



[ Eighth Parliament - First Session ]

No. 18.]

## ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 9.30 a.m.

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### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

12/15

1.

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa,— To ask the Minister of Sports,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) whether the distribution of 14000 Carrom boards and 14000 Draughts boards with a value of Rs. 39,061,290.12 by the Ministry of Sports during the year 2014, had been included in the action plan of the Ministry for the year 2014;
  - (ii) whether allocations had been made to the Ministry of Sports by Parliament under the Annual Budget Estimates 2014 for the purchase of these Carrom Boards and Draughts Boards; and
  - (iii) if so, what that amount is?
- (b) Will he state—
  - (i) whether these equipment purchased through CWE had been formally taken over to the stores of the Ministry;
  - (ii) if they had not been taken over to the Stores of the Ministry, the officers and institutions who had taken over the aforesaid equipment; and
  - (iii) the places to which the said equipment had been distributed and the places in which the balance had been stored?
- (c) Will he also inform this House—
  - (i) of the progress of the investigation conducted by the Financial Crimes Investigation Department on the sports equipment that had been purchased contrary to the procurement procedures and as per the directive of the former Minister of Sports but had not taken over to the Ministry;
  - (ii) of the authorities who are held responsible in that regard; and
  - (iii) of the judicial measures that had been taken pertaining to this matter?
- (d) If not, why?

(2)

19/15

2. Hon. Sunil Handunnetti,— To ask the Minister of Industry and Commerce,—(2)

- (a) Is he aware that a complaint has been lodged with the Financial Crimes Investigation Division of Police against the former Minister of Co-operatives and the former Commissioner of Co-operative Development on charges of misuse and misappropriation of a sum of Rs. 897.06 million out of the Co-operatives Development Fund and the Co-operatives Surplus Fund against the provisions of the Co-operative Societies Act of 1972, during the period 2011-2014?
- (b) Will he inform this House —
  - (i) of the progress of the investigation of the complaint mentioned in (a) above; and
  - (ii) whether an investigation will be conducted under the Public Property Act on the misuse and misappropriation of these funds?
- (c) Will he also inform this House —
  - (i) of the institutional procedures initiated against the misuse and misappropriation of these funds;
  - (ii) the measures to be taken to recover those funds lost to the government; and
  - (iii) whether steps will be taken to prevent misappropriation of public funds in general on the discretion of the Minister in charge of the subject, in future?
- (d) If not, why?

22/15

3. Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs,—(2)

- (a) Is he aware that even though the Minister of Finance in his address to Parliament that followed the presentation of the revised budget 2015 pledged that the decentralized budgetary allocation of Rs. 5 million given to a Member of Parliament would be increased to Rs. 10 million with the Hon. Prime Minister confirming it to the House, no Member of Parliament has received it for the year 2015 until 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015?
- (b) Will he state—
  - (i) whether the sum of Rs. 5 million, which a Member of Parliament was entitled to throughout the history, would be made available to them at least during the next few months of this year; and
  - (ii) if not, whether he would admit this as a breach of privilege caused by the present government, which has been enjoyed by a Member of Parliament continuously for over four decades?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) whether excavations have been halted in the Kuragala historic sacred site which is one of the most important Buddhist places of worship in the Sabaragamuwa Province; and
  - (ii) if so, the reasons for same?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
  - (i) the extent of land belonging to the Kuragala sacred site;
  - (ii) whether the boundaries of the said extent of land have been delimited;
  - (iii) whether measures have been taken for the preservation of the artifacts found during excavations; and
  - (iv) if so, the measures thus taken?
- (c) Will he state—
  - (i) whether action will be taken to secure the right of Buddhists to the Kuragala sacred site; and
  - (ii) whether measures will be taken to continue with its excavations; and
  - (iii) if so, the date on which it will be done?
- (d) If not, why?

79/15

5.

Hon. Chandima Gamage,— To ask the Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife,—(2)

- (a) Is he aware that—
  - (i) the Elephant-Human conflict has been aggravating since last five years and the damages are being caused on the human lives and the elephant resource; and
  - (ii) due to informal and disordered construction of electric fences, instead of their villages being protected, the people living in the villages have become helpless, having unfairly dispossessed of their homes and lands?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) of the number of electric fences projects that have been put up during the recent past and the number of fences projects, proposed to be put up;
  - (ii) separately, the Districts and Divisional Secretariat Divisions where electric fences have been put up;
  - (iii) of the number of electric fences that have become defunct at present; and
  - (iv) whether a proper mechanism has been set up in the Ministry to receive the complaints of the people who had faced with the situations as of aforesaid (a) (ii), in order to serve justice to them?
- (c) If not, why?

6.

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that—
  - (i) there are instances where the opportunity was not given even to face the interview, which was conducted to admit students to the grade 1 in schools, due to the non existence of a title deed to prove the ownership of the dwelling place; and
  - (ii) a separate appeal committee was established with regard to the children who were not admitted to the school due to the non existence of a title deed during the period of the previous government;
- (b) Will he inform this House—
  - (i) whether there is a law that the relevant deed of the land should be submitted to prove the residency to get a child admitted to a school;
  - (ii) the number of children who were not admitted to schools due to the mere reason of the absence of deeds; and
  - (iii) whether steps can be taken to solve this problem in a fair manner if the residency can be proved without considering the existence or non existence of a deed;
- (c) If not, why?

165/15

7.

Hon. Lucky Jayawardana,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that —
  - (i) a proper transport service had been provided to the passengers of the Udunuwara area through the operation of a regular bus service throughout Udunuwara Electorate by the Yatinuwara Depot for a long period of time since 1977; and
  - (ii) the objective of Sri Lanka Transport Board was to provide services to the commuters of the area by maintaining depots at regional level;
- (b) Will he inform this House —
  - (i) of the names and numbers of the routes in which busses were operated during the period mentioned in (i) above;
  - (ii) out of the aforesaid routes, of the names of the ones in which busses are not operated at present by the Yatinuwara Depot; and
  - (iii) of the names and numbers of the routes in which busses are operated at present and the times of the turns of those buses?
- (c) Will he also inform this House —
  - (i) whether actions will be taken to recommence bus services in the routes in which buses had been operated by the Yatinuwara Depot and have been stopped at present; and
  - (ii) if so, of the date on which the aforesaid bus services will commence?
- (d) If not, why?

8. Hon. ( Dr.) A. R. A. Hafeez,— To ask the Minister of Disaster Management,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that—
- (i) the house bearing No.264/1 at Vedagedara, Yonakapura, Dickwella where Mr.M.M.A.Nifran and the members of his family resided was located in a hilly area;
  - (ii) the kitchen that remained from the house that was destroyed by the rains that fell on 22.09.2012 too was totally destroyed as a result of the earth slip that occurred in the adjoining hills around 1.45 a.m. on 02.09.2015; and
  - (iii) no step has been taken in this regard up to now, even though the responsible officials of the area have been informed about this?
- (b) Will he inform this House whether steps will be taken to construct that house for Mr.Nifran who has been rendered helpless, as a result of the total destruction of the house that he had to live as a family with his small children and his wife, and due to lack of a permanent source of income?
- (c) If not, why?

30/15

9. Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Science, Technology and Research,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) the amount of money allocated for research and development purposes in the year 2014;
  - (ii) the value of said allocation as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product;
  - (iii) separately, the research and development programmes on which the said amount of money was spent; and
  - (iv) the benefits derived by the country through such programmes?
- (b) Will he state—
- (i) the activities carried out by the then Ministry of Technology and Research to encourage inventors;
  - (ii) inventions submitted in the year 2014;
  - (iii) the names of persons who submitted said inventions; and
  - (iv) the support extended to them?
- (c) Will he also inform this House—
- (i) whether action will be taken to increase the allocation for research and development purposes;
  - (ii) if so, the amount of money expected to be so increased; and
  - (iii) the plan to spend the said amount of money?
- (d) If not, why?

10.

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) of the action taken at institution level against the former Secretary to the President Mr. Lalith Weerathunga who was the then Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) and Mr. Anusha Pelpita who was the then Director General of the TRC regarding the misappropriation of Rs. 600 million of public funds for the purpose of distributing various items including *Sil* robes among voters targeting the 2015 Presidential Election;
  - (ii) of the present status of the financial crime investigations that are being carried out in this regard; and
  - (iii) of the steps that will be taken against the relevant officers responsible for taking action against large scale financial crimes in the event that they are reluctant to take necessary action?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
- (i) of the action that will be taken by the Minister in charge of the relevant subject to recover the sum of Rs. 600 million that was lost to the government;
  - (ii) of the other misuse of public funds that were committed in relation to the Presidential Election of 2015 in addition to the distribution of *Sil* robes using monies of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission; and
  - (iii) of the actions that have been taken against those offenses?
- (c) If not, why?

11.

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
- (i) the number of Sri Lankan fishermen in custody overseas at present; and
  - (ii) the countries where they are held and the number of fishermen in custody in each of those countries, separately?
- (b) Will he table separately the name, address and telephone number of each fisherman in custody and the period for which each fisherman has been in custody?

(7)

- (c) Will he state—
- (i) why speedy action is not taken to get the arrested fishermen released;
  - (ii) the steps taken to prevent the fishermen from violating the marine boundaries;
  - (iii) whether assistance will be provided to the arrested fishermen to restart their occupation once they are released; and
  - (iv) if so, how?
- (d) If not, why?
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AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS  
**Notice of Motions**

1.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Business of the Parliament,— That the proceedings on Item No. 2 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Standing Order No. 23 of the Parliament.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

\*1.

Appropriation Bill (2016)— (First Allotted Day)—Adjourned debate on question (20<sup>th</sup> November 2015) [1].

\*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 2016,— That this Parliament resolves that the Annexure of the motion on the “Select Committee of Parliament to discuss the Heads of Expenditure of the Ministries selected from the Budget Estimates of the year 2016” approved by the Parliament on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, be amended omitting, “(xiv) Ministry of Southern Development” in the Annexure with substitution of, “(xiv) Ministry of Special Assignment” thereto.

\*3.

Appropriation (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.

\*4.

The Minister of Finance,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 26 read with Section 22 of the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1915/2 of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015, which was presented on 03.11.2015, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

\*5.

The Minister of Finance,— Resolution under the Inland Revenue Act,— That this Parliament resolves, under Section 97(1) (a) of the Inland Revenue Act, No.10 of 2006, that the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income entered on 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2014, which was presented on 23.09.2015 be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

\*6.

The Minister of Finance,— Notification under the Excise Ordinance,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, under Section 28(a) read with Section 16(c) of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52), as amended from time to time regarding Excise License Fee and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1901/19 of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015, which was presented on 23.09.2015, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 973)

(Cabinet approval signified.)

\*7.

The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 read with Sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Act No. 48 of 1985 and Act, No. 28 of 1987 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1903/41 of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015, which were presented on 23.09.2015, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

\*8.

The Minister of Finance,— Order under the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance and Planning under Section 3 of the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act, No. 12 of 2006 read with Article 44(2) of the Constitution, relating to Stamp Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1882/17 of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, which was presented on 23.09.2015, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

\* *Indicates Government Business*

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[1].

Motion made and question proposed “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

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