



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 11.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Friday, January 10, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

4/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,—To ask the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) total number of government institutions including Ministries, departments and statutory boards existing in Sri Lanka at present ;
 - (ii) names of the security companies providing security services at each of the institutions;
 - (iii) number of government companies among them and their names; and
 - (iv) amount paid to each private security service company for the provision of security services at each of the aforesaid government institutions from the year 2015 to up to now, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware that frauds take place in obtaining contracts relating to provision of security in government institutions; and
 - (ii) if so, what measures will be taken to assign state-owned security companies to perform the task of providing security services to government institutions?
- (c) If not, why?

2.

60/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— (1)

- (a) Will she inform this House of the—
 - (i) number of state universities currently awarding Bachelor of Laws degrees in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) names of those universities;

(2)

- (iii) number of graduates that have completed the Bachelor of Laws degree at the universities referred to above, separately in respect of each year from 2020 to date; and
 - (iv) measures have been taken to establish Faculties of Law in a few other universities with a view to promoting legal education?
- (b) If not, why?

3.

67/2024

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam,—To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,— (1)

- (a) Is he aware that the—
- (i) encroachment of land is being carried out on the pretext of shrimp farming and fishing activities in the Wakare area of the Koralepattu-North Divisional Secretariat Division in the Batticaloa District; and
 - (ii) encroachment of land is also being carried out in the Puluttumanodai area of the Eravurapattu Divisional Secretariat Division?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
- (i) in such case, whether steps will be taken to prevent the aforesaid encroachment of land; and
 - (ii) what the intended steps are?
- (c) If not, why?

4.

80/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara, — To ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
- (i) number of Sri Lankan missions established in foreign countries;
 - (ii) countries where the aforesaid missions have been established;
 - (iii) number of employees serving in each of the aforesaid missions?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of the —
- (i) educational qualifications required to join Sri Lanka Foreign Service;
 - (ii) number of employees currently serving in Sri Lankan missions abroad without satisfying the aforesaid qualifications;
 - (iii) name, place of work and designation of each of the aforesaid employees separately;
 - (iv) steps that are being taken to recall the aforesaid employees to Sri Lanka and send suitably qualified employees to serve in Sri Lankan missions abroad?
- (c) If not, why?

(3)

5.

88/2024

Hon. Kins Nelson,—To ask the Minister of Environment,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of humans and wild elephants killed due to human-elephant conflict since 2015 up to now by the year and the wildlife zone separately;
 - (ii) measures taken to provide a permanent solution to the human-elephant conflict?
- (b) If not, why?

6.

102/2024

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the current market prices per kilogram of Nadu rice and Samba rice separately;
 - (ii) whether action will be taken to reduce the price of rice;
 - (iii) whether a price controls will be introduced for rice; and
 - (iv) if so, what the prices will be?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether rice reserves are being maintained with government intervention to provide rice to consumers without shortage;
 - (ii) if so, what the quantities of such reserves are; and
 - (iii) of the course of action is being taken regarding rice imports?
- (c) If not, why?

7.

110/2024

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of factories in operation at present in the Bingiriya Export Processing Zone;
 - (ii) what the names of those factories are;
 - (iii) of the way in which those factories are categorized;
 - (iv) of the number of direct and indirect jobs generated through each factory, separately; and

(4)

- (v) whether there are investors who have contracted to start new factories; and
- (vi) if so, of the details in that regard?

(b) If not, why?

8.

243/2024

Hon. S.M. Marikkar,— To ask the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) of the number of housing units situated in blocks of flats that were constructed by the Urban Development Authority since the year 2010 up to now within the Colombo District, separately in respect of each multi-storey flat complex and the divisional secretariat division;
- (ii) of the number of those housing units for which deeds have been granted so far, from among the ones referred to above;
- (iii) whether action will be taken to grant deeds to those housing units for which deeds have not been granted so far; and
- (iv) if so, of the date on which it will be done?

(b) If not, why?

9.

249/2024

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Health and Mass Media,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether the Minister of Health is in agreement with the statement made by the State Minister of Indigenous Medicine on 29.11.2022 that the Ministry of Health was misled on its policy decision with regard to the cremation of COVID-19 deaths by a ‘Committee of Experts’; and
- (ii) whether the aforementioned Committee was a government appointed Committee?

(b) If the above Committee was a government appointed Committee, will he also inform this House—

- (i) the recommendations of it specifically on COVID-19 death disposals;
- (ii) appointing authority;
- (iii) terms of Reference and/or mandate;

(5)

- (iv) names of the members and designations;
 - (v) name of the Chair;
 - (vi) the last date it met;
 - (vii) number of meetings held;
 - (viii) the place where meetings held; and
 - (ix) separately, the names of the individuals chaired each of the meetings;
- (c) If not, why?

10.

252/2024

Hon. Ajith Gihan,— To ask the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources,— (1)

- (a) Is he aware that the —
- (i) shrimp farming, which is a foreign exchange generating industry in Sri Lanka, has been faced with a crisis at present; and
 - (ii) people in Puttlam District gained a huge economic strength from that industry?
- (b) Will he inform this House of the—
- (i) reasons for not taking steps to develop that industry; and
 - (ii) steps that will be taken to develop the industry?
- (c) If not, why?

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Notice of Motions

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Sittings of the Parliament,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Votes of Condolence

- (i) The late Hon. Kumara Welgama, ex-Member of Parliament.
 - (ii) The late Hon. H. Nandasena, ex-Member of Parliament.
 - (iii) The late Hon. Tudor Gunasekera, ex-Member of Parliament.
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NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

1.

P. 1/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Acquisition of estate roads to the Government,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary steps be taken to acquire the estate roads to be under the Local Government and Provincial Council roads as the ownership, as management and administration of estates that have a significant place in the plantation sector of Sri Lanka are subjected to changes at different times whereas the dwellings of the plantation workers are located in the middle of the estates far away from the main road and whereas the estate roads used by these people are in highly dilapidated condition with no development.

2.

P. 2/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Developing sports in estate sector,— That this Parliament resolves that a Sports development program should be launched in order to get the youth contribution of the estate sector for the sports development of the country, as they have displayed their skills locally and internationally, and they do not have any sports facilities in their estate schools as well as the estate areas where they live.

3.

P. 3/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Providing opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent a national sports team or claim a national level record to read for any degree course related to the field of sports,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare the necessary legal and higher educational structure for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent any national sports team in Sri Lanka or claim a national level record to pursue any degree course related to the field of sports, not based on their basic educational qualification or the Z-score.

4.

P. 4/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Converting all Colleges of Education in Sri Lanka into University Faculties,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary action be taken by the Government to enforce the Cabinet decision regarding which the proposal was presented and approval obtained by the then Minister on 13th February 2020 as the then Minister of Education to convert the currently functioning nineteen Colleges of Education into University Faculties to be suitable for awarding a four-year degree course with a three-year theoretical course and one-year school-based training, whereas it is necessary to make all the teachers in the school system into trained graduate teachers in order to upgrade the education in Sri Lanka to the advanced international level, and whereas the majority of teachers are currently awarded a higher diploma at the end of a three-year theoretical and practical course.

(7)

5.

P. 5/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Developing the bee honey industry,— That this Parliament resolves that an expedited programme should be implemented by the government to develop the local bee honey industry as bee honey is of very high medicinal value and in great demand in the local and international market.

6.

P. 6/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Extending the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take measures to extend the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura since it is considered as one of the railway lines that generate a higher income for the Sri Lanka Railways Department, whereas people living in a number of districts, including Ratnapura, Badulla and Hambanthota will be benefitted from extending the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura.

7.

P. 7/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Continuing the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take necessary measures to carry out the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway continuously at least in phases since not only the people living in Ratnapura district but also in Badulla and Hambanthota districts will be benefitted from the construction of the Expressway as it would help gain immense benefits despite the economic difficulties the country is currently experiencing.

8.

P. 8/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Combining the knowledge on Sri Lankan food culture with the teaching process,— That this Parliament resolves that an appropriate programme be implemented by the government to make the food culture of Sri Lanka known among local and foreign people and elevate the Sri Lankan identity by endowing the future generations with the Sri Lanka food culture pedagogy through pedagogical methodologies as food art of Sri Lanka is comprised of a number aspects including the art of flavors and mixation, art of cooking food, art of coloring and the art of food carving.

9.

P. 9 /2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Making the society aware of the value of school children,— That this Parliament resolves that a national level programme be formulated and implemented by the government in regard to the manner in which children should be protected in the face of social challenges for the future betterment of the society and the country, having explained the value of children in a simple manner through sociological and psychological methodologies to the persons such as parents, teachers, sports coaches, school van drivers that always associate with school children.

10.

P.10/2024

Hon. Heshu Withanage,— Appropriately curtailing the privileges enjoyed by people's representatives representing the Parliament of Sri Lanka, and former heads of state and their widows,— That this Parliament resolves that whereas there has been discourse in the election campaigns as well as in the society about the privileges and perks enjoyed by the people's representatives representing the Parliament of Sri Lanka, and former heads of state and their widows, the government, should pay attention to the requests from the general public and fulfill their expectations, by taking necessary measures to discuss and get a fair response from all the members of parliament from both the government and the opposition in Parliament regarding the measures necessary to appropriately reduce or abolish the privileges that have long been granted to them.

11.

P.11/2024

Hon. Kins Nelson,— Preparation of a proper procurement program for the process of purchasing goods for cooperatives,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should formulate a proper procurement procedure for the process of purchasing goods for the cooperative societies since the cooperative movement, which is quite close to the rural community, has been facing various problems.

12.

P.12/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Formulating a programme to enhance the state sector involvement in the importation and distribution of essential items of food,— That this Parliament resolves that the government formulate a suitable programme to enhance the involvement of the state sector in the process of importing essential food items, medicines and other items as the public is confronted with numerous inconveniences owing to the aforesaid process being monopolized by a few individuals.

13.

P.13/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— Making arrangements for maintaining a rice reserve with the government,— That this Parliament resolves that an appropriate arrangement be made for maintaining a rice reserve with the government in order to control the price of rice in the market as the rice market in Sri Lanka is currently in the grip of a few private businessmen.

14.

P.14/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara, — Developing a programme to properly monitor the cooperative rural banks system,— That this Parliament resolves that the cooperative rural banks, which are the closest to people, be properly monitored by the government in order to address the prevailing situation as depositors of these banks are faced with various difficulties because of the collapse of a number of these banks for various reasons.

15.

P.15/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Formulation of a proper methodology for the appointment of Labor Welfare Officers,— This Parliament resolves that the government should formulate a proper methodology in appointing Labor Welfare Officers responsible for the welfare of migrant workers, who make a significant contribution to the economy of Sri Lanka, in order to avoid the many issues that have arisen because of not adopting a proper methodology so far.

16.

P.16/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Formulating a programme to streamline the appointments made to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service,— That this Parliament resolves that the government prepare a programme to make all appointments to the foreign service, which is tasked with uplifting Sri Lanka's image before the international community, based on the results of competitive examinations and on merit in order to prevent political appointments made to the foreign service, which have led to the deterioration in the quality of the service leading to failure to achieve its desired objectives.

17.

P.17/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Formulating a proper procurement methodology for purchasing goods and services to depots of the Sri Lanka Transport Board,—This Parliament resolves that the government do formulate a proper procurement methodology for purchasing goods and services to depots of Sri Lanka Transport Board with a view to preventing corruption as the absence of such a methodology is the main cause of the corruption rampant in the Sri Lanka Transport Board.

18.

P.18/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,—Formulating a program to make school students aware of the University of Vocational Technology,— That this Parliament resolves that a program be developed by the government to make schoolchildren aware of the courses of the University of Vocational Technology, which targets at the job market and vocational technology, deviating from the traditional university framework in Sri Lanka.

19.

P.19/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Preparation of a course of action for the implementation of the recommendations given by the audit reports,— That this Parliament resolves that, as the audit reports reveal facts about various financial frauds occurring in various ministries, departments, and statutory bodies of the government, the government should prepare a programme to implement the recommendations given by the audit reports to prevent such acts of fraud and corruption from happening in the government institutions.

20.

P.20/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Preparing the subjects falling under the provincial councils in a scientific methodology,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare an appropriate programme to allocate the subjects coming under the purview of the provincial councils according to a proper methodology based on a scientific basis to avoid the situation that has arisen since the subjects coming under the purview of the provincial councils have been currently allocated in a way that has no scientific basis, and that various problems have arisen because of this.

21.

P.21/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, — Developing a proper methodology to strengthen the Sri Lanka Transport Board, — That this Parliament resolves that the Government should develop a proper methodology to prevent fraud and corruption that occur during the procurement of goods and services by the Sri Lanka Transport Board, since strengthening the public transport service in Sri Lanka is an essential matter.

22.

P.22/2024

Hon Chaminda Wijesiri,— Formulation of a programme to increase milk production,— That this Parliament resolves that a program to increase the milk production in Sri Lanka should be implemented by the government to avoid the substantial amount of foreign exchange outflow on the annual importation of milk.

23.

P.23/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, — Enhancing the contribution of the livestock sector to the national product, — That this Parliament resolves that the Government of Sri Lanka should develop a programme to enhance the contribution of the livestock sector to the country's national product.

24.

P. 24/2024

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,— Abolishing the Pension Scheme of the Members of Parliament of Sri Lanka,— That this Parliament resolves that the Pension Scheme of the Members of Parliament of Sri Lanka should be abolished with immediate effect as it is very apparent that Sri Lankan voters are very hostile for Parliament Members to receive pensions after the completion of their term of office.

25.

P. 25/2024

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,— Providing a house for every family in Sri Lanka to live in,— That this Parliament resolves that it is necessary to facilitate the chief householder by empowering him to buy, construct or rent a house for his safety, security and well being as every family in Sri Lanka should be entitled to a house to live in.

26.

P. 26/2024

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,— Making Sports Bodies in Sri Lanka free from politicization,— That this Parliament resolves that the elected politicians should be prohibited from contesting and holding leading positions in sports bodies, as it is evident that these organizations have become heavily politicised in Sri Lanka.

27.

P. 27/2024

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,— Making every Youth Member a gainfully employed person or self employed entrepreneur,— That this Parliament resolves that every youth member attaining the age of 18 years should have the right to gainful employment or if not employed, be provided with financial assistance to become a self- employed entrepreneur.

28.

P.28/2024

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at law,— Appointing a Select Committee of Parliament to investigate and make appropriate recommendations regarding the cremation, instead of burial, of the bodies of COVID-19 pandemic victims,— Whereas the remains of COVID-19 Pandemic victims were cremated without the consent of the relatives based on a policy decision by the government in 2020 to the effect that there was a risk of the virus mixing with underground water while the World Health Organization had issued instructions that the bodies of those who died due to the COVID-19 pandemic could be buried, whereas the government later extended an official apology stating the decision was incorrect, whereas the relatives of those who died in the pandemic lost the opportunity to perform their final rites according to their religion or witness the bodies, whereas, instead of cremation, the bodies were buried in an isolated area called Oddamawadi, Majma Nagar in Batticaloa in the face of the protests and pressure locally and internationally, still depriving the relatives of the right to perform religious rites and pay their last respects, this parliament resolves that a select Committee of Parliament be appointed to investigate the above-mentioned serious mistakes on the part of the Government and to make recommendations, considering the need to do justice to the families and the next of kin of the deceased and considering the requests on the part of the general public.

*29.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— Notification under the Strategic Development Projects Act,— That the Notification made by the then Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 as amended relating to Jay Jay Textiles Lanka (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2399/16 of 26th August 2024, which was presented on 03.12.2024, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*30.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act,— That the Regulations made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 20 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987 read with Sections 4(1) and 14 of the aforesaid Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2384/35 of 17th May 2024, which were presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*31.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act,— That the Order made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2377/39 of 28th March 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*32.

The Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation,— Supplementary Sum,— Head 117— Programme 02— † That this Parliament resolves that, an additional sum not exceeding Rupees Thirty three thousand eight hundred seventeen million (Rs. 33,817,000,000) shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or any other fund or finances possessed by the Government or any loan obtained by the Government at the discretion of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, for the services of the financial year commencing on January 01, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024 and that, the said sum may be expended in the manner specified in the schedule hereto:—

Schedule

Head	117	- Ministry of Transport & Highways		
		(The Ministry name specified in the Appropriation Act No. 34 of 2023 is stated)		
Programme	02	- Development Activities		
		Capital Expenditure	Rs.	<u>33,817,000,000</u>
		Total Expenditure	Rs.	<u>33,817,000,000</u>

(Cabinet approval signified.)

†Vide Supplementary Estimate No. 15 of 2024 presented on 06th December, 2024.
Total of Supplementary Estimates Nos. 1 to 14 Rs. 234,623,000,000

* *Indicates Government Business.*
