expenditure	996,864	1,437,925	1,303,300
Recurrent Expenditure	527,118	627,275	643,300
Capital Expenditure	469,746	810,650	660,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 179, 284 - Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation.

The Committee recommends that very early action be taken to mitigate and solve the long-lasting human elephant conflict in the country. It was brought to the notice of the Committee that all steps were taken to implement necessary precautionary measures but the disturbing factors were mainly human involvement in the natural habitats of elephants like illicit felling of trees, clearing jungles for cultivation, and occupying elephant-passes etc. It was also informed that, for the protection of both human and elephants, ample food and water need to be ensured, necessary

jungle paths (elephant-pass) need to be preserved for breeding and survival of elephant population, while ensuring food and water to them in their natural habitat like Villus.

The Hon. Minister of Wildlife Conservation stated that a live barrier in jute can be introduced as a fence to separate human occupied areas from the jungle so elephants will not access villages and stressed the need to preserve the existing forest cover of the country. On a suggestion by the Hon. Minister, the Committee recommends that assistance of other public and private sector agencies be obtained for development and maintenance of lakes, reservoirs etc., within the jungles and forest reserves. The Committee strongly recommends that early action be taken to mitigate and solve the long-lasting human elephant conflict whilst preserving the natural habitats required for elephants.

The Committee, whilst agreeing with the views of the Hon. Minister, recommends that the bungalows and rests in forest reserves be rehabilitated, maintained properly so as to attract more local and foreign tourists, and steps be taken to develop and maintain, camp sites and tree houses in forests with facilities for the benefit of forest loving wild-life friends. Agreeing with the suggestion of the Hon. Minister, the Committee recommends that the grass lands given to milk producing companies be moved further away from forests in order to preserve natural forest reserves.

The Committee recommends that steps be taken to prevent unauthorized filling and constructions within the Muthurajawela Reserve, and stressed the need to minimize human activities in protected areas like Hakgala, Attidiya and Nuwara Eliya reservations where human settlements had taken place over a period of time. The Committee also recommends that suitable steps be taken to protect the natural environment of the Negombo lagoon.

Heads 181, 328 - Ministry of Productivity Promotion

Ministry of Productivity Promotion	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		RevisedBudget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	567,395	803,540	763,050
Recurrent Expenditure	436,397	672,800	667,150
Capital Expenditure	130,999	130,740	95,900
181 - Minister of Productivity Promotion			
Total Expenditure	337,553	530,340	465,950
Recurrent Expenditure	240,007	424,200	410,550
Capital Expenditure	97,545	106,140	55,400
328 - Department of Manpower and Employment			
Total Expenditure	229,842	273,200	297,100
Recurrent Expenditure	196,389	248,600	256,600
Capital Expenditure	33,453	24,600	40,500

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 181 and 328 - Ministry of Productivity Promotion.

The Committee recommends that a mechanism should be established to measure the productivity in various sectors especially among the public servants which should be launched in the Grama Seva Division level in order to benefit the people at grass root level. The Committee also recommends that an island-wide productivity plan be prepared including Education Sector where a lot of time of teachers was wasted in following up their personal administrative issues with the Ministry and that the National Productivity Secretariat should take steps to measure the productivity of the newly recruited graduates.

Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotion

Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotion Rs.'000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure	747,801	1,031,439	1,030,392
Recurrent Expenditure	442,907	544,187	550,342
Capital Expenditure	304,895	487,252	480,050
180 - Minister of Minor Export Crops Promotion			
Total Expenditure	176,748	247,047	201,982
Recurrent Expenditure	116,777	140,445	145,032
Capital Expenditure	59,971	106,602	56,950
289 - Department of Export Agriculture			
Total Expenditure	571,053	784,392	828,410
Recurrent Expenditure	326,129	403,742	405,310
Capital Expenditure	244,923	380,650	423,100

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 180, 289 of the Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotions.

The Committee observed that out of 25,000 acres of cashew plantation in Kondachchi, 19,000 acres were acquired by the government, another 2000 acres were cultivated by the Civil Security Department, and action was being taken to cultivate the balance land by the Cashew Corporation.

On a suggestion by Hon. Chairman, the Committee recommends that ten thousand Garcinia plants be provided to Mahaweli zones so that it could be promoted under home gardening projects. The Committee also recommends that steps be taken to develop betel production in the country.

Having noted that the funds allocated by the General Treasury were not adequate for all the future development plans, whilst appreciating the work plan and effort of the Hon. Minister and the Ministry, the Committee recommends to the Treasury that the total amount required for development work be provided in the next year's Budget.

Ministry of Coconut Development & Janatha Estate Development

Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development Rs.'000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,358,579	1,941,654	1,895,000
Recurrent Expenditure	663,638	952,105	977,000
Capital Expenditure	694,942	989,549	918,000
178 - Minister of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development			
Total Expenditure	1,358,579	1,941,654	1,895,000
Recurrent Expenditure	663,638	952,105	977,000
Capital Expenditure	694,942	989,549	918,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 178 - Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development.

The Committee noted that steps had not been taken to fill the vacancies in the Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd. which was delayed for a long time.

The Committee appreciated the steps taken to protect coconut seedlings from the insects and other creatures, to introduce a new variety of coconut with high yield, to preserve and use coconut based raw materials such as coconut water, coconut shell, coconut husks in a commercial production process, to improve the productivity of coconut lands in various ways such as coconut related inter-cropping and animal husbandry programs. The Committee reiterated its earlier recommendations that the field officers should be fully functional in the field.

The Committee also recommends that the quality of fertilizer available in the market be frequently tested by the Coconut Research Institute or the Coconut Development Authority, to prevent low quality fertilizer being purchased by farmers, and the need of using fertilizer and organic fertilizer be propagated.

The Committee recommends that steps be taken to popularize and increase the exports of coconut water, and to increase the coconut cultivation in the Eastern Province with more nurseries established. The Committee further recommends that steps be taken to promote king-coconut cultivation and to develop and introduce hybrid plants especially in urban areas.

Ministry of State Resources and Enterprises Development

Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development	Rs. '000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure		778,995	474,642	257,400
Recurrent Expenditure		84,190	93,480	93,400
Capital Expenditure		694,805	381,162	164,000
175 - Minister of State Resources and Enterprise Development				
Total Expenditure		778,995	474,642	257,400
Recurrent Expenditure		84,190	93,480	93,400
Capital Expenditure		694,805	381,162	164,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 175 - Ministry of State Resources and Enterprises Development.

The Committee recommends that steps be taken to obtain the possession of Kankasanthurai Cement Factory from security forces and to re-commence its production. The Committee also recommends that steps be taken to re-open the Eragama Tile factory, previously owned by the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation and the Oddusudan Factory with the assistance of relevant Divisional Secretaries.

Ministry of Sugar Industry Development

Ministry of Sugar Industry Development	Rs. '000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure			267,334	399,000
Recurrent Expenditure			172,384	318,000
Capital Expenditure			94,950	81,000
186 - Minister of Sugar Industry Development				
Total Expenditure			267,334	399,000
Recurrent Expenditure			172,384	318,000
Capital Expenditure			94,950	81,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 186 - Ministry of Sugar Industry Development.

The Committee noted that new power generation plants were set up in Pelawatta and Sevanagala Sugar Factories so they do not depend on the National Grid for their operations, and expressed its appreciation for giving more facilities to the sugarcane farmers to increase the local sugarcane production and helping to reduce sugar imports.

The Committee stressed the need to increase the budgetary allocation for the Sugarcane Research Institute to improve the tissue culture technology for the next year so that good hybrid plants resistant to common diseases could be produced and the harvest could be increased.

Ministry of Postal Services

Ministry of Postal Services	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	9,202,781	9,986,000	10,057,400
Recurrent Expenditure	8,850,346	9,593,000	9,837,400
Capital Expenditure	352,436	393,000	220,000
108 - Minister of Postal Services			
Total Expenditure	217,945	359,000	126,900
Recurrent Expenditure	84,344	112,900	107,900
Capital Expenditure	133,601	246,100	19,000
308- Department of Posts			
Total Expenditure	8,984,836	9,627,000	9,930,500
Recurrent Expenditure	8,766,001	9,480,100	9,729,500
Capital Expenditure	218,834	146,900	201,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 108, 308 - Ministry of Postal Services.

The Committee recommends that early action be taken to fill the existing vacancies in the Estate post offices. The Committee stressed the need to maintain the post offices in the country in a clean and tidy manner, while effecting necessary repairs.

Ministry of Private Transport Service

Ministry of Private Transport Services	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	504,926	769,000	881,000
Recurrent Expenditure	431,563	575,000	681,000
Capital Expenditure	73,363	194,000	200,000
184 - Minister of Private Transport Services			
Total Expenditure	504,926	769,000	881,000
Recurrent Expenditure	431,563	575,000	681,000
Capital Expenditure	73,363	194,000	200,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 184 - Ministry of Private Transport Services.

The Committee stressed the requirement of implementing the National Transport Policy on Private Transport with the coordination of all the line Ministries and the Provincial Councils.

The Committee recommends that early steps be taken to solve or mitigate the problem of traffic jam in metropolitan areas especially in Colombo, and implement programmes like "park and ride" to reduce number of vehicles entering major cities.

The Committee also recommends that continuous monitoring be done on the training and disciplinary control of drivers and conductors, whilst stressing the need to ensure safety of women in the transportation.

Ministry of Technology & Research

Ministry of Technology & Research	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	3,203,466	3,913,298	4,203,000
Recurrent Expenditure	1,154,544	1,392,330	1,578,000
Capital Expenditure	2,048,922	2,520,968	2,625,000

Minister of Technology & Research

Total Expenditure	3,203,466	3,913,298	4,203,000
Recurrent Expenditure	1,154,544	1,392,330	1,578,000
Capital Expenditure	2,048,922	2,520,968	2,625,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 133 - Ministry of Technology & Research.

The Committee appreciated the efforts off the Hon. Minister and the officials of the Ministry in making endeavor to create a knowledge base economy thus developing science, technology and innovation, and observed that discussions were held with 27 Ministries including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to get them invest in Research & Development. The Committee strongly recommends to the Treasury that financial provision for the fields of Research and Development need to be increased.

The Committee also recommends that efforts should be made to invest in research and development to make value added products using natural mineral resources in Sri Lanka like phosphate, ilmanite and clay.

Ministry of Public Management Reforms

Ministry of Public Management Reforms	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	178,288	239,800	238,500
Recurrent Expenditure	114,656	132,800	136,500
Capital Expenditure	63,632	107,000	102,000
173 - Minister of Public Management Reforms			
Total Expenditure	178,288	239,800	238,500
Recurrent Expenditure	114,656	132,800	136,500
Capital Expenditure	63,632	107,000	102,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 173 - Ministry of Public Management Reforms.

The Committee, whilst appreciating the good work done by the Ministry like creating model offices and introducing new methodologies for the public to obtain services from public sector organizations, recommends that such programmes be implemented in all government institutions and offices, paying special attention to avoid 'bottle necks' and 'red tape'.

The Committee also recommends to inform all heads of institutions that their officers need to be available in their offices on the public day. The Committee also recommends that good management reform programmes be implemented in local government bodies too, and steps be taken to improve productivity after analyzing their organizational processes, while ensuring trilingual usage of computer software and programmes.

Ministry of Special Projects

Ministry of Special Projects	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure			91,000
Recurrent Expenditure			41,000
Capital Expenditure			50,000
191 - Ministry of Special Projects.			
Total Expenditure			91,000
Recurrent Expenditure			41,000
Capital Expenditure			50,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 191 - Ministry of Special

Projects.

The Committee recommends that steps be taken to make available Dialysis machines in the Vavuniya Hospital and other main hospitals in the area and to post suitable Nephrologists to such hospitals.

Ministry of Disaster Management

Ministry of Disaster Management	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,768,632	4,249,178	3,140,000
Recurrent Expenditure	647,195	903,436	940,000
Capital Expenditure	1,121,438	3,345,742	2,200,000
106 - Minister of Disaster Management			
Total Expenditure	1,151,490	3,964,053	2,569,100
Recurrent Expenditure	467,191	701,976	717,100
Capital Expenditure	1,054,299	3,262,077	1,852,000
304 - Department of Meteorology			
Total Expenditure	247,143	285,125	570,900
Recurrent Expenditure	180,004	201,460	222,900
Capital Expenditure	67,139	83,665	348,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Head 106 and 304 - Ministry of Disaster Management.

The Committee expressed her profound sorrow on the grievous disaster occurred recently at Meeriyabedda in Koslanda and expressed deepest sympathies to the affected parties, and greatly appreciated the very generous support promptly extended by all private institutions and individuals to the grief-stricken villagers.

The Committee strongly recommends that priority be given by the General Treasury to release allocation to modernize the Meteorology Department, considering this as a national urgency.

The Committee recommends that of Rs.3000 per month to identify as low income group not realistic today and suggested that it be updated to a more sensible amount.

The Committee recommends that National Budget circulars be revised to grant subsidy to single housedamages and a cabinet paper be submitted to revise the rules in reconnecting electricity, water and telephone connections for people who faced disasters.

Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology

Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	963,253	1,718,000	1,529,000
Recurrent Expenditure	102,161	209,000	229,000
Capital Expenditure	861,092	1,509,000	1,300,000
185 - Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology			
Total Expenditure	963,253	1,718,000	1,529,000
Recurrent Expenditure	102,161	209,000	229,000
Capital Expenditure	861,092	1,509,000	1,300,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 185 - Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology.

The Committee recommends that suitable steps be taken to educate employees of contracted companies about providing best customer care and attending to customer complaints promptly. The Committee recommends that facilities in the Telecom Training Centers be extended to outside

applicants also, and foreign employment opportunities be explored for those who successfully pass out after such training.

The Committee recommends that the plan prepared by the Ministry for the development of innovations and software product engineering be circulated among all Members of Parliament, and the CEO of ICTA agreed.

The Committee also recommends that steps be taken to produce low cost end user telecommunication and IT equipment within the Country which could be saleable to school children at affordable prices.

Ministry of Social Services

Ministry of Social Services	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	3,480,193	4,503,150	5,070,000
Recurrent Expenditure	3,196,369	3,999,600	4,670,000
Capital Expenditure	283,824	503,550	400,000
124 - Minister of Social Services			
Total Expenditure	3,199,239	4,048,005	4,542,670
Recurrent Expenditure	2,935,528	3,671,070	4,299,640
Capital Expenditure	263,712	376,935	243,243
216 - Department of Social Services			
Total Expenditure	280,953	455,145	527,330
Recurrent Expenditure	260,841	328,530	370,360
Capital Expenditure	20,112	126,615	156,970

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 124 and 216 of the Ministry of Social Services.

The Committee noted that certain people obtain approval to construct buildings without access for persons with disabilities, disregarding the law, and the grace period given to comply with the law had now been over, recommended that violators be prosecuted.

The Committee appreciated the steps taken by the Government to construct a special walk way for the benefit of blind pedestrians along the pavements in Colombo City, which facility not available even in certain developed countries.

Appendix 1

Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries Selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2015

PROGRAMME

Date	Time	Heads	Ministries
Tuesday 04/11/2014 (Day 01)	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	03	Senior Ministers • Good Governance and Infrastructure • Human Resources • Rural Affairs • Food Security • Urban Affairs
	2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	03	Senior Ministers • Social Welfare • Consumer Welfare • National Resources • Scientific Affairs • International Monetary Co-operation
Wednesday 05/11/2014 (Day 02)	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	101, 201-205	Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs
	2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	142,207-209 135, 293	National Heritage Plantation industries
Friday 07/11/2014 (Day 03)	10.30 a.m. - 12 noon	177,206	Culture and Arts
		134, 236	National Languages and Social Integration
	1.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	183 145	Public Relations and Public Affairs Resettlement
Saturday 08/11/2014 (Day 04)	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	188,294,322	Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation
		179,284	Wildlife Resources Conservation
	2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	181,328 180,289	Productivity Promotion Minor Export Crops Promotion
Monday 10/11/2014 (Day 05)	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	178	Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development
		175	State Resources and Enterprise Development
	2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	186 108, 308	Sugar Industry Development Postal Services
Tuesday 11/11/2014 (Day 06)	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	184	Private Transport Services
		133	Technology and Research
	2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	173 191	Public Management Reforms Special Projects
Wednesday 12/11/2014 (Day 07)	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	106,304	Disaster Management
		185	Telecommunication and Information Technology
	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.	124, 216	Social Services

Appendix 2

Minutes of meetings of the Select Committee to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of Ministries Selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2015

Dates of meetings of the Committee

First Meeting	-	Thursday,	23 October 2014
Second Meeting	-	Tuesday,	04 November 2014
Third Meeting	-	Wednesday,	05November 2014
Fourth Meeting	-	Friday,	07November 2014
Fifth Meeting	-	Saturday,	08November 2014
Sixth Meeting	-	Monday,	10November 2014
Seventh Meeting	-	Tuesday,	11 November 2014
Eighth Meeting	-	Wednesday,	12 November 2014
Ninth Meeting	-	Friday,	14 November 2014

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015

Thursday, 23 October 2014 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)

Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne

Hon. John Amaratunga

Hon. R. Yogarajan

Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva

Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

The Committee met pursuant to the notice. Hon. (Prof.) G.L.Pieris and Hon. Vijitha Herath were also present at the meeting with the permission of the Chairman.

2. The Committee resolved that the quorum of the Committee shall be three Members.
3. The Committee considered the draft schedule of the Ministries and approved the same with amendments. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to sit on the following days to discuss Heads of Expenditure of Ministries referred to it by Parliament.

Tuesday,	04 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday,	05 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Friday,	07 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Saturday,	08 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Monday,	10 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Tuesday,	11 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday,	12 November 2014	10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

4. The Committee deliberated and resolved,
 - a. to inform the Secretaries to the relevant Ministries to send the Progress Reports in all three languages early to circulate the same among the members of the Committee;
 - b. to summon the Secretaries to relevant Ministries and other relevant officials on the respective dates;
 - c. to summon the relevant officials of the General Treasury to all meetings; and
 - d. to inform the Secretaries to make a brief presentation before the Committee on the followings :-
 - i. Short Profile of the Ministry
 - ii. Budgetary allocation for 2014 and activities carried out during 2014 and the budgetary allocation for 2015 and programme of work for 2015
5. The Committee was at 4.30 p.m. adjourned till 10.30 a.m. on 04 November 2014.

sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015

Tuesday, 04 November 2014 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Pon Selvarasa
Hon. (Mrs.) Rosy Senanayake

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Senior Ministers present:

Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Minister (Senior) for Good Governance and Infrastructure
Hon. P. Dayaratna, Minister (Senior) for Food Security
Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie, Minister (Senior) for Urban Affairs
Hon. DEW Gunasekera, Minister (Senior) for Human Resources

Other Members Present:

Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. Mahinda Saliya, Additional Director General, State Accounts Department
Ms. G.K. Wimalaweera, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Mr. S.R.W.M.R.P. Sathkumara, Director, Management Services Department
Mr. T. A. D. D. Premarathna, Director, National Planning Department
Ms. P.H. Chandima, Assistant Director, National Planning Department
Ms. G.R. Sasanka Thilakerathne, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. The Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee took the chair.

The Committee considered the request forwarded by Hon. John Amaratunga, Chief Opposition Whip to permit 06 religious dignitaries to be present and make submissions at the meeting of Committee when the votes of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs are taken up for consideration.

The Committee discussed this matter and was of the view that it would be more appropriate to grant them an opportunity to make submissions before the Consultative Committee on Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs. The Committee also of the view that the mandate given to this Committee is limited to considering the Votes of the selected Ministries as an extension of the Budget Debate taking place in the House, together with the performance of this year and plan of action for the next year. To facilitate such discussion by the Members of Parliament, only the government officials of the Ministry and the General Treasury are invited.

The Committee agreed to the changes made in the schedule of the Committee meetings, at the request of the respective Hon. Ministers.

The Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers)

Officials Present from Secretariat for Special Functions:

Mr. Mahinda Madihahewa, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer
Mr. S. Liyanagama, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer
Mr. D.L. Kumaradasa, Consultant
Ms. Mangala Gunarathne, Director, Planning
Mr. A.W.P. Silva, Chief Accountant

Mrs. R.P.M.S. Rajapakse, Assistant Secretary
 Ms. Upetha S. Kaluarachchi, Assistant Secretary
 Mr. S. K. P. Bambarenda, Coordinating Secretary
 Mrs. W.A. Indrani, Coordinating Secretary
 Mrs. Harshani Yasanthika, Development Officer
 Mr. S.D. Hettiarachchi, Management Assistant

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 03 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers).

Head 03 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers)	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	411,216	533,000	529,100
Recurrent Expenditure	305,780	367,350	376,000
Capital Expenditure	105,435	165,650	153,100
01 - General Administration and Establishment Services			
Total Expenditure	113,632	127,550	132,800
Recurrent Expenditure	110,391	123,500	128,600
Capital Expenditure	3,242	4,050	4,200
02 - Minister (Senior) for Good Governance and Infrastructure			
Total Expenditure	42,672	28,100	36,200
Recurrent Expenditure	20,343	24,100	25,900
Capital Expenditure	22,328	4,000	10,300
03 - Minister (Senior) for Human Resources			
Total Expenditure	19,364	25,850	37,000
Recurrent Expenditure	18,858	23,350	24,000
Capital Expenditure	506	2,500	13,000
04 - Minister (Senior) for Rural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	19,633	42,075	30,350
Recurrent Expenditure	18,020	23,375	24,450
Capital Expenditure	1,612	18,700	5,900
05 - Minister (Senior) for Food Security			
Total Expenditure	29,703	24,225	25,800
Recurrent Expenditure	19,475	21,925	22,900
Capital Expenditure	10,229	2,300	2,900
06 - Minister (Senior) for Urban Affairs			
Total Expenditure	18,181	28,650	32,200
Recurrent Expenditure	15,982	20,450	22,100
Capital Expenditure	2,199	8,200	10,100

Mr. MahindaMadihahewa, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers) made a presentation on the performance of the respective Ministries for the Year 2014 and the target plan for the Year 2015.

Mr. Madihahewa informed that special attention had been paid to settlement of disputes in the public service and after a pilot project implemented in the Ministry of Health, a report was submitted to the Cabinet. He added that the Cabinet approval had been received for the report of the pilot project to extend the same mechanism for the entire public service.

Referring to previous year's recommendations of the Committee, Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera inquired about the steps taken to appoint a Consultative Committee for the Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers). The Chairman explained that it could not be pursued for want of consensus among all parties and all Senior Ministers, and however agreed to discuss this matter with the Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Madihahewa stated that, a National Human Resources and Employment Policy had been

prepared and Cabinet approval was obtained to establish a National Steering Committee to implement the recommendations of the COPE report.

Hon. DEW Gunasekera informed that the Human Resources Policy covered the areas of informal economy which was granted for the first time in this Budget. Hon. Joseph Michael Perera was of the view that there should be an effective way to inform the Members of Parliament regarding such activities. Hon. (Mrs.) Rosy Senanayake suggested that a change in the perception of bureaucrats would also be necessary.

Speaking on the problem of expanding Kidney Disease in the country, Mr. Madihahewa stated that an action plan for prevention and curing the disease had been submitted for Cabinet approval. When inquired about the adequacy of funds allocated, it was informed that the Action Plan would be implemented through 11 line Ministries.

Mr. Madihahewa stated that Cabinet approval has been sought to establish a National Steering Committee to monitor, review and evaluate National Food System and initiate action to formulate National Food Policy and National Food Plan for 2015-2020.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. W.D.J. Senewiratne
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers present:

Hon. Milroy Fernando, Minister (senior) of Social Welfare
Hon. S. B. Nawinne, Minister (senior) of Consumer Welfare
Hon. Piyasena Gamage, Minister (senior) of National Resources
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana, Minister (senior) of Scientific Affairs

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. Mahinda Saliya, Additional Director General, State Accounts Department
Ms. G.K. Wimalaweera, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Mr. S.R.W.M.R.P. Sathkumara, Director, Management Services Department
Mr. T. A. D. D. Premarathna, Director, National Planning Department
Ms. P.H. Chandima, Assistant Director, National Planning Department
Ms. G.R. Sasanka Thilakerathne, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

The Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers)

Officials Present:

Mr. Mahinda Madihahewa, Secretary / Chief Executive Officer
Mr. S. Liyanagama, Secretary / Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Mangala Gunarathne, Director (Planning)
Mr. A.W.P. Silva, Chief Accountant
Mrs. R.P.M.S. Rajapakshe, Assistant Secretary
Ms. Upetha S. Kaluarachchi, Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Harshani Yasanthika, Development Officer
Mr. S.D. Hettiarachchi, Management Assistant
Prof. Sirmali Fernando, Sector Specialist, Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation
Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Project Director, Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. W.D.J. Senewiratne, proposed and seconded by Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena and Hon. Janaka Bandara respectively, took the chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 3 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers).

Head 3 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers)	Rs. '000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
07 - Minister (Senior) for Social Welfare				
Total Expenditure		18,275	37,125	26,675
Recurrent Expenditure		17,525	23,325	23,775
Capital Expenditure		750	13,800	2,900
08 - Minister (Senior) for Consumer Welfare				
Total Expenditure		22,001	36,225	32,050
Recurrent Expenditure		18,917	30,125	24,950
Capital Expenditure		3,084	6,100	7,100
09 - Minister (Senior) for National Resources				
Total Expenditure		31,836	38,725	27,800
Recurrent Expenditure		22,144	23,825	24,700
Capital Expenditure		9,692	14,900	3,100
10 - Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs				
Total Expenditure		63,285	114,250	117,250
Recurrent Expenditure		22,286	27,050	27,550
Capital Expenditure		40,999	87,200	89,700
11 - Minister (Senior) for International Monetary Co-operation				
Total Expenditure		32,633	30,225	30,975
Recurrent Expenditure		21,839	26,325	27,075
Capital Expenditure		10,794	3,900	3,900

Mr. S. Liyanagama, Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat made a presentation on the performance of the respective Ministries in 2014 as per the directions of the Hon. Ministers and on the targets for 2015.

The Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana, Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs stressed the need to ensure continuous availability of funds for the activities in the Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) which was now functioning as a 3 year project approved by the Cabinet. The officials of the Treasury explained that allocation of funds under a Head of Expenditure could be considered only if a permanent institution was established for 'COSTI' and requested the Hon. Minister to pursue action in this regard. The Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana agreed.

The Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana emphasized the importance of using technology within the country for value addition of graphite, innovation of clay Industry, strengthening industries applying robotic technology, green economy, energy security and biological resources for development, developing recycling industry etc.

The Committee appreciated the work plan and efforts of the Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana and wished to reiterate its earlier recommendation to the Treasury that the total funds required for the activities under such Ministry be provided in the annual Budget.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 03 - Secretariat for Special Functions (Senior Ministers).

The Committee was at 3.15 p.m. adjourned till 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 05 November 2014.

sgd/Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Wednesday, 05 November 2014 at 10.30 a.m.**

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Janaka Bandara
Hon. Hunais Farook

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. D.M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister and Minister of Buddha Sasana & Religious Affairs
Hon. M.K.A.D.S. Gunawardena, Deputy Minister of Buddha Sasana & Religious Affairs

Other Members Present:

Hon. Rauff Hakeem
Hon. (Ven) Ellawala Medhananda Thero
Hon. (Ms.) Kamala Ranathunga

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. M. Mahinda Saliya, Additional Director General, State Accounts Department
Mr. Jude Nilukshan, Director, National Budget Department
Mrs. Nalani Amarathunga, Director, National Budget Department
Mrs. Hiransa Kalutantri, Actg. Director, Management Services Department
Ms. C. Senanayake, Director, National Planning Department

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs

Officials Present

Mr. M.K.B. Dissanayake, Secretary
Mrs. J.A.A.N. Kannangara, Additional Secretary (Admin)
Mrs. R.P.W. Gunawardana, Additional Secretary (Development)
Mr. B.A. Premasinghe, Senior Assistant Secretary (Development)
Mr. K.B.D.M.P.B. Dissanayake, Director (Development)
Mr. R.M.D.D. Rajapaksha, Chief Accountant
Mr. A.D.T.N. Abeysinghe, Accountant
Mr. D.M. Sumanasekara, Chief Internal Auditor
Mr. M.P.K. Widaanarachchi, Assistant Director (Development)
Mrs. K.S.A.C.L. Senadheera, Assistant Secretary (Admin)
Ms. J.A.D.C. Savithri, Assistant Secretary (Development)
Mr. D.S. Sunil Samarasinghe, Administrative Officer
Mr. Chandrapema Gamage, Commissioner General of Buddhist Affairs, Department of Buddhist Affairs
Ms. H.N. Kumari, Commissioner of Buddhist Affairs (Dhamma School), Department of Buddhist Affairs
Mr. K.S.P. Perera, Chief Accountant, Department of Buddhist Affairs
Mr. R.M.N.K.S. Kanchana, Assistant Commissioner (Development), Department of Buddhist Affairs
Mr. P.P. Lokugalappaththi, Chief Internal Accountant, Department of Buddhist Affairs
Mr. U.G.G. Kumarasiri, Chief Accountant, Department of Public Trustee
Mrs. Shanthi Navukarasan, Director, Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs
Mr. A. Umamaheswaran, Deputy Director, Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs

Mr. M.G. Kandeegan, Accountant, Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs
 Mr. M. Sanmuanathan, Assistant Director, Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs
 Mrs. K. Hemalogini, Assistant Director, Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs
 Mr. A.R. Gunawardana, Director, Department of Christian Religious Affairs
 Mr. M.H.M. Sameel, Director, Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs
 Mr. M.A.C. Ahamad Naseel, Assistant Director, Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 101, 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,774,082	2,000,216	1,955,000
Recurrent Expenditure	931,364	1,277,225	1,205,000
Capital Expenditure	842,717	722,991	750,000
101 - Minister of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	603,201	665,136	613,880
Recurrent Expenditure	118,246	171,010	147,650
Capital Expenditure	484,955	494,126	466,230
201 - Department of Buddhist Affairs			
Total Expenditure	681,937	846,470	808,430
Recurrent Expenditure	578,050	766,420	714,680
Capital Expenditure	103,887	80,050	93,750
202 - Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	178,533	91,690	150,115
Recurrent Expenditure	58,198	60,640	77,965
Capital Expenditure	120,335	31,050	72,150
203 - Department of Christian Religious Affairs			
Total Expenditure	88,163	143,705	124,240
Recurrent Expenditure	61,227	121,865	100,025
Capital Expenditure	26,936	21,840	24,215
204 - Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs			
Total Expenditure	186,232	214,810	214,980
Recurrent Expenditure	81,374	120,660	123,455
Capital Expenditure	104,857	94,150	91,525
205 - Department of Public Trustee			
Total Expenditure	36,016	38,405	43,355
Recurrent Expenditure	34,269	36,630	41,225
Capital Expenditure	1,747	1,775	2,130

Mr. M.K.B. Dissanayake, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs made a presentation on the performance for the Year 2014 and the target plan for the Year 2015.

In reply to an inquiry by Hon. Joseph Michael Perera, Mr. Dissanayake said that previous Committee's recommendation to give additional marks to the Dhamma School Certificate at the interviews, had been forwarded to the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs for suitable action, and special attention would be paid to the Dhamma School Certificate when recruiting teachers.

In regard to the establishment of new religious places, Mr. Dissanayake stated that wide publicity had been given through newspapers regarding the procedures to be followed before constructing new places of religious worship.

In reply to an inquiry by Hon. Joseph Michael Perera as to why text books were not provided to Christian Dhamma schools, Mr. A.R. Gunawardana, Director, Christian Religious Affairs stated that since the Christian Bishops Council had indicated that school text books could be used in Christian

Dhamma Schools, no separate books would be required. Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera requested that a Bible be given to all the teachers of Christian Dhamma schools and a book of 'Dhammapada Vivaranaya' be given to all the teachers of Buddhist Dhamma Schools, using the funds available this year, and Mr. Gunawardhana agreed.

Hon. Hunais Farook inquired whether staff could be provided to the sub office in the Eastern Province of Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs, even on casual basis. Mr. Dissanayake said that Cabinet approval needs to be obtained to create a cadre and agreed to take further action in this regard.

At 11.00 a.m. the Hon. Athauda Seneviratne took the chair.

Hon. Joseph Michael Perera explained that steps be taken to create a good religious environment and to give religious education for all school children to grow up as was there in the past. He said that the increasing cultural and social problems in the society today were mainly due to lack of religious feelings and discipline in the young generation. Hon. (Ven.) Ellawala Medhananda Thero stated that although the idea was welcomed for betterment of the society, many practical problems would arise if tried to implement the same in schools. Hon. Janaka Bandara agreed in principle that it would be necessary to inculcate religious behaviors and tranquility in young generation. After discussion, the Committee decided to recommend that this matter be discussed at the relevant Consultative Committees of Buddha Sasana and Education and a suitable policy be drafted in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education.

Hon. (Ven.) Ellawala Medhananda Thero pointed out that meetings of the Buddha Sasana Fund were not held for a long time, and requested a detailed report regarding its activities and financial transactions. Mr. Dissanayake agreed.

Replying to an inquiry by Hon. John Amaratunga, Mr. Dissanayake stated that gazetted Religious Institutions were given priority when providing financial assistance, and at present funds were released to the relevant District Secretary to provide financial assistance to the required religious places. Hon. John Amaratunga pointed out that due to this practice, in certain instances, expected rehabilitation work was not carried out as expeditiously as required and requested that funds be released to the relevant Parish Councils governing the religious places, and Mr. Dissanayake agreed.

Hon. Hunais Farook inquired about the delay in constructing a building for the Muslim Cultural Department and Mr. Dissanayake informed Cabinet approval had to be sought again as the scope of the project had been changed.

Hon. Janaka Bandara was of the view that the present Laws governing religious affairs need to be amended so as to mitigate the differences between Common Law and Religious Laws, which he had discussed at the Consultative Committee several times.

Hon. John Amaratunga brought to the notice of the Chairman certain instances of not allowing construction of catholic statues and religious symbols where the approval of the local authorities had been obtained. He urged the Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Buddha Sasana to look into these matters and take suitable action to resolve the issues.

The Committee approved the Draft Estimates for the Heads 101, 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

At 2.00p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. Earl Gunasekara, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Balasuriya, Minister of National Heritage

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. M. Mahinda Saliya, Additional Director General, State Accounts Department
Mr. Jude Nilukshan, Director, National Budget Department
Mrs. Nalani Amarathunga, Director, National Budget Department
Mr. K.D.S.R. Perera, Director, National Planning Department
Mrs. Hiransa Kalutantri, Acting Director, Management Services Department
Ms. H.L.J.K. Amarasekara, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

Ministry of Plantation Industries

Officials Present:

Dr. Damitha de Zoysa, Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries
Ms. K. N. Kumari Somaratne, Additional Secretary,
Mr. G.W.D.P. Senanayake, Chief Accountant,
Mr. W.A.D.D.M. Priyantha, Chief Internal Auditor,
Mr. R.A.D.S. Ranathunga, Director (Development),
Mrs. M.D.Y. Dharmasekara, Director (Development) Acting
Mr. W.A.S. Iroshan, Assistant Director (Planning)
Ms. Hansika Kumarasinghe, Assistant Director
Ms. J.P.A. Niroshani, Assistant Secretary (Admin)
Mr. H.A. Wimalasooriya, Chairman, Tea, Rubber and coconut Estates (control of Fragmentation) Board
Mr. N.S. Abeywardena, Project Coordinator, Small Holders Plantation Entrepreneurship
Development Programme
Mrs. K.R. Dayaratne, Chief Accountant,
Mr. Dr. S.S.B.D.G. Jayawardena, Chairman, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Mr. Dr. I.S.B. Abeysinghe, Director, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Mr. M.V. Mohan, Senior Accountant, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Mr. B.K. Jayamanne, Deputy Tea Commissioner, Sri Lanka Tea Board
Mr. S.I.C. Perera, Assistant Director General (Administration), Sri Lanka Tea Board
Mr. S.A. Siriwardhana, Director General, Sri Lanka Tea Board
Mr. A.D.W. Bandarage, Assistant Director General (Finance), Sri Lanka Tea Board
Mr. N.P. Kariyawasam, Chairman, Tea Small Holdings Development Authority
Mr. M.B. Cyril, General Manager, Tea Small Holdings Development Authority
Mrs. D.G.P. Jayanthi, Finance Manager, Tea Small Holdings Development Authority
Mr. Daya Aviruppola, Chief Executive Officer, Tea Shakthi Fund
Mr. P.G.R. Tissa, Chief Accountant, Tea Shakthi Fund
Mr. Donald Abeysundara, Chairman, Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited
Mr. P. Jayasekara, Finance Manager, Kalubowitiyana Tea Factory Limited
Mr. R.B. Premadasa, Director General, Rubber Development Department
Mr. P.H.S.W. Bandara, Director (Finance), Rubber Development Department
Mr. R.S. Hapugaswatta, Director (Planning), Rubber Development Department
Mr. J.Y. Peiris, Chairman, Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Dr. W.M.G. Seneviratne, Director, Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Mr. W. Kularathna, Accountant, Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Mr. S.P. Hidellaarachchi, Chairman, National Institute of Plantation Management
Mr. R.M. Premadasa, Director, National Institute of Plantation Management
Mr. L.D.J. Priyantha, Accountant, National Institute of Plantation Management
Mr. D.L. Shan Arosha Jayasinghe, Chairman, Thurusaviya Fund

Mrs. H.A.S. Kumari Wimalasooriya, Director, Thurusaviya Fund

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. The Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee took the chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 135 and 293 - Ministry of Plantation Industries.

Ministry of Plantation Industries	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	2,724,020	4,255,360	4,616,000
Recurrent Expenditure	1,151,898	1,405,360	1,416,000
Capital Expenditure	1,572,121	2,850,000	3,200,000
135 - Minister of Plantation Industries			
Total Expenditure	1,922,913	3,156,560	3,278,000
Recurrent Expenditure	954,221	1,176,060	1,180,000
Capital Expenditure	968,692	1,980,500	2,098,000
293 - Department of Rubber Development			
Total Expenditure	801,107	1,098,800	1,338,000
Recurrent Expenditure	197,677	229,300	236,000
Capital Expenditure	603,430	869,500	1,102,000

Dr. Damitha de Zoysa, Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries made a presentation explaining the progress in 2014 and targets for year 2015.

Replying to a question by Hon. Muthu Sivalingam, Dr. Damitha de Zoysa explained the amounts of subsidy given to the plantation companies for replanting and new planting. The Hon. Muthu Sivalingam expressed his appreciation for the services done by the Ministry for the success of the tea small holders.

Replying a question by the Chairman as to why the government is not taking action to get the profits as the Golden Share holder of Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs), Dr. Damitha de Zoysa stated that as per the lease agreements and MoUs signed with the private companies, the Government received the lease rental from all companies and dividends are paid only by some companies. The Chairman stated that mechanism should be introduced to persuade the companies to contribute a part of their profits for the development of estate infrastructure. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe explained that Ministry had already established a "Plantation Management Monitoring Unit" for the purpose of monitoring the progress of such companies and this aspect also would be looked into by that unit. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe said that a proposal has already been submitted to the Treasury to revamp the Unit in 2015.

The Chairman inquired about the problems relating to unutilized land for development purposes in the areas other than cultivation. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe explained that the activities of the RPCs are governed by the lease agreement, and a subcommittee had been appointed under the chairmanship of Hon. Deputy Minister to examine all these leases and to recommend whether any amendments would be required.

Speaking on the Meeriyabedda incident Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe stated that immediate action would be taken to re-settle the affected families in safe places as soon as suitable land is found.

Replying to a question raised by Hon. John Amaratunga that certain companies unlawfully mix imported tea with Ceylon tea and sell as 'Ceylon Tea' which might damage the good name of Ceylon tea, Hon. Mahinda Samarasingha stated that permission had been granted to import only the special tea like green tea and any complaints would be examined. Replying a question by Hon. Janaka Bandara regarding selling low quality tea by a certain company in Dubai Airport, Hon. Minister stated that this situation had been controlled through the tea promotional officers who are

stationed in Dubai Airport.

Regarding the question by Hon. Janaka Bandara regarding the environmental impact of palm oil cultivation in Kalutara District, Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe stated that the Coconut Research Institute after a careful investigation had confirmed that no serious impact would be caused by palm oil cultivation.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 135 and 293 - Ministry of Plantation Industries.

Ministry of National Heritage

Officials Present

Dr. (Mrs.) Nanda Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage
 Mr. Bernard Wasantha, Additional Secretary (Admin.)
 Mr. D.M. Senerath Bandara, Director General (Archaeology)
 Dr. (Mrs.) C.S. Wettasinghe, Director, Department of Archaeology
 Mr. U.K. Bandara, Director/ Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin.)
 Mrs. Sanuja Kasthuriarachchi, Director, Department of National Museums
 Mr. Parakrama Dahanayake, Chairman, Galle Heritage Foundation
 Mr. L.H. Thilakaratne, Director, Janakala Kendraya
 Mr. G.W. Nanda Kumar, Senior Assistant Secretary, (Development)
 Mrs. M.T.S.S. Piyasena, Chief Accountant
 Mr. L.H. Gunawardene, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. B.R.M.M.P.B. Rathnayake, Actg. Additional Director General
 Mr. R.A.M. Lakshman, Director (Finance)
 Mr. R.L.R. Jayasekara, Assistant Director (Finance)
 Mr. A.S.D. Aluthge, Assistant Director (Finance)
 Mrs. S.S.K. Ellawala, Assistant Director (Admin.)
 Mr. T.D.N. Fernando, Assistant Director (Admin.)
 Mr. A.K.P.K. Jayasiri, Accounts Officer

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 142, 207,208 and 209 - Ministry of National Heritage.

Ministry of National Heritage	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,187,789	1,570,762	1,640,000
Recurrent Expenditure	853,678	1,029,687	1,090,000
Capital Expenditure	334,111	541,075	550,000
142 - Minister of National Heritage			
Total Expenditure	195,973	329,620	306,500
Recurrent Expenditure	98,654	161,060	162,550
Capital Expenditure	97,320	168,520	143,950
207- Department of Archaeology			
Total Expenditure	695,646	817,950	775,500
Recurrent Expenditure	571,681	649,660	689,500
Capital Expenditure	123,965	168,290	86,000
208 - Department of National Museums			
Total Expenditure	151,218	252,245	282,296
Recurrent Expenditure	105,923	125,195	138,646
Capital Expenditure	45,296	127,050	143,650
209 - Department of National Archives			
Total Expenditure	144,951	170,047	275,704
Recurrent Expenditure	77,421	93,772	99,304
Capital Expenditure	67,531	77,175	176,400

Dr. (Mrs.) Nanda Wickramasinghe, The Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage made a presentation on Vision and Mission of the Ministry and briefly explained the progress under Archeological Investigations and Conservation, Museums and Heritage Exhibition, Native Habitat Restoration and Development, Folk Art and Cultural Heritage and Archives Management in 2014 and New plans and projects for 2015.

Hon. (Ven.) Ellawala Medhananda Thero appreciated the support and assistance given by Sri Lanka Army and Sri Lanka Police in archeological investigations, as many unidentified virgin archaeological sites such as in Mullaithivu District could only be found with their assistance. Hon. (Ven.) Medhananda Thero also requested to rehabilitate the “*Deeghawapi Dagoba*” in the eastern province and open for devotees to worship as it is the only Buddhist temple which has relics of Lord Buddha.

The Hon. Chairman pointed out that it would neither be feasible nor practical for the Ministry of National Heritage to preserve all buildings which are over 100 years old, and said that it would be more appropriate if such buildings are maintained and used for public purposes thus preserving its outward appearance. The Chairman and Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe suggested to appoint a sub Committee under the Consultative Committee on National Heritage, to make amendments to *National Heritage Wilderness Areas Bill* to consider this matter and make suitable recommendations including any amendments necessary in law to adopt a more practical approach. The Secretary to the Ministry stated that they have already taken steps to appoint a committee on conservation of buildings with archaeological values.

Hon. Janaka Bandara pointed out that there are many vacancies in the senior positions in the Department of Archaeology and requested to take urgent steps to fill them. Dr. (Mrs.) Nanda Wickramasinghe explained that the salaries were not adequate to attract people with required qualifications. The Committee recommended to submit a Cabinet Paper for change of schemes of recruitment, so that the existing vacancies could be filled early.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 142, 207, 208 and 209 - Ministry of National Heritage.

The Committee was at 3.30 p.m. adjourned till 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 07 November 2014.

sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Friday, 07 November 2014 at 10.30 a.m.**

PRESENT:

Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. T.B. Ekanayaka, Minister of Culture and the Arts

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mrs. Anoma Nandani, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Mrs. Y.P. Sumanawathie, Additional Director General, National Planning Department

Ms. C. Senanayake, Director, National Planning Department
 Mrs. Nalani Amarathunga, Director, National Budget Department
 Mrs. Hiransa Kalutantri, Actg. Director, Management Services Department

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, Hon. John Amaratunga, proposed and seconded by Hon. Janaka Bandara and Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna respectively, took the chair.

Ministry of Culture and the Arts

Officials Present

Mr. Wasantha Ekanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and the Arts
 Mr. S.M.G.N. Darmasekara, Additional Secretary
 Mrs. H.D.S. Malkanthi, Additional Secretary
 Mrs. R.M.M. Rathnayaka, Chief Accountant
 Mrs. K.W.S.P. Athukorala, Director (Planning)
 Mrs. Tharani Anoja Gamage, Senior Assistant Secretary
 Mrs. W. Sunitha Cooray, Senior Assistant Secretary
 Mr. K.K.G. Sisira Kumara, Chief Internal Auditor
 Mr. Vijitha Kanugala, Director Department of Cultural Affairs
 Professor Gamini Adikari, Director General, Central Cultural Fund
 Mr. Gamini Sumanasekara, Chairman Public Performance Board
 Mr. Douglas Siriwardana, Director General, Tower Hall Theatre Foundation
 Senior Professor Mudiyanse Dissanayake, Chairman, Arts Council of Sri Lanka
 Mr. K.D. Kariyakarawana, Accountant, Department of Cultural Affairs
 Miss. B.C. Peiris, Director (Finance), Central Cultural Fund,
 Mrs. K.D.S.S. Lalanthie, Accountant, Central Cultural Fund,
 Mr. I.J. Paranagama, Assistant Director (Finance), Tower Hall Theatre Foundation

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 177 and 206 - Ministry of Culture and the Arts.

Ministry of Culture and the Arts	Rs. '000	2013	2014	2015
			Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure		1,377,530	1,913,690	2,650,000
Recurrent Expenditure		82,647	1,064,04	1,150,000
Capital Expenditure		514,883	849,250	1,500,000
177 - Minister of Culture and the Arts				
Total Expenditure		1,036,221	1,322,340	1,915,985
Recurrent Expenditure		562,537	658,640	711,985
Capital Expenditure		473,684	663,700	1,204,000
206 - Department of Cultural Affairs				
Total Expenditure		341,309	591,350	734,015
Recurrent Expenditure		300,110	405,800	438,015
Capital Expenditure		41,199	55,550	296,000

Mr. S. Wasantha Ekanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and the Arts made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the year plan for 2015.

Replying to a question by Hon. John Amaratunga regarding filling of vacancies in the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that steps had been taken to fill all vacancies except those in the cadre of Assistant Cultural Promotion Officers, which was held up due to a pending FR case in the Supreme Court. Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera pointed out that similar situation had arisen in most of the institutions due to changes in salary structures introduced by the Salaries and Cadre Commission, and requested that early steps be taken to resolve these issues in the salary structures.

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna inquired about the balance of Rs.1700 million remaining in the capital allocations for 2014. The Additional Secretary of the Ministry explained that Rs.1500 million was allocated for the construction of proposed art theatres in Kandy and Anuradhapura under foreign grants but it was not spent as per the government decision to do it with local funds in 2015, and this amount would be spent for unpaid bills for 2014.

Explaining the situation as inquired by Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera about the rehabilitation work at the Tower Hall Theatre and the John De Silva Memorial Theatre, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that due to technical difficulties it could not be rehabilitated, but a new Theatre Hall with all modern facilities would be built in the venue of John De Silva Memorial Theatre.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 177 and 206 - Ministry of Culture and the Arts.

At 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Pon. Selvarasa
Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Minister of National Languages and Social Integration
Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Deputy Minister of National Languages and Social Integration

Other Members Present:

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice
Hon. Ajith Kumara

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mrs. Anoma Nandani, Senior Assistant Secretary, Public Finance Department
Mrs. Y.P. Sumanawathi, Director, National Budget Department
Ms. C. Senanayake, Director, National Planning Department
Mrs. Nalani Amarathunga, Director, National Budget Department
Mrs. Hiransa Kalutantri, Actg. Director, Management Services Department

In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, Hon. John Amaratunga, proposed and seconded by Hon. Athauda Seneviratne and Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna respectively, took the chair.

Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration

Officials present

Ms. M. S. Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mr. S. Baskaran, Additional Secretary (Admin), Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mr. H. Hewage, Additional Secretary (Development), Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mr. S. L. M. Hazeem, Senior Assistant Secretary (Social Integration), Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mr. M. K. Muhaiz, Senior Assistant Secretary (Languages), Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mr. D. K. M. R. Kumarasiri, Chief Accountant, Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mrs. P. M. S. Sudarshani, Director (Planning), Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Mr. K. A. C. Shamantha, Accountant, Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration

Mr. W.A. De Alwis, Internal Auditor, Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
 Mr. J. D. C. Jayasinghe, Commissioner, Department of Official Languages
 Mr. Nimal R. Ranawaka, Chairman, Official Languages Commission
 Mr. Nihal Herath, Chairman, National Institute for Language Education and Training (NILET)
 Mr. Prasath R. Herath, Director General (NILET)

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 134 and 236- Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration.

Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration Rs. '000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure	416,467	576,250	707,800
Recurrent Expenditure	256,707	314,550	357,800
Capital Expenditure	159,760	261,700	350,000
134 - Minister of National Languages and Social Integration			
Total Expenditure	330,723	473,090	588,250
Recurrent Expenditure	193,988	242,840	279,350
Capital Expenditure	136,735	230,250	308,900
236 - Department of Official Languages			
Total Expenditure	85,744	103,160	119,550
Recurrent Expenditure	62,719	71,710	78,450
Capital Expenditure	23,025	31,450	41,100

Mrs. M.S. Wickramasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration made a presentation on the progress of the year 2014 and development plans for the year 2015.

In reply to an inquiry by Hon. John Amaratunga, Mrs. Wickramasinghe stated that most of the LLRC recommendations relevant to the Ministry have already been implemented and a 5 year Road Map has been drafted to implement a precise policy in training teachers. Over 200 vacancies in the Divisional Secretariats would be filled early to strengthen their activities, and steps were being taken to introduce tri-lingual translation software in collaboration with the University of Moratuwa.

The Hon. Palany Thigambaram pointed out that due to the procedure followed in recruiting Social Integration Development Officers for Divisional Secretariats, out of 205 recruits, only 14 Muslims and 2 Tamils were to be recruited disregarding the social requirements. Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara informed since they were selected from an Island-wide competitive examination and interview, the Cabinet Sub Committee had declined to deviate from the current procedures. The Committee discussed this matter and observed that initial Scheme of Recruitment would have addressed this issue properly, and recommended that a special Cabinet Paper be submitted by the Ministry explaining this situation and requesting to change the Scheme of Recruitment.

Hon. Athauda Seneviratne and Hon. Ajith Kumara pointed out the necessity to include both Sinhala and Tamil in the curriculum of primary education, and the Hon. Minister suggested that proficiency in both Sinhala and Tamil be made a compulsory requirement for future recruitments to Public Service after giving adequate notice.

Hon. Pon Selvarasa brought to the notice of the committee that, in the Eastern Province, the recruitments are done based on the island's ethnic proportion, and Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara agreed to inform this to the relevant Government agencies.

Referring to the Constitution, Hon. Ajith Kumara pointed out that the amendment to the National Languages Policy should be precisely worded so as not to create any ambiguity. Hon. Ajith Kumara also pointed out that the students in certain Universities were not allowed to study in their own language, which right had been guaranteed under the Constitution, and Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara agreed to look into this.

Replying to a question by Hon. Ajith Kumara, Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara informed that all the current religious and cultural events would be organized with the participation of all ethnic communities.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 134 and 236 - Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration.

At 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Athauda Seneviratne
 Hon. John Amaratunga
 Hon. Pon. Selvarasa
 Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers:

Hon. Gunaratne Weerakoon, Minister of Resettlement
 Hon. Vinayagamoorthi Muralidaran, Deputy Minister of Resettlement

Other Members Present:

Hon. P. Ariyanethran

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mrs. Anoma Nandani, Senior Assistant Secretary, Department of Public Finance
 Mrs. Y.P. Sumanawathi, Director, Department of National Budget
 Mr. T.M.J. Bandara, Director, Department of National Planning
 Ms. P.H. Chandima, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, Hon. Athauda Seneviratne, proposed and seconded by Hon. John Amaratunga and Hon. Janaka Bandara respectively, took the chair.

Ministry of Resettlement

Officials Present

Mr. Janaka Sugathadasa, Secretary
 Mr. M.M. Nayeemudeen, Additional Secretary
 Mrs. K.H.J.L. Senarathna, Senior Assistant Secretary
 Mr. R.W.K. Perera, Chief Accountant
 Mr. E.M.D.B. Ekanayaka, Director (Development)
 Mr. K. Nikarilkanth, Assistant Secretary
 Mrs. D.L. Deepani Priyanka, Assistant Director Planning
 Mrs. U.D.T. Rodrigo, Assistant Director Planning
 Mr. B.H. Passaperuma, Chairman Resettlement Authority

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 145 - Ministry of Re-settlement.

Ministry of Re-settlement	Rs. '000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure		486,980	403,458	378,050
Recurrent Expenditure		167,878	174,605	192,000
Capital Expenditure		319,102	228,853	186,050
145 - Minister of Re-settlement				
Total Expenditure		486,980	403,458	378,050
Recurrent Expenditure		167,878	174,605	192,000
Capital Expenditure		319,102	228,853	186,050

Mr. Janaka Sugathadasa, Secretary to the Ministry of Resettlement made a presentation explaining the progress in the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015. He explained that 90% of the resettlement work has now been completed and 228,838 families had already been re-settled as at 30th September 2014 whereas only 7840 families were to be resettled.

Answering a question raised by Hon. Pon Selvarasa regarding displaced people, who were not fully resettled in the Batticaloa district so far, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that they were able to provide resettlement assistance to 297 families out of 508 identified displaced families. The Secretary further stated that currently they do not have a separate budget to provide the resettlement assistance.

The Secretary to the Ministry also stated that they worked with the District Secretaries and the money also was channeled to the beneficiaries through the District Secretariat.

The Hon. Minister of Resettlement, referring to this matter, stated that the budget estimate for the above matter is included in the medium term expenditure framework for 2015-2017. Hon Minister further stated that they would resolve this problem in 2015 after discussing with the District Secretariat in Batticaloa.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 145 - Ministry of Re-settlement.

Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs

Officials Present

Mr. H.P. Cashian Herath, Secretary, Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs
 Mr. S.A.M.L. Gunathilaka, Additional Secretary
 Mr. S.A.N.R Subhasinghe, Chief Accountant
 Mr. S. R. Kumarage, Internal Auditor
 Ms. J. C. Vithanage, Management Assistant (Development)
 Mrs. S.A.S.U. Satharasinghe, Management Assistant (Administration)
 Mrs. P.M.S.D. Siriwardhane, Management Assistant
 Ms. M.M.H.K. Wijebandara, Management Assistant

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 183 - Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs.

Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	226,297	376,700	426,830
Recurrent Expenditure	62,407	78,700	76,830
Capital Expenditure	163,890	298,000	350,000
183 - Minister of Public Relations and Public Affairs			
Total Expenditure	226,297	376,700	426,830
Recurrent Expenditure	62,407	78,700	76,830
Capital Expenditure	163,890	298,000	350,000

Mr. H.P. Cashian Herath, Secretary, Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

Replying to a question made by Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera on the progress of the construction of public rest houses, Mr. Herath explained that it was proposed to build six rest houses in Jaffna, Mulativu, Polonnaruwa, Mihinthale, Kataragama and Mahiyanganaya, and out of them Mihinthale and Mahiyanganaya would be opened before the end of 2014. Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera requested that a list of rest houses, facilities available in each rest house and reservation charges etc. be made available to Members of Parliament and the Secretary to the Ministry agreed.

Hon. Pon Selvarasa proposed to build a public rest house in Pasikuda but the Hon Minister regretted his inability to do so due to inadequacy of funds available.

Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera appreciated the social work done by the Ministry during the year 2014 and inquired about the procedure of giving financial assistance to Christian and catholic religious institutions. The Secretary stated that money was released through Divisional Secretaries according to the accepted government rules and regulations. Hon. Joseph Michael Perera proposed that money be released directly to the parish society of the relevant church as it would be more efficient than giving it through the Divisional Secretaries. The Hon. Minister instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to look in to that matter and stated that the Ministry would examine each and every request received and projects were selected only after obtaining an evaluation report.

Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera proposed that the temporary staff in the Ministry be absorbed into the permanent cadre and the Hon. Minister agreed that it could be done under budget proposals for 2015.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 183 - Ministry of Public Relations and Public Affairs.

The Committee adjourned at 3.30 p.m. till 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 08 November 2014.

Sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Saturday, 08 November 2014 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Pon. Selvarasa
Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva
Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Jayarathne Herath, Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation
Hon. V.S. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation

Other Members Present:

Hon. Gitanjana Gunawardena, Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation
Hon. Karuppaiah Velayudam

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.S. Mudalige, Additional Director General, Department of National Planning

Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation

Officials Present:

Dr. Willie Gamage, Secretary, Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation
Mrs. Chandra Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary (Admin)
Mr. W.A.D.A. Wijesooriya, Additional Secretary (Technical)
Mr. S. Deniyawatta, Chief Accountant
Mr. P.S.S. Wijerathne, Senior Assistant Secretary
Mr. H.A.W. Abayakumara, Chief Internal Auditor

Mrs. S.A.G. Sooriyakumari, Assistant Director
 Mr. Amila Wijethunge, Development Officer
 Dr. D.S.A. Wijesundara, Director General, Department of National Botanical Gardens
 Mr. D.H.P. Peramunugama, Director (Development), Department of National Botanical Gardens
 Mrs. I.W.M.C.K. Ilangakoon, Director (Admin), Department of National Botanical Gardens
 Mr. W.T.U. De Mel, Chief Accountant, Department of National Botanical Gardens
 Mr. P.M.A. DeSilva, Director, Department of National Zoological Gardens
 Mrs. Dammika Malsinghe, Additional Director (Planning), Department of National Zoological Gardens
 Mr. H.O. Dewmith Rohana, Additional Director (Admin), Department of National Zoological Gardens
 Mr. B.S.M. Abesekara, Chief Accountant, Department of National Zoological Gardens
 Mr. Anil Koswatta, Chairman, Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board
 Mrs. L.M.E. Perera, Chief Executive officer, Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board
 Mrs. S.R.M. Perera, Chief Financial Officer, Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board
 Mr. W.C.K. Jayawardhana, Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board
 Mr. C.N. Dahanayake, Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee, took the Chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 188, 294, 322 - Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation.

Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,156,227	1,533,508	1,510,900
Recurrent Expenditure	380,368	505,600	515,000
Capital Expenditure	775,859	1,027,908	995,900
188 - Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation			
Total Expenditure		150,383	94,900
Recurrent Expenditure		64,750	64,950
Capital Expenditure		85,633	29,950
294 - Department of National Zoological Gardens			
Total Expenditure	523,499	725,725	808,500
Recurrent Expenditure	172,076	208,750	211,850
Capital Expenditure	351,424	516,975	596,650
322 - Department of National Botanical Gardens			
Total Expenditure	632,727	657,400	607,500
Recurrent Expenditure	208,292	232,100	238,200
Capital Expenditure	424,435	425,300	369,300

Dr. Willie Gamage Secretary to the Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

The Chairman and Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva commended the progress achieved by Laksala and said that now government institutions developed their sales outlets far better than those of private sector, and Laksala was a good example for same.

Answering to a question by the Hon. Chairman about large savings available in the Votes, the Hon. Jayarathne Herath, Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation explained that such money were allocated for ongoing projects which would be spent on bills to be submitted by the contractors.

Speaking on a suggestion made by Hon. John Amaratunga to get the private sector involved to develop the tourism sector and public recreational places in Sri Lanka, the Hon. Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation stated that the steps would be taken to relax some of the

existing rules and regulations to facilitate this aspect.

The Hon. Minister agreed to take immediate action to change the name of the Avissawella New Wet-Zone Botanical Garden, as the 'Seethawaka Botanical Garden' as per the request of Hon. Gitanjana Gunawardena.

Replying to a question raised by Hon. John Amaratunga, the Hon. Minister stated that there was no plan to shift the Dehiwala Zoo to another place.

Replying to a question raised by Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva as to why all the veterinary surgeons attached to the Dehiwala Zoo had requested for transfers, the Hon. Minister stated that it was due to an internal conflict within the staff which had now been settled and immediate action would be taken to fill the vacancies.

In reply to a question by Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva as to why the aquarium in the Dehiwala Zoological Gardens was closed now, the Hon. Minister stated that a master plan is being prepared to develop and modernize the Dehiwala Zoological Gardens jointly with the CECB &UDA; wherein development of the aquarium was also included.

Replying to a request made by Hon. Karuppaiah Velayudam to provide recreational facilities to the plantation sector employees, the Hon. Minister assured that action would be taken to include it in the work plan for the year 2015. Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle proposed to establish a Leisure Park in the beach side of the Negombo area and the Hon. Minister agreed.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 188, 294, 322 - Ministry of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation.

At 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Pon. Selvarasa

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Gamini Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa, Minister of Wildlife Resources Conservation
Hon. Jayarathne Herath, Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation

Other Members Present:

Hon. Gitanjana Gunawardena, Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation
Hon. V.S. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Minister of Botanical Gardens and Public Recreation
Hon. Nimal Wijesinghe
Hon. Karuppaiah Velayudam

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.S. Mudalige, Additional Director General, Department of National Budget
Mr. A.H.S. Gunawardana, Director, Department of National Budget
Mrs. Sithara Jayasena, Actg. Director, Department of Management Services
Mrs. Y.P. Sumanawathi, Director, Department of National Budget

The Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee took the chair.

Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation

Officials Present:

Mr. B.K.U.A. Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation
Mr. Saman Fernando, Additional Secretary
Mr. H.A.V.P. Hapangama, Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin)

Mrs. K.R.S. Perera, Director (Engineering)
 Mr. P.E. Vidanagamage, Chief Accountant
 Mr. A.M.P. Abeysinghe, Director (Planning)
 Mr. H.D. Ratnayake, Director General, Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. W.S.K. Pathirathna, Director (Operation), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. J.P.N.C. Jayakody, Director (Finance), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. P.A. Tharaka Prasad, Director (Health Management), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. S.R.B. Dissanayaka, Deputy Director, (Tourism and Management) Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. M.G.C. Sooriyabandara, Deputy Director (Planning & Management), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mrs. Chandani Wilson, Deputy Director (Western), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. U.L. Thaufic, Assistant Director (Research and Training), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mrs. S.W. Chithra Rohini, Assistant Director (Admin), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. I.H.S.K. De Silva, Assistant Director (Uva), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. A.H. Sumanasena, Assistant Director (Wayamba), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. M.H. Chithrasena, Assistant Director (Central), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. W.S. Weragama, Assistant Director (Anuradhapura), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. D.M. Weerasinghe, Assistant Director (Eastern), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. P.L. Wimaladasa, Assistant Director (Southern), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. A.W. Rajapaksha, Assistant Director (Southern), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. K.G.S. Weerasinghe, Assistant Director (Vauniya), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. W.A. Lalith Kumara, Assistant Director (Trincomalee), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. W.D.M.J. Wickramasinghe, Assistant Director (Polonnaruwa), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. W.P.A.S. Weerawardana, Department of Civil Security (Co-ordinating Officer Electric Fence), Department of Wildlife Conservation
 Mr. Wijayamuni Sayuri Soyza, Manager, Sri Lanka Wildlife Trust

Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,095,166	1,541,400	1,400,000
Recurrent Expenditure	601,556	707,300	730,000
Capital Expenditure	493,610	834,100	670,000
179 - Minister of Wildlife Resources Conservation			
Total Expenditure	98,302	103,475	96,700
Recurrent Expenditure	74,438	80,025	86,700
Capital Expenditure	23,864	23,450	10,000
284 - Department of Wildlife Conservation			
Total Expenditure	996,864	1,437,925	1,303,300
Recurrent Expenditure	527,118	627,275	643,300
Capital Expenditure	469,746	810,650	660,000

The Committee considered and approved the Estimates for the Heads 179, 284 - Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation.

The Hon. Chairman requested that early action be taken to mitigate and solve the long-lasting human elephant conflict in the country. Hon. Gamini Vijith Wijayamuni de Zoysa stated all steps were taken to implement necessary precautionary measures but the disturbing factors were mainly human involvement in the natural habitats of elephants like illicit felling of trees, clearing jungles for cultivation, and occupying elephant-passes etc. For the protection of both human and elephants, ample food and water need to be ensured, necessary jungle paths (elephant-pass) need to be preserved for breeding and survival of elephant population, while ensuring food and water to them in their natural habitat like Villus.

The Hon. Minister of Wildlife Conservation further explained that a live barrier in jute can be introduced as a fence to separate human occupied areas from the jungle so elephants will not access villages, and stressed the need to preserve and manage the total forest cover for the safety of animals, with no further clearing of jungles. The Chairman stated that assistance of other public and private sector agencies be obtained for development and maintenance of lakes, reservoirs etc., within the jungles and forest reserves. The Committee strongly recommends that early action be taken to mitigate and solve the long-lasting human elephant conflict whilst preserving the natural habitats required for elephants.

Hon. John Amaratunga suggested that the bungalows in forest reserves were not maintained properly so as to attract more local and foreign tourists, and the Hon. Minister of Wildlife Conservation stated that a plan was underway for the rehabilitation of bungalows and camp sites. The Hon. Minister of Wildlife Conservation stated that according to their new concept, wild-life friends should not confine themselves to bungalows, but should stay in eco-friendly open areas like camp sites and tree houses, and explained that the charges for rests of the Department were very much less than that of private Hotels. He added that necessary vehicles and increased remunerations would be provided to the guides, in order to obtain a better service and their strength of 1200 men were working to protect the forest reserves of 1/14 of the country's land.

Hon. V.S. Radhakrishnan requested that suitable lands be given to those who were living in crown lands in Seetha Eliya for more than 30 years who were ordered to be ejected after a court case. The Hon. Minister of Wildlife Conservation, stating that large areas in forests were encroached by certain people, regretted that large areas of forest lands cannot be released for human settlements, however, agreed to provide relief to them. He said that large farm lands given to milk producing companies need to be shifted away from forests in order to preserve natural forest lands.

The Committee recommends that steps be taken to prevent unauthorized filling and constructions within the Muthurajawela Reserve, and stressed the need to minimize human activities in protected areas like Hakgala, Attidiya and Nuwara Eliya reservations where human settlements had taken place over a period of time. The Committee also recommends that suitable steps be taken to protect the natural environment of the Negombo lagoon.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 179, 284 - Ministry of Wildlife Resources Conservation.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera

Hon. John Amaratunga

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Hon. Ministers present:

Hon. Basheer Segu Dawood, Minister Productivity Promotion

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.S. Mudalige, Additional Director General, National Planning Department

Mr. Jude Nilukshan, Director, National Budget Department

Mrs. Sithara Jayasena, Acting Director, Management Services Department

Mr. K.M. Riswi, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

Ms. H.L.J.K. Amarasekara, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

Ministry of Productivity Promotion

Officers present:

Mr. Upali Marasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Productivity Promotion
 Mr. W.M.R.P. Weerasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Productivity Promotion
 Mrs. P. Edirisinghe, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Productivity Promotion
 Mrs. B.G. Irangani, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Productivity Promotion
 Ms. Nirupa Thennakoon, Internal Auditor, Ministry of Productivity Promotion
 Mrs. D.N.P.Kularathna, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Productivity Promotion
 Mr. K.D.N. Ranjith Ashoka, Director General, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mr. A. Sarnkan, Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Ms. E.M. Nalika Edirisinghe, Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mr. Thrijudeen, Chief Accountant, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mrs. M.N. Gunawardana, Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Ms. D.K. Oshani, Deputy Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mr. A.M.D.B. Attapathu, Deputy Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mrs. H.A.C. Nirukshika, Deputy Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mr. L.P.L. Gunarathna, Assistant Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Ms. P.A.C.D. Jayamali, Assistant Director, Department of Manpower & Employment
 Mr. W.M.D. Suranga Gunarathna, Director, National productivity Secretariat
 Mrs. A.D.Y. Anandani, Deputy Director, National productivity Secretariat
 Mrs. G.P.J. Siriwardana, Deputy Director, National productivity Secretariat
 Mr. T.H.B.A. Deshapriya, Deputy Director, National productivity Secretariat

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee, took the Chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 181 and 328 - Ministry of Productivity Promotion.

Ministry of Productivity Promotion	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	567,395	803,540	763,050
Recurrent Expenditure	436,397	672,800	667,150
Capital Expenditure	130,999	130,740	95,900
181 - Minister of Productivity Promotion			
Total Expenditure	337,553	530,340	465,950
Recurrent Expenditure	240,007	424,200	410,550
Capital Expenditure	97,545	106,140	55,400
328 - Department of Manpower and Employment			
Total Expenditure	229,842	273,200	297,100
Recurrent Expenditure	196,389	248,600	256,600
Capital Expenditure	33,453	24,600	40,500

Mr. Upali Marasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Productivity Promotion, Mr. W.M.D. Suranga Gunarathna, Director of the National Productivity Secretariat and Mr. K.D.N. Ranjith Ashoka, Director General of Sri Lanka Jobs Net (Rakiya Piyasa) made presentations explaining the achievements and progress of the year 2014 and the plans and targets for year 2015.

The Hon. Chairman stressed the necessity to create a mechanism to measure the productivity in various sectors especially among the public servants, and the Secretary to the Ministry stated that an assessment programme launched in the Divisional secretariats had recorded 80%-85% success. Hon. M. Joseph Michel Perera stressed that a system to measure the achievements in productivity compared to the money spent should be started in the Grama Seva Division level in order to benefit the people at grass root level.

Hon. Chairman, Hon. M. Joseph Michel Perera and Hon. John Amaratunga suggested that an

island-wide productivity plan be prepared including the Education Sector where a lot of time of teachers is wasted in following up their personal administrative issues with the Ministry, and that the National Productivity Secretariat should take steps to measure the productivity of the newly recruited graduates.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 181 and 328 - Ministry of Productivity Promotion.

At 2.40 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Reginold Cooray, Minister of Minor Export Crops Promotion

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.S. Mudalige, Additional Director General, Department of National Budget
Mrs. Sithara Jayasena, Actg. Director, Department of Management Services
Mr. K.M. Riswi, Assistant Director, Department of National Budget
Ms. H.L.J.K. Amarasekara, Assistant Director, Department of National Budget

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotion

Officials present:

Mr. W.M.V. Narampanawa, Secretary, Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Ms. E.M.M.R.K. Ekanayake, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Mr. P.L. Namasena, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Mr. W.M.S.K. Wanigasooriya, Director (Development), Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Ms. T.H. Handunhewa, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Mr. A.T. Senevirathna, Deputy Director (Development), Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Mr. R.C. Watawala, Assistant Director (Education and Promotion), Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Ms. D.N. Ambepitiya, Assistant Director (Planning), Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Mr. W.D.R.S. Kumara, (Development Officer), Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Ms. K.K. Agra Iroshini (Development Officer), Ministry of Minor Export Corps Promotion
Mr. A.N.K.A. Rupasingha, Director General, Department of Export Agriculture
Dr. A.P. Heenkenda, Additional Director General (Research), Department of Export Agriculture
Dr. M.A.P.K. Senevirathne, Additional Director General, (Development), Department of Export Agriculture
Mr. K.G. Upali Ranawaka, Director (Administrator), Department of Export Agriculture
Mr. R.M.D.S.S. Rathnayaka, Chief Accountant, Department of Export Agriculture
Dr. A.H. Sumanasena, Director (Research), Department of Export Agriculture
Ms. S.P.L. Senevirathne, Director (Development), Department of Export Agriculture
Mr. K.G.G. Wijesinghe, Director (Research), Department of Export Agriculture
Dr. A.L.S. Dharmaparakkrama Director (Research), Department of Export Agriculture
Ms. A.P.P. Disna, Director (Regulations), Department of Export Agriculture
Mr. J.L. Keerthi Weerala, Deputy Director, Department of Export Agriculture
Mr. D.K. Jayakodi Arachchi, General Manager, Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation

Mr. G.B.B. Surendra, Assistant General Manager – Acting (Admin.), Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation
 Mr. R.M.P. Jayathissa, Acting Manager (Marketing), Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation
 Mr. M.T.S.K. Pieris, Manager (Finance), Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation
 Mr. S.S.B. Rathnayaka, Manager (Plantation), Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 180, 289 of the Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotions.

Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotion	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	747,801	1,031,439	1,030,392
Recurrent Expenditure	442,907	544,187	550,342
Capital Expenditure	304,895	487,252	480,050
180 - Minister of Minor Export Crops Promotion			
Total Expenditure	176,748	247,047	201,982
Recurrent Expenditure	116,777	140,445	145,032
Capital Expenditure	59,971	106,602	56,950
289 - Department of Export Agriculture			
Total Expenditure	571,053	784,392	828,410
Recurrent Expenditure	326,129	403,742	405,310
Capital Expenditure	244,923	380,650	423,100

Mr. W.M.V. Narampanawa, Secretary, Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotion made a presentation on the performances of the Ministry in the year 2014 and on proposed Plan of activities for the year 2015.

Replying a question by Hon. Nimal Sripala De Silva regarding the present situation of Cashew Plantation in Kondachchi, Mannar, the General Manager, Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation explained that out of 25,000 acres of cashew plantation in Kondachchi, 19,000 of acres were acquired by the government, another 2000 acres were cultivated by the Civil Security Department, and action was being taken to cultivate the balance land by the Cashew Corporation.

In reply to a question by Hon. John Amaratunga inquired about the decrease in cinnamon production, Hon. Reginold Cooray explained that farmers had turned to more beneficial alternative crops and climatic changes also had contributed to this decline, and added that quantities of cinnamon used for other value added products like soap etc., were not included in these statistics.

Replying to a question by the Hon. Chairman, the Director General, Department of Export Agriculture stated that the reasons for fluctuation of pepper production were bad climate, pests and diseases but by continuous research programmes the Department had been able to minimize the threats from pests and diseases. Hon. Chairman suggested that farmers of Mahaweli zone be provided ten thousand Garcinia plants which could be promoted under home gardening projects, and Hon. Reginold Cooray undertook to look into this request.

At 2.30 p.m., the Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities took the Chair.

Replying to a question by Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera about the recommendations made in the PAC and COPE reports of the previous years, the Secretary to the Ministry said that steps were taken to implement all those recommendations.

Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera suggested that a suitable programme be introduced to increase the betel production in the country, and the Director General, Department of Export Agriculture stated that new machinery and technology had been introduced in the plantations through Betel Research Institute at Narammala and farmers were given financial and technical assistance too.

Replying a question by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, the Director General, Department of Export Agriculture stated that funds allocated by the General Treasury were not adequate for all

their future development plans. The Committee appreciated the work plan and effort of the Hon. Minister and recommended to the Treasury that the total amount required for development work be provided in the next year's Budget.

The Committee approved the Estimates of Heads 180 and 289 of the Ministry of Minor Export Crops Promotion.

The Committee was at 3.30 p.m., adjourned till 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 10 November 2014.

sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Monday, 10 November 2014 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. W D J Senewiratne
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Pon Selvarasa
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Janaka Bandara

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Minister Present:

Hon. A. P. Jagath Pushpakumara, Minister of Coconut Development & Janatha Estate Development

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.M. Piyatissa, Additional Director, National Budget Department
Mr. P.H.A.S. Wijayarathne, Additional Director, Public Enterprises Department
Mr. K.D.S.R. Perera, Director, National Planning Department
Mr. M.A. Karunaratne, Assistant Director, Management Services Department
Ms. H.A.T. Erandhi, Assistant Director, Public Finance Department
Ms. H.L.J.K. Amarasekara, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

Ministry of Coconut Development & Janatha Estate Development

Officials Present:

Mr. W. M. Bandusena, Secretary (Acting), Ministry of Coconut Development & Janatha Estate Development
Mr. D.M.L. Bandaranayake, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Mr. G.G.N. Gunarathne, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Mr. N.S. Wanasinghe, Director (Planning), Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Ms. S. Narasinghe, Internal Auditor, Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Mrs. A.W.H.I.C. Weerakoon, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Ms. W.T.N.P. Jayasinghe, Accountant, Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Mr. W. Thilakarathne Banda, Assistant Director (Planning), Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Ms. K.W.K.I. Silva, Assistant Director (Planning), Ministry of Coconut Development & JED
Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, Chairman, Coconut Research Institute
Dr. H.A.J. Gunathilake, Director, Coconut Research Institute
Mrs. L.C.P. Fernandoo, Additional Director, Coconut Research Institute
Mr. R.M.U. Chandranath, Accountant, Coconut Research Institute
Mr. P.W.A. Fernando, Internal Auditor, Coconut Research Institute
Mr. A.S. Nanayakkara, Assistant Director (Admin), Coconut Research Institute
Mr. SarathKeerthirathna, Chairman, Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB)

Mrs. T.V.D.D.S. Karunaratne, General Manager, CCB
 Mr. K.D.L. Darmasiri, Deputy General Manager (Financial Management), CCB
 Mr. G.R. Bandula Kumara, Deputy General Manager (Extension & Development), CCB
 Mr. Athila Wijesinghe, Deputy General Manager (Est. & HR Development), CCB
 Mr. U.W.B.A. Weragoda, Deputy General Manager, CCB
 Mr. B. A. W. Bamunuarachchi, Internal Auditor, CCB
 Mr. Aruna Gunawardane, Chairman, Coconut Development Authority (CDA)
 Mr. M.P.N.M. Wickramasinghe, Director General, CDA
 Mrs. S.S. Purasinghe, Director (Quality Control & Quality Assurance), CDA
 Mrs. M.P. Sandayakanthi, Director (Finance), CDA
 Ms. L.I. De Silva, Assistant Director (Processing Development), CDA
 Mr. A.S. Balasooriya, Director (Marketing Dev. & Research), CDA
 Mr. W.M.T.S. Weerasooriya, Internal Auditor, CDA
 Mr. A.M. Chandrapala, Executive Director, Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. Rohan Rathnayake, Senior Accountant, Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. D.G.A.R. De Silva, Assistant General Manager (Plantations), Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. O.P. Punyakeerthi, Working Director, Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. H.P.M. Wimal Hemachandra, Internal Auditor, Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Dr. Sunil Jayasekara, Chairman, Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. P. G. Amarakoon, Executive Director, Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. Jude Rookantha Perera, Working Director, Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. N.M.S.K. Nillegoda, Chief Executive Officer, Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. S.M.M. Samarakoon, Deputy General Manager, Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. P.M.D.G. Premathilake, Manager (Finance), Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. M.M. Jayasiri Cooray, Internal Auditor, Kurunegala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd

In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. W.D. J. Senewiratne, proposed and seconded by Hon. Muthu Sivalingam and Hon. Janaka Bandara respectively, took the chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 178 - Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development.

Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	1,358,579	1,941,654	1,895,000
Recurrent Expenditure	663,638	952,105	977,000
Capital Expenditure	694,942	989,549	918,000
178 - Minister of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development			
Total Expenditure	1,358,579	1,941,654	1,895,000
Recurrent Expenditure	663,638	952,105	977,000
Capital Expenditure	694,942	989,549	918,000

Mr. W. M. Bandusena, Acting Secretary to the Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development made a presentation on the progress of the Year 2014 and target plan for the Year 2015.

Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle pointed out that there had been a long delay in filling of vacancies advertised by the Chilaw Plantation (Pvt) Ltd, and recruitments were not done for total approved cadre. The General Manager of Coconut Cultivation Board stated the delay was due to identifying and short-listing qualified persons and that the interviews had now been scheduled for this month.

Replying to a question by Hon. John Amaratunga regarding implementation of the recommendations made by the last year's Committee, the Acting Secretary stated that steps had been taken to implement measures to protect coconut seedlings from the insects and other

creatures, to introduce a new variety of coconut with high yield. He added that steps were taken to preserve and use coconut based raw materials such as coconut water, coconut shell, coconut husks in a commercial production process, to promote Sri Lanka's coconut industry at COCOTECH summit, to improve the productivity of coconut lands in various ways such as coconut related inter-cropping and animal husbandry programs.

Hon. John Amaratunga further inquired whether farmers were educated about proper planting methods and whether work of field officers were properly monitored. The Chairman of Coconut Cultivation Board informed that awareness programs had been conducted through '*Kapruka Purawara*' through which coconut seedlings also were successfully distributed. He further informed that any complaint regarding the work of officers would be immediately addressed.

Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara informed that steps had been taken to increase the cadre of Coconut Development Officers from 114 to 325 and the recruitment process was in progress, and a further graduate cadre of 733 had also been approved out of which around 400 had already assumed duties.

Replying to a question raised by Hon. John Amaratunga about the quality of fertilizer used in coconut plantations, Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara stated that the importation and distribution of fertilizer were monitored through by the National Fertilizer Secretariat and the quality of fertilizer purchased for the institutions under Ministry were regularly checked. The Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle and Hon. W.D.J. Senewiratne proposed that the quality of fertilizer available in the market also be frequently tested by the Coconut Research Institute or the Coconut Development Authority.

Referring to an inquiry made by Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle as to whether alternatives for MOP (Muriate of Potash) were introduced, the Director of Coconut Research Institute informed that the National Fertilizer Secretariat had been informed of the high demand for Potassium Sulphate.

In reply to a question by Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle regarding organic fertilizer propagation programs, the General Manager of Coconut Cultivation Board stated that Rs.50 M had been allocated to popularize organic fertilizer which would be given adequate subsidies.

Replying an inquiry by Hon. John Amaratunga about exporting coconut water and the Chairman of Coconut Development Authority informed that 311 metric tons had been exported earning Rs. 64.5 M. He further informed that three new mills to be opened in the mid of year 2015 and have planned to increase the amount exported.

Hon. John Amaratunga inquired about the coconut cultivation in Eastern Province and the Committee was informed that three new nurseries were in operation in Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Pasikuda and the nursery at Milanpaweli was in operation since 2010, under '*Kapruka Purawara*' societies.

In reply to a question by Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne, the Chairman of Coconut Cultivation Board informed that the present yield was adequate for the country's consumption as well as for the industries.

Hon. John Amaratunga suggested to promote king-coconut cultivation and to develop and introduce hybrid plants especially in urban areas. The Chairman of Coconut Cultivation Board informed that, last year, king coconut exports had earned a good income. The Director of Coconut Research Institute stated that steps had been taken to produce hybrid varieties with the normal coconut and Red *Kundira* which has good quality nuts.

The Committee appreciated the good work done by the Ministry.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 178 - Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development.

PRESENT:

Hon. W.D.J. Senewiratne
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Hunais Farook

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary-General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Dayashritha Tissera, Minister of State Resources and Enterprises Development

Other Members Present

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.M. Piyatissa, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Mr. P.H.A.S. Wijayarathne, Additional Director General, Public Enterprises Department
Mr. K.D.S.R. Perera, Director, National Planning Department
Mr. M.A. Karunaratne, Assistant Director, Management Service Department
Ms. H.A.T. Erandhi, Assistant Director, Fiscal Policy Department
Ms. H.L.J.K. Amarasekara, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

Ministry of State Resources and Enterprises Development

Officials Present:

Mr. S.S. Miyawala, Secretary, Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development
Mr. S. A.N. Saranatissa, Additional Secretary (Admin)
Mr. D.D. Amarathunge, Additional Secretary (Development)
Mr. D. Swarnapala, Additional Secretary (Restructuring)
Mrs. M.A. Nalani, Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin)
Mr. T.O.R. Wanigaratne, Chief Accountant
Mrs. K.M.P.S. Perera, Chief Internal Auditor
Ms. W. A. P. Wellappuli, Director (Planning)
Mrs. G.P.Y. Kumari, Accountant
Mr. D.J.U. Purasinghe, Chairman, Paranthan Chemicals Company Ltd.
Mr. Jaliya P. Kulasekara, Chairman, Lanka Phosphate Ltd.
Mr. Roshan Maddumage, Chairman, Lanka Salusala Ltd.
Mr. Ivan de Almeda, Chairman (Actg), Janatha Estates Development Board
Mr. Mangala C. Senarath, Competent Authority, National Paper Company
Mr. G. Sarath Wicramaratne, Competent Authority, Lanka Ceramic Corporation
Mr. Sumith Jayaratne, Chief Executive Officer, State Resources Management Corporation
Mr. J.K.N.C. Perera, Working Director, Lanka Cement plc.
Mr. P.H.R.U.D. Bandara, General Manager, Lanka Phosphate Ltd.
Mr. M.M. W. Dahanayake, General Manager, Lanka Mineral Sands Ltd
Mr. S. Mahesh T. De Silva, General Manager, Elkaduwa Plantations Ltd
Mr. R. A. S. W. N. Alwis, General Manager, Lanka Salusala Ltd.
Mrs. W.D. Keerthilatha, General Manager (Actg), Paranthan Chemicals Company Ltd.
Mr. Newil Abeyratne, Acting General Manager, Janatha Estates Development Board
Miss. M.G.A.T.R. Jayathilaka, Accountant, Sri Lanka Cement Corporation
Mr. S. Selverkumar, Supplies Manager, Sri Lanka Cement Corporation
Mr. Y.C.C. Perera, Internal Auditor, National Paper Corporation

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 175 - Ministry of State Resources and Enterprises Development.

Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development	Rs. '000	2013	2014 Revised Budget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure		778,995	474,642	257,400
Recurrent Expenditure		84,190	93,480	93,400
Capital Expenditure		694,805	381,162	164,000
175 - Minister of State Resources and Enterprise Development				
Total Expenditure		778,995	474,642	257,400
Recurrent Expenditure		84,190	93,480	93,400
Capital Expenditure		694,805	381,162	164,000

Mr. S.S. Miyanawala, Secretary, Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

In reply to a question made by Hon. Hunais Farook, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that it was not possible to set up a Salusala Branch in the Northern Province.

Replying a question by the Hon. (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, the Secretary to the Ministry said that out of three defunct factories in North and East, viz; Kankasanthurai Cement Factory, Paranthan Chemical Factory and Valachchanai Paper Corporation, only the Valachchanai Paper Mill was in operation while Paranthan Chemical Factory had been destroyed by the terrorists and the Kankasanthurai Cement Factory was still under security forces.

Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle inquired about collecting waste paper from government institutions and obtaining adequate financial provisions to commence paper manufacturing, and the Secretary to the Ministry stated that the recommendation of the previous Committee had already been implemented.

Regarding the non-settlement of EPF and ETF of estate workers in the JEDB and SPC, Hon. Dayashritha Tissera, Minister of State Resources and Enterprises Development explained that most of the cases filed in the courts had been settled and the others would be settled early.

Replying to a question by Hon. John Amaratunga regarding defunct companies like Colombo Sack Makers Ltd., and Statcon Rubber Company Ltd, the Secretary to the Ministry stated those two institutions had already been liquidated.

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice, urged that closed down Eragama Tile factory, owned by Ceylon Ceramics Corporation be re-opened and reinstated the employees who worked there. The Secretary informed that plans were prepared to find a suitable investor on a long term lease. Hon. Hunais Farook requested that steps be taken to re-open the Oddusudan Factory with assistance of the Divisional Secretary, and the Secretary to the Ministry agreed to look into this.

The Committee approved the Estimates Head 175 - Ministry of State Resources and Enterprise Development.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. MuthuSivalingam
 Hon. Pon.Selvarasa
 Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva
 Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) SudarshiniFernandopulle

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. LakshmanSenewiratne, Minister of Sugar Industry Development
 Hon. Jeewan Kumaranatunga, Minister of Postal Services

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.M. Piyatissa, Additional Director General, Department of National Budget
 Mr. P.H.A.S. Wijayarathne, Additional Director General, Department of Public Enterprises
 Mr. T.A.D.D. Premarathne, Director, Department of National Planning

Ministry of Sugar Industry Development

Officials Present:

Mr. Udaya R. Senevirathne, Secretary, Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
 Mr. S. Senanayeka, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
 Ms. M.H. Ramyawathi, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
 Mr. K.M.V.J. Priyanjith, Asst. Director Planning, Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
 Ms. S.R.S. De Silva, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
 Mrs. S.A.N.A. De Silva, Development Officer, Ministry of Sugar Industry Development
 Mr. D.H.V. Perera, Director/CEO, Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. W.M. Karunaratne, General Manager (Procurement & Mktg.), Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. N.H.S. Navaratne, General Manager (Finance), Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. C.E. Amunugama, Chief Operating Officer, Sevanagala Sugar Industries Ltd & Pelwatte Sugar Industries
 Mr. M. Jayakody, General Manager (Audt/HR/Mon.), Pelwatte Sugar Industries
 Mr. M.M.D.S.N. Perera, Deputy General Manager (Agriculture), Pelwatte Sugar Industries
 Mr. D.N. Dayaratne, Deputy General Manager (Factory) Pelwatte Sugar Industries
 Mr. B.A.G.N. Illangakoon, Deputy General Manager (Operations)
 Mr. KingslyPathirana, Senior Accountant, Sevanagala Sugar Industries
 Mr. M.M.M. Ifthikar, General Manager, Higurana Sugar Industries Ltd
 Mr. R.M.G. Kuda Banda Rathnayaka, Chief Executive Officer, Galoya Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. W.K.D.T. Abeyrathne, Chief Operating Officer, Galoya Plantation (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. S.K. Cyrill, Chairman, Sugarcane Research Institute
 Mr. A.P. Keerthipala, Director/Chief Executive, Sugarcane Research Institute
 Mr. W.R.G. Witharama, Deputy Director, Sugarcane Research Institute
 Mr. D.G. Manamudali, Deputy Director (Finance), Sugarcane Research Institute
 Mr. AnuraWijesooriya, Chief Research Officer, Sugarcane Research Institute
 Mr. P.R.A.W. Bandara, General Manager, Kantale Sugar Industries Ltd

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, proposed and seconded by Hon. Muthu Sivalingam and Hon. (Dr) Harsha De Silva respectively, took the chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 186 - Ministry of Sugar Industry Development.

Ministry of Sugar Industry Development	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure		267,334	399,000
Recurrent Expenditure		172,384	318,000
Capital Expenditure		94,950	81,000
186 - Minister of Sugar Industry Development			
Total Expenditure		267,334	399,000
Recurrent Expenditure		172,384	318,000
Capital Expenditure		94,950	81,000

Mr. Udaya R. Senevirathne, Secretary to the Ministry of Sugar Industry Development made a presentation explaining the progress in the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

The Chairman congratulated for implementing two recommendations made last year viz;

establishment of two power generation plants at Pelawatta and Sevanagala Sugar Factories to generate at least 16 MW and noted that they were not using electricity from the National Grid for their operations. The Chairman also thanked for giving more facilities to the sugarcane farmers to increase the local sugarcane production and helping to reduce sugar imports.

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, Minister of Sugar Industry Development requested the General Treasury to increase the budgetary allocation for the Sugarcane Research Institute to improve the tissue culture technology for the next year so that good hybrid plants resistant to common diseases could be produced and the harvest could be increased.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 186 - Ministry of Sugar Industry Development.

Ministry of Postal Services

Officials Present:

Mr. Hemasiri Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Postal Services
 Mrs. A.S.M.S. Mahanama, Additional Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Postal Services
 Mrs. S.H.A.N.D. Abhayarathna, Additional Secretary (Development), Ministry of Postal Services
 Mr. P.L. Pathmakumara, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Postal Services
 Mr. A.D.S. Somasiri, Director (Planning), Ministry of Postal Services
 Mr. R.P. Premathilaka, Chief Internal Auditor
 Mr. K.L.D.N. Piyal, Accountant (Pay), Ministry of Postal Services
 Mrs. U.I. Madhushani, Assistant Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Postal Services
 Mr. E.Y.P. Zoysa, Assistant Director (Planning), Ministry of Postal Services
 Ms. K.P.L. Roshini, Assistant Secretary (Development), Ministry of Postal Services
 Mr. K.H. Walakuarachchi, Administrative Officer
 Mr. D.L.P.R. Abhayarathna, Postmaster General
 Mr. K.A.S. Senadheera, Deputy Postmaster General
 Mrs. H.D.C.P. Gunasekara, Deputy Postmaster General
 Mr. W.A.G. Wickramasingha, Deputy Postmaster General (Operation)
 Mr. B.K.R. Balasooriya, Chief Accountant, Department of Posts
 Mrs. T. Liyanage, Chief Internal Auditor, Department of Posts
 Mr. K.A.N.P. Kandanaarachchi, Senior Administration Secretary
 Mr. K. Kanagasundaram, Controller (Operation)
 Mr. R.A. David, Superintendent (CME), Department of Posts
 Mr. H.V.D.I. Abewickrama, Superintendent (SPO), Department of Posts
 Mr. S. Jebarathnam, Superintendent (Planning), Department of Posts
 Mr. T. Shriharan, Superintendent (Planning), Department of Posts

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 108, 308 - Ministry of Postal Services.

Ministry of Postal Services	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	9,202,781	9,986,000	10,057,400
Recurrent Expenditure	8,850,346	9,593,000	9,837,400
Capital Expenditure	352,436	393,000	220,000
108 - Minister of Postal Services			
Total Expenditure	217,945	359,000	126,900
Recurrent Expenditure	84,344	112,900	107,900
Capital Expenditure	133,601	246,100	19,000
308- Department of Posts			
Total Expenditure	8,984,836	9,627,000	9,930,500
Recurrent Expenditure	8,766,001	9,480,100	9,729,500
Capital Expenditure	218,834	146,900	201,000

Mr. Hemasiri Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Postal Services made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

Hon. Muthu Sivalingam inquired about the existing vacancies in Estate post offices and requested to take action to fill them immediately. The Secretary to the Ministry explained that 400 vacancies out of 500 existed in estate post offices had been filled in 2014 and the treasury approval had been granted to fill the balance 100 vacancies in 2015.

Hon. Pon. Selvarasa appreciated the prompt action taken by the Ministry of Postal Services to establish a new sub post office in Vavunathiev.

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silvastated that more attention should be paid to maintain the building and the land of the Etul Kotte post office in a clean and tidy manner. The Hon. Minister of Postal Services stated that many post offices need repairs and that 80% of post offices in the island were to be repaired according to the availability of funds.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 108, 308 - Ministry of Postal Services.

The Committee was at 3.00 p.m. adjourned till 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 11th November 2014.

sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Tuesday, 11 November 2014 at 10.30a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Janaka Bandara
Hon. (Mrs). Rosy Senanayake

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. C.B. Ratnayake, Minister of Private Transport Service
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Technology and Research

Other Members of Parliament

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Deputy Speaker
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.M. Piyatissa, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Ms. M. Gangatharan Additional Director General, National Planning Department
Mr. A.H.S. Gunawardane, Director, National Budget Department
Mr. Kosala Gamage, Assistant Director, Management Services Department

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, proposed and seconded by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna and Hon. Janaka Bandara respectively, took the chair.

Ministry of Private Transport Service

Officials Present:

Mr. Padmasiri Jayamanne, Secretary, Ministry of Private Transport Services
Mrs. P. Hatharasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Private Transport Services

Mr. P.H.A. Wimalaweera, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Mr. A. Podiralahami, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Mr. W.W. Harison, Director (Planning), Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Mr. Laksan Subasinghe, Assistant Director (Planning), Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Mr. M.B.M.P.W.U.A.Rajasinghe, Accountant, Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Mr. E.J.C.Kumara, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Ms. D.D.B.Nishani, Management Assistant III, Ministry of Private Transport Services
 Mr. RenukaDushyantha Perera, Chairman, National Transport Commission
 Mr. K. Buddhadasa, Working Director, National Transport Commission
 Mrs. W.P.D.V.M. Weerasinghe, Director General (Acting), National Transport Commission
 Mr. H.W. Wipulasena, Director (Planning), National Transport Commission
 Mrs.K.A.S.Karunaratna, Assistant Director (Acting), National Transport Commission
 Mr.S.D.Atukorala, Assistant Director (Acting), National Transport Commission
 Ms.Niranjale Perera, Executive Officer III, National Transport Commission
 Mr. B.M. Ifthikar, Executive Officer III, National Transport Commission
 Mrs. HiraniThenuwara, Executive Officer III, National Transport Commission
 Mrs.D.N.Weerathunga, Accountant, National Transport Commission
 Mr. H.L.S.R. Priyamali, Assistant Accountant, National Transport Commission

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 184 - Ministry of Private Transport Services.

Ministry of Private Transport Services	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		RevisedBudget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	504,926	769,000	881,000
Recurrent Expenditure	431,563	575,000	681,000
Capital Expenditure	73,363	194,000	200,000
184 - Minister of Private Transport Services			
Total Expenditure	504,926	769,000	881,000
Recurrent Expenditure	431,563	575,000	681,000
Capital Expenditure	73,363	194,000	200,000

Mr.PadmasiriJayamane, Secretary to the Ministry of Private Transport Services, made a presentation explaining the progress and achievement made in 2014 and the programme and target of work for year 2015.

Referring to the question raised by the Hon.MahindaSamarasinghe on the National Policy on Private Transport with the coordination of the line Ministries and Provincial councils, the secretary stated that the Ministry is having monthly discussions with Provincial Transport Authorities and once in three months with Provincial Transport Ministers and the Transport Ministry also invited for these discussions. He further added there should be a systematic legal procedure to achieve the target of the "MahindaChinthana" in order to bring all institutions under one umbrella. The National Transport Commission is giving financial and legal support for this process.

The Hon. John Amarathunga inquired about the steps taken to implement the recommendations of previous Committee. The Secretary referring to this stated that the cabinet approval has already been obtained for the National Transport Policy on Private Transport and action would be taken by the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Private Transport Services jointly to present a Cabinet Memorandum. The Committee suggested that early action be taken to implement the policy.

Referring to the question by Hon. John Amarathunga regarding the heavy traffic jam in metropolitan cities specially in Colombo, the secretary stated that the Ministry of Transport is on the process of formulating the "Colombo Urban Master Plan" with the financial support of JICA and the final report will be published in December and that will assist for control the traffic jam as well as air pollution. He further stated the Ministry is planning to implement "park and ride" programme

in Moratuwa, Kaduwela, Maharagama and Kiribathgoda. The Hon. Chairman and Hon. John Amarathunga emphasized the necessity of early implementation of these programs.

Regarding the disciplinary control of the drivers and conductors, the Secretary stated that a sub Committee had already been appointed to investigate the statistics and the Committee Report in the year 2013 had been issued, and action had been taken to train the drivers and conductors under the supervision of National Transport Commission and the National Foundation Institute.

Replying to the question raised by Hon. (Mrs) Rosy Senanayaka regarding the violence against women in the transportation, Hon Minister C.B.Rathnayaka stated that the GPRS monitoring system with CCTV cameras would be introduced in the near future and the legal provisions in this regard would be further strengthened.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 184 - Ministry of Private Transport Services.

11.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. John Amarathunga

Hon. R. Yogarajan

Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Technology & Research

Other Members Present:

Hon. C.B. Rathnayake, Minister of Private Transport Services

Hon. (Mrs). Rosy Senanayake

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. Kosala Gamage, Assist. Director, Management Services Department

Mr. K.M. Riswi, Assist. Director, National Budget Department

Ministry of Technology & Research

Officials Present:

Mrs. Dhara Wijayathilake, Secretary, Ministry of Technology & Research

Mrs. D.K. Renuka Ekanayake, Additional Secretary (Administration & Finance), Ministry of Technology & Research

Mr. Madhawa Waidyaratne, Additional Secretary (Technology Transfer), Ministry of Technology & Research

Mr. M.M. Dayaratne, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Technology & Research

Mr. A.K.P. Pieris, Chief Internal Auditor, Ministry of Technology & Research

Mrs. Himali W.K. Athaudage, Director (International), Ministry of Technology & Research

Mrs. S.R.B.R.G.C. Gannoruwa, Director (Planning), Ministry of Technology & Research

Mrs. A.L. Nazeema, Director (Planning), Ministry of Technology & Research

Dr. D.M.D.O. Kithsiri Dissanayake, Chairman, Sri Lanka Standards Institution

Dr. L.N. Senaweera, Director General, Sri Lanka Standards Institution

Mr. W.G.M.S. Perera, Internal Auditor, Sri Lanka Standards Institution

Mr. D.B.M. Rajasinghe, Senior Deputy Director (Finance), Sri Lanka Standards Institution

Eng. Anura Wijayapala, Chairman, Sri Lanka National Engineering Research & Development Centre

Eng. D.D. Ananda Namal, Director General, Sri Lanka NERD Centre

Eng. G.K.K. De Silva, Deputy Director General (Research & Development), Sri Lanka NERD Centre

Mrs.D.V.S.Perera, Finance Manager, Sri Lanka NERD Centre
 Mr. Deepal Sooriaarachchi, Commissioner, Sri Lanka Inventors Commission
 Mr. Dinesh Sathrukalsinghe, Director, Sri Lanka Inventors Commission
 Prof. C.B. Dissanayake, Director, Institute of National Fundamental Studies
 Dr.P.S.B.Wanduragala, Secretary, Institute of National Fundamental Studies
 Mrs. P.S.S.Samarakkodi, Deputy Accountant, Institute of National Fundamental Studies
 Prof.W.L.Sumathipala, Chairman, National Science Foundation
 Mrs.P.A.S.F.Perera, Acting Director General, National Science Foundation
 Miss T.D.P.P.Samaranayake, Senior Accountant, National Science Foundation
 Prof.H.Y. Ranjith Perera, Chairman, Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
 Eng.Sanath Panawannage, Director General, Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
 Mr.W.P.Silva, Additional Director General (Administration & Finance), Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
 Mr. Ashok Sanjeewa Weerapperuma, Senior Deputy Director (Finance), Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
 Mr. R.A. Gamini, Assistant Director (Admin), Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
 Mr. J.P.D.S. Athuraliya, Act. Deputy Director General, Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technology
 Prof.W.Abayawickrama, Chairman, Industrial Technology Institute
 Mr.D.L.C.A.Gunaratne, Senior Deputy Director (Finance), Industrial Technology Institute
 Mr.P.P.Gunasena, Chairman, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board
 Mr.T.Wickramasinghe, Director, Industrial Technology Institute
 Mr.D.G.Pushpakumara, Deputy Director (Finance & Administration), Industrial Technology Institute
 Mrs.Manisha.C.Rajapakse, Executive Secretary, National Research Council
 Mr.Samantha Kumara Gamhewa, Assistant Accountant, National Research Council
 Prof. Dhammika Thantrigoda, Chairman, National Science & Technology Commission
 Dr.Muditha Liyanagedara, Director, National Science & Technology Commission
 Mrs.G.C.Kumari Peiris, Deputy Director (Finance & Administration), National Science & Technology Commission
 Mr.D.G.L.Wickramanayake, Director General, Atomic Energy Authority
 Mr.M.M.P.Wijesekara, Acting Senior Deputy Director, Atomic Energy Authority
 Mr.H.L.AnilRanjith, Director (Radiation Protection Division), Atomic Energy Authority
 Mr.P.R.Gunawardane, Chief Executive Officer, Polipto Lanka (Pvt) Company
 Mr. Nirosh Dharmarathne, Finance Manager, SLINTEC (Pvt) Ltd
 Mr. Harin De Silva Wijerathne, CEO, SLINTEC (Pvt) Ltd

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 133 - Ministry of Technology & Research.

Ministry of Technology & Research	2013	2014	2015
Rs. '000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	3,203,466	3,913,298	4,203,000
Recurrent Expenditure	1,154,544	1,392,330	1,578,000
Capital Expenditure	2,048,922	2,520,968	2,625,000
133 - Ministry of Technology & Research			
Total Expenditure	3,203,466	3,913,298	4,203,000
Recurrent Expenditure	1,154,544	1,392,330	1,578,000
Capital Expenditure	2,048,922	2,520,968	2,625,000

Mrs. Dhara Wijayathilake, Secretary, to the Ministry of Technology & Research made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

Hon. (Mrs.) Rosy Senanayake wished to know whether the Government had allocated enough funds to create a knowledge base economy thus developing science, technology and innovation. The

Hon Minister of Technology and Research stated that discussions were held with 27 Ministries and all including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education were requested to invest at least 1% of their capital budget to Research & Development Investment Plan. The Chairman appreciated the efforts of the Hon. Minister and also officials of the Ministry for their effort and stated that allocations for Research and Development need to be increased.

Replying to a question by Hon. John Amaratunga as to why the valuable mineral resources in Sri Lanka were not developed to make value added products, The CEO, SLINTEC (Pvt) Ltd explained that SLINTEC had identified Titanium, Ilmanite and Clay deposits as well as Graphite as main resources of the country, and special attention would be paid to use them for agriculture, apparel and Nutraceutical areas. A 3 year program of investment for the Titanium & Thorium had been identified and the Treasury had agreed to provide funds for the project in the next 3 to 5 years.

The Hon. Minister explained that Phosphate was to be converted to a soluble form by using sulfuric acid which is harmful to the environment, and now the SLINTEC was experimenting to invent a new eco-friendly process by which the value could be increased from 400 US\$ per 1MT Ilmanite upto 14000 US\$ per 1MT of Titanium.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 133 - Ministry of Technology & Research.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Kandiah Premachandran
Hon. Pon. Selvarasa
Hon. R. Yogarajan
Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. Hunais Farook

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Public Management Reforms
Hon. S.M. Chardrasena, Minister of Special Projects and Deputy Minister of Economic Development

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Mr. S.M. Piyatissa, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Mr. Jude Nilukshan, Director, National Budget Department
Mrs. B.G.B.N. Dilshari, Assistant Director, National Budget Department
Ms. G.R.S. Thilakerathne, Assistant Director, National Budget Department
Ms. P.H. Chandima, Assistant Director, National Planning Department
Mr. Kosala Gamage, Assistant Director, Management Services Department

Ministry of Public Management Reforms

Officials present:

Mr. W.M. Bandusena, Secretary, Ministry of Public Management Reforms
Ms. W.J.P.S. Weerakoon, Additional Secretary
Miss. W.M. Apsara Weerasekara, Co-coordinating Secretary to the Secretary
Mr. P.A. Thilakarathne, Chief Accountant
Mr. Prasad Piyasena, Director (Project)
Ms. A.P.L.D.D.N. Fernando, Director (Planning)
Ms. G.N. Munaweera, Internal Auditor
Miss. K.A.I.E. Kollure, Assistant Secretary
Miss. S.A.H. Samarasinghe, Assistant Secretary
Mr. D.S. Paranamana, Assistant Director (Planning)

In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe proposed and seconded by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna and Hon. Hunais Farook respectively, took the chair.

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 173 - Ministry of Public Management Reforms.

Ministry of Public Management Reforms	2013	2014	2015
Rs.'000		Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure	178,288	239,800	238,500
Recurrent Expenditure	114,656	132,800	136,500
Capital Expenditure	63,632	107,000	102,000
173 - Minister of Public Management Reforms			
Total Expenditure	178,288	239,800	238,500
Recurrent Expenditure	114,656	132,800	136,500
Capital Expenditure	63,632	107,000	102,000

Mr. W.M. Bandusena, Secretary to the Ministry of Public Management Reforms made a presentation on the progress of the Year 2014 and the program of work for the Year 2015.

The Secretary explained that an island-wide project has been launched to create Model Offices in all the public sector organizations, but with the allocated funds only 285 offices would be redesigned out of 1000 planned in 2015. He also stated that an IT based Public Grievance Redress Mechanism had been introduced in 2014, and added that they were taking steps to amend the Service Minutes and Scheme of Recruitments as per the Administration Circular 06/2006. The Secretary further informed that a project named "Red Tape Challenge" had been implemented as a pilot project in order to avoid bottle necks in the public sector institutions. He stated that a National e-Human Resource Management System had also been implemented.

Hon. Hunais Farook pointed out high qualifications would not be required for minor grades and requested that such SoRs be amended. The Secretary explained that such amendments need to be done by the respective Ministries after discussing with the Management Services Department.

Hon. Hunais Farook pointed out that, in certain Divisional Secretariats in the Northern Province, public had not been able to meet officials even on public days and requested to remedy this situation. The Secretary informed that such issues were being addressed by the concept of Red Tape Challenge and the Model Office Concept, and many Divisional Secretariat offices in Kurunegala and Nuwara-Eliya had been developed as model offices. He informed that the Chief Minister of Northern Province was requested to nominate a few officers to introduce this concept, and a reply is awaited. The Committee recommended to write to the District Secretaries and expedite the action.

Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle suggested to extend this project to Local Government bodies as well and the Secretary said that it could be done if funds were made available by the Treasury, and cross organizational processes could be analyzed if written requests are received. Hon. (Dr) (Mrs) Sudarshini Fernandopulle and Hon. Hunais Farook informed that they would make the requests accordingly. The Secretary stated that all software developed by the Ministry would be tri-lingual.

The Committee appreciated the work of the Ministry with allocated limited resources.

The Committee approved the Estimates for Head 173 - Ministry of Public Management Reforms.

Ministry of Special Projects

Officials Present:

Mr. Wijerathne Sakalasooriya, Secretary, Ministry of Special Projects

Mr. G.L.S. Senadeera, Additional Secretary

Mr. E.M.T. Ekanayake, Chief Accountant

Mr. K.Nishantha Pushpakumara, Assistant Director (Planning)
Mrs. M.Nilanga Gunawardena, Assistant Secretary
Dr.C.Jayasumana, Project Director

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 191 - Ministry of Special Projects.

Ministry of Special Projects	Rs.'000	2013	2014	2015
			Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure				91,000
Recurrent Expenditure				41,000
Capital Expenditure				50,000
191 - Ministry of Special Projects.				
Total Expenditure				91,000
Recurrent Expenditure				41,000
Capital Expenditure				50,000

Mr.Wijerathne Sakalasooriya, Secretary to the Ministry of Special Projects, made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015. He explained that they only coordinate certain action by the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Water Supply and Drainage in curing and preventing kidney disease.

Hon. Kandiah Premachandran requested that a few Dialysis machines be provided to the Vavuniya Hospital, as it would be very difficult for the people of that area to go to Jaffna or to Colombo. The Project Director stated that discussions were held with the Ministry of Health regarding this matter, and when a Nephrologist was appointed to the Vavuniya Hospital, a dialysis unit would be installed in the Hospital.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 191 - Ministry of Special Projects.

Sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Wednesday, 12 November 2014 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chairman)
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. R. Yogarajan

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Disaster Management

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Geetha Wimalaweera, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Ms. C. Senanayake, Director, National Planning Department
Mrs. D.H.S. Pulleperuma, Director, Management Services Department

The Committee met pursuant to the adjournment. Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva, Chairman of the Committee took the Chair.

Ministry of Disaster Management

Officials Present

Mrs. S.M. Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management
 Mrs. Wasantha Samaraweera, Additional Secretary
 Mr. S. Amalanathan, Additional Secretary
 Mr. H.U.R. Fonseka, Chief Accountant
 Mrs. Sepali Rupasinghe, Director Planning
 Miss K.W.A.M. Kokila, Assistant Secretary
 Miss A.H. Wickramasinghe, Co. Secretary to the Secretary
 Mr. Lalith Chandrapala, Director, Department of Meteorology
 Mr. D.J.A. Weerawadana, Director, Department of Meteorology
 Mr. S.R. Jayasekara, Deputy Director, Department of Meteorology
 Mrs. W.D.R. Arunashanthi, Accountant, Department of Meteorology
 Maj. Gen. L.B.R. Mark, Director General, Disaster Management Centre
 Mr. D.M. Sugathadasa, Director, Disaster Management Centre
 Miss A.A.A.K.K. Senevirathna, Assistant Director, Disaster Management Centre
 Rear Admiral S.W.C. Mohotti, Director (Emergency Operation)
 Eng. (Dr.) Asirikarunawardana, Director General, National Building Research Organization
 Mr. R.K. Jayaweera, Director Corporate, National Building Research Organization
 Mr. R.M.S. Bandara, Director/ Geotechnical Division - National Building Research Organization
 Mr. K.C. Sugathapala, Director, National Building Research Organization
 Mr. K. Prasanna Chandith, Director, National Disaster Relief Services Centre

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Head 106 and 304 - Ministry of Disaster Management.

Ministry of Disaster Management	Rs.'000	2013	2014	2015
			Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure		1,768,632	4,249,178	3,140,000
Recurrent Expenditure		647,195	903,436	940,000
Capital Expenditure		1,121,438	3,345,742	2,200,000
106 - Minister of Disaster Management				
Total Expenditure		1,151,490	3,964,053	2,569,100
Recurrent Expenditure		467,191	701,976	717,100
Capital Expenditure		1,054,299	3,262,077	1,852,000
304 - Department of Meteorology				
Total Expenditure		247,143	285,125	570,900
Recurrent Expenditure		180,004	201,460	222,900
Capital Expenditure		67,139	83,665	348,000

Mrs. S.M. Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014, the programme of work for the year 2015 and midterm investment strategies for 2014 – 2016 under the programme Unstoppable Sri Lanka 2020.

At 11.00 a.m. Hon. John Amaratunga took the Chair, as the Hon. Chairman had to attend to an important matter in the House.

On behalf of the Committee Hon. John Amaratunga (Chairman) expressed his profound sorrow on the grievous disaster occurred recently at Meeriyabedda in Koslanda and expressed deepest sympathies to the affected parties. He greatly appreciated the very generous support promptly extended by all private institutions and individuals to the grief-stricken villagers.

The Chairman inquired whether the Department of Meteorology had taken steps to obtain modern equipment and technology to identify disasters. The Secretary to the Ministry stated that they have received Rs.250 million in 2015, from Rs.2000 million requested. Having noted that only 12% of estimated cost was given in 2015, the Committee strongly recommends that priority be

given by the General Treasury to release at least Rs. 1000 million per year to modernize the Meteorology Department, considering this as a national urgency, so that this project could be completed in 2 years.

In reply to a question by Hon. R. Yogarajan as to what steps were taken to relocate the affected parties in safe places, and to identify and resettle people still living in dangerous zones, the Secretary to the Ministry stated that a cabinet paper on long term strategy for landslide mitigation had been submitted.

Hon. John Amaratunga inquired about the co-operation of estate owners in the process of relocating estate people who were victims of landslides and the Director General of National Building Research Organization stated that 34 lands had been identified as risk free area to relocate people and estate owners had agreed to release such lands.

The Hon Minister of Disaster Management stated that the current level of Rs.3000 per month to identify as low income group is not realistic today and suggested that it be updated to a more sensible amount. The Additional Director General of National Budget Department stated that action is being taken to update the amount and would be finalized in two weeks.

The Hon. Minister further informed that subsidy was granted only for damages to line houses but not for single houses and suggested to revise the relevant circular. The Additional Director General of the National Budget Department agreed to look into that matter. Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna suggested that a cabinet paper be submitted to revise the rules in reconnecting electricity, water and telephone connections for people who faced disasters.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Head 106 and 304 - Ministry of Disaster Management.

PRESENT:

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. R. Yogarajan
Hon. Hunais Farook

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers present:

Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapatiya, Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology
Hon. Praba Ganesan, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Geetha Wimalaweera, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Ms. C. Senanayaka, Director, National Planning Department
Mrs. D.H.S. Pulleperuma, Director, Management Services Department

Hon. John Amaratunga took the Chair, as the Hon. Chairman had to attend to an important matter in the House.

Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology

Officers present:

Mr. S.M. Gotabaya Jayarathne, Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology
Mrs. Sumithra Kannangara, Additional Secretary
Mr. K.R. Pathmapriya, Senior Assistant Secretary
Mr. P.D.D.G.A. Liyanage, Chief Accountant, Ministry
Mrs. S.N. Hapuarachchi, Accountant (Internal Audit)
Mr. G.V.S. Senevirathne, Deputy Director
Mr. S.M.P.U. Senarath, Assistant Secretary

Mr. B.D.S. Siripathi, Assistant Director (IT)
 Mr. Sudath Jayasinghe, Assistant Director (Planning)
 Mr. Lalith De Silva, Group Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom
 Mr. Chinthaka Wijesooriya, Chief Regional Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom
 Mr. Udeni Samararatne, Chief Finance Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom
 Mr. S.K. LalRanjith, Chief Corporate Officer, Sri Lanka Telecom
 Mr. Prabhath Ambegoda, General Manager/Tariff & Interconnection & Regulatory Matters, Sri Lanka Telecom
 Mr. Ranjith G. Roobasinghe, Chief Executive Officer, MobitelPvt.Limited
 Mr. Nishantha Weerakoon, Chief Financial Officer, MobitelPvt.Limited
 Mr. RasanthaHettithanthirige, Senior General Manager, MobitelPvt.Limited
 Mr. SudarshanaGeeganage, Senior General Manager, MobitelPvt.Limited
 Prof. P.W. Epasinghe, Chairman, Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA)
 Mr. ReshanDewapura, Chief Executive Officer, ICTA
 Mr. WasanthaDeshapriya, Director Re-engineering Government, ICTA
 Mr. D.C. Dissanayake, Senior Programme Head, ICTA
 Mr. Jagath Senevirathne, Head Media Monitoring & Evaluation, ICTA
 Mr. AthulaPushpakumara, Director, Media & Strategic, ICTA

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 185 - Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology.

Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology	Rs.'000	2013	2014 RevisedBudget	2015 Estimate
Total Expenditure		963,253	1,718,000	1,529,000
Recurrent Expenditure		102,161	209,000	229,000
Capital Expenditure		861,092	1,509,000	1,300,000
185 - Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology				
Total Expenditure		963,253	1,718,000	1,529,000
Recurrent Expenditure		102,161	209,000	229,000
Capital Expenditure		861,092	1,509,000	1,300,000

Mr. S.M. Gotabaya Jayarathne, Secretary to the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology made a presentation explaining the progress and the achievement in year 2014 and the programme of work for year 2015.

The Hon. John Amarathunga, commended the Hon. Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology and the officials of the Ministry for winning an international award and running Sri Lanka Telecom as a profitable institution, and requested that better attention be paid to customer complaints. Mr. Lalith De Silva, Group Chief Executive Officer of Sri Lanka Telecom stated most of the services had now been outsourced and steps would be taken to educate such employees in providing best customer care.

In Reply to a question raised by the Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna regarding research methodologies and plans, Mr. Reshan Dewapura, Chief Executive Officer of the ICTA stated that more funds was required for innovations and development of software product engineering which was now a good source of foreign income. He added that a general plan had been drafted with the support of the Universities, Higher Educational Institutions and organization involved in the IT industry. The Hon. R. Yogarajan requested to submit the prepared plan to all Members of Parliament, and the CEO of ICTA agreed.

Replying to a question by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, the Group CEO of SLT stated that 80% of the country had internet coverage but the statistics indicate it as 24.5% since the figure was based on the usage of smart phones with 3G and 4G technologies, which was much less the actual coverage. He added that the network would cater to nearly 1 million fixed line customers in 2015, and the biggest barrier would be the cost of end user equipment like phones, Tab etc.

On inquiry by Hon. John Amarathunga, Group CEO of SLT stated that 5 Telecom Training Centers were in operation where 4 days compulsory training would be given to the telecom staff and it could be extended to outsiders too. Hon. John Amarathunga suggested to open up foreign employment opportunities for such trainees through the Foreign Employment Bureau, and the CEO of SLT agreed.

The Hon. R. Yogarajan emphasized the necessity of manufacturing laptop and desk-top computers at a price affordable to school children, and the Group CEO of SLT stated that laptop manufacturing plant opened in Hambantota were making machines saleable at Rs.35,000/-

Replying a question by Hon. Yogarajan regarding the Ministry's involvement in the BPO industry, the Secretary and the CEO of ICTA stated that fullest support would be given to private sector institutions committed to achieve national objectives in collaboration with the ICTA, and added that 90% of IT related business was run by Sri Lanka while 99% of their workforce was Sri Lankan.

The Committee approved the Estimates for the Heads 185 - Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology.

At 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Hon. W.D.J. Senewiratne
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Pon. Selvarasa
Hon. Hunais Farook
Hon. (Dr) Harsha de Silva

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary-General and Secretary to the Committee

Ministers Present:

Hon. Felix Perera, Minister Social Services
Hon. C.A. Suriyaarachchi, Deputy Minister Social Services

Officials Present from the General Treasury:

Ms. Geetha Wimalaweera, Additional Director General, National Budget Department
Ms. Nalinee Amaratunga, Director, National Budget Department
Ms. C. Senanayaka, Director, National Budget Department
Mrs. D.H.S. Pulleperuma, Director, Management service Department
Mr. K.P.N.T.N. Devapriya, Assistant Director, National Budget Department

In the absence of the Hon. Chairman as he was attending to an important matter in the House, the Hon. Hunais Farook, proposed and seconded by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna and Hon. Pon. Selvarasa respectively, took the chair.

Ministry of Social Services

Officials Present

Mrs. M.A. Emelda Sukumar, Secretary, Ministry of Social Services
Mr. S.D. Udawatta, Additional Secretary (Admin)
Mrs. S.A.D.S. Subasinghe, Additional Secretary (Development)
Mrs. H.C Fernando, Chief Accountant
Mrs. S.S. Nooramith, Chief Internal Auditor
Mr. D.A. Fernando, Accountant
Mr. M. Ramamoorthi, Director (Planning)
Mrs. J.M.A. Lanika Jayakody, Assistant Director (Planning)
Mrs. M.K.K.R. Abeydeera, Director, Counseling Division
Mr. Y. Pranthaman, Deputy Director, NSPD

Mrs. A.G. Fernando, Director, Department of Social Services
 Mr. H.K.A. Ranjith Udayasiri, Chief Accountant, Department of Social Services
 Dr. Ridley Jayasinghe, Director General, National Institute of Social Development
 Ms. Nilupa Kumari Manathunga, Accountant (Actg.), National Institute of Social Development
 Miss. M.N. Kuruppu, Project Coordinator, Social Care Centre
 Mr. C.P. Lakshman Fernando Assistant Director (National secretariat for persons with disabilities.
 Mrs. W. Ashoka Nandasir, Administrative Officer of National Secretariat for Elders

The Committee considered the Estimates for the Heads 124 and 216 of the Ministry of Social Services.

Ministry of Social Services	Rs.'000	2013	2014	2015
			Revised Budget	Estimate
Total Expenditure		3,480,193	4,503,150	5,070,000
Recurrent Expenditure		3,196,369	3,999,600	4,670,000
Capital Expenditure		283,824	503,550	400,000
124 - Minister of Social Services				
Total Expenditure		3,199,239	4,048,005	4,542,670
Recurrent Expenditure		2,935,528	3,671,070	4,299,640
Capital Expenditure		263,712	376,935	243,243
216 - Department of Social Services				
Total Expenditure		280,953	455,145	527,330
Recurrent Expenditure		260,841	328,530	370,360
Capital Expenditure		20,112	126,615	156,970

Mrs. Emelda Sukumar, Secretary, Ministry of Social Services made a presentation explaining the progress of the year 2014 and the programme of work for the year 2015.

At 2.15 p.m., Hon. W.D.J.Seneviratne was voted to the Chair.

Hon (Dr.) Harsha De Silva pointed out that certain people obtain approval to construct buildings without access for persons with disabilities, disregarding the law. The Assistant Director (Planning), Ministry of the Social Services explained that by gazette notification, the last date given to comply with the legal requirements was 16 October 2014, and violators could now be prosecuted.

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva commended the Government for constructing a special walk way for the benefit of blind pedestrians along the pavements in Colombo City, the facility which not available even in certain developed countries.

In reply to a question made by Hon. Pon Selvarasa, the Secretary to the Ministry of Social Service stated that, a Vocational Training School could not be set up in Batticaloa District due to non-availability of a suitable building. The Secretary to the Ministry stated that the income received by "Supiri Vasana Sampatha" lottery was used to provide housing for disabled people.

The Committee approved the Draft Estimates for the Heads 124 and 216 of the Ministry of Social Services.

The committee was at 3.30 p.m. adjourned.

Sgd/ Neil Iddawala
 Secretary to the Committee

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OF MINISTRIES SELECTED FROM THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 2015
Friday, 14 November 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. M. Joseph Michael Perera
Hon. John Amaratunga
Hon. Pon Selvarasa
Hon. R. Yogarajan
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the Committee

The Committee met pursuant to notice. In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Water Supply and Drainage and the Chief Government Whip was voted to the Chair, proposed and seconded by Hon. John Amaratunga and Hon. R. Yogarajan respectively.

2. The Committee agreed to the draft report subject to amendments,
3. After deliberations, the Committee resolved,-
 - a) That the Report be presented to Parliament on Monday, November 17, 2014; and
 - b) Copies of same shall be circulated among all Members of Parliament on Monday, November 17, 2014.
4. Hon. John Amaratunga submitted the following requests to the Committee:-
 - a) Media personnel be allowed to be present at the meetings of the Committee when the selected Ministries are taken up for consideration;
 - b) Calling for witnesses to explain matters further, be allowed as per the powers given to the Select Committees under the Standing Orders of Parliament;
 - c) The Chairmanship of the Committee be given to a Member from the Opposition;
 - d) Verbatim Report of meetings shall be published as an annexure to the Report of the Committee.

Members of the Opposition also expressed their agreement with these requests.

The Chairman said that these requests would be submitted to the Hon. Speaker for consideration.

5. Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena and the Members of the Committee expressed their sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Committee, the other Ministers and Members who chaired the meetings, for all the Members for the valuable contributions, the Deputy Secretary General and the staff of Parliament for the valuable and efficient services rendered.

6. The Committee was at 2.35 p.m. concluded

Sgd/ Neil Iddawala
Secretary to the Committee