



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 18.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Friday, February 07, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

8/2024

Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— To ask the Minister of Energy,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the number of those employed at the Ceylon Electricity Board, separately on permanent, contract and casual basis;
 - (ii) of the amounts that were paid to these workers as salaries, allowances and bonuses from 2015 up to now, separately in respect of each year;
 - (iii) whether he accepts that tasks such as installing electricity lines, digging pits and disconnecting power have been outsourced to contracting institutions;
 - (iv) of the amounts that were paid to such institutions from 2015 up to now, separately in respect of each year;
 - (v) of the reasons for outsourcing the works referred to in (iii) above to contracting institutions in a backdrop where excess numbers of workers receiving high salaries, allowances and bonuses are employed at the Ceylon Electricity Board; and
 - (vi) of the measures be taken to rectify this situation?
- (b) If not, why?

2.

63/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,—To ask the Minister of Digital Economy,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) whether he is aware that digital technology is used at present in many countries of the world for various activities including economic activities; and

(2)

- (ii) of the courses of action be taken in order to implement digitization in government institutions of Sri Lanka in order to prevent various acts of fraud and corruption occurring in such institutions?

(b) If not, why?

3.

73/2024

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam,—To ask the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) whether he is aware that there are no drinking water facilities in the areas of Kakkachchiwattai, Vilanthottam and Dikkodai-Dumbalai in the Porathivu pattu Divisional Secretariat and Kirankulam-Tharmapuram in the Manmunaipatru Divisional Secretariat in the Batticaloa District; and
- (ii) if so, of the steps that will be taken to provide drinking water facilities to the above-mentioned areas?

(b) If not, why?

4.

83/2024

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) of the types of insurance coverages offered by the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board;
- (ii) of their names;
- (iii) what crops are covered by each of those insurance coverages, separately?

(b) Will he also inform this House of the —

- (i) amount of money that the Board has paid for crop damages from 2015 up to now, in respect of each year separately;
- (ii) methodology through which the Board receives funds;
- (iii) measures that will be taken to strengthen the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board further?

(c) If not, why?

(3)

5.

123/2024

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

- (a) Will she inform this House —
 - (i) of the number of universities that offer the Bachelor of Education degree course;
 - (ii) of their names;
 - (iii) of the number of students enrolled annually to follow that degree course;
 - (iv) whether she is aware that the above degree course leads to more graduates being recruited into the Teachers' service; and
 - (v) if so, of the measures that will be adopted to increase the number of students enrolled to follow that course?
- (b) If not, why?

6.

151/2024

Hon. Ajith P. Perera,— To ask the Minister of Energy,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) solar power capacity that has been added to the national grid of Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) annual volume of solar power added to the national grid of Sri Lanka;
 - (iii) date on which the “Soorya Bala Sangramaya (Solar Power Campaign)” project was launched;
 - (iv) volume of solar power that has been added to the national grid under the Net +, Net Metering and Net Accounting methods introduced by the “Soorya Bala Sangramaya (Solar Power Campaign)” project, separately; and
 - (v) actions that will be taken to promote solar power?
- (b) If not, why?

7.

178/2024

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the date of incorporation of the National Savings Bank;
 - (ii) of the names of the present Chairman, Board of Directors and the CEO;

(4)

- (iii) of the number of branches and employees;
- (iv) of the paid-up capital as of today;
- (v) whether is it in compliance with “BASEL” requirement of capital adequacy; and
- (vi) of the steps taken to address non-compliance, if any?
- (b) Will he also inform this House, separately of the —
 - (i) profit for the last 10 years and expected profit for the next 3 years;
 - (ii) return on investment for the last 10 years as per (i) above ;
 - (iii) administration cost and lending margin rate for the last 5 years;
 - (iv) administration cost as a percentage of lending rate; and;
 - (v) balance sheet values from 2019 to date?
- (c) Will he further inform this House —
 - (i) whether loans over Rs.1 billion were written off;
 - (ii) of the names of the entities involved; and
 - (iii) of legal procedures adopted for the write offs?
- (d) If not, why?

8.

246/2024

Hon. S.M. Marikkar,—To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— (1)

- (a) Will she inform this House —
 - (i) whether she is aware that no national school is situated within the Colombo North Education Division, out of those education divisions in the Colombo District;
 - (ii) in such case, whether she will take action to establish a national school within the Colombo North Education Division in the time to come;
 - (iii) whether a suitable school has been identified for this purpose; and
 - (iv) if not, whether a suitable school will be selected for it in the time to come?
- (b) If not, why?

9.

256/2024

Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera,— To ask the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware that the Folk Arts Centre (Jana Kala Kendraya) established in Kaikawala, Bentara has been abandoned without being used at present;

(5)

- (ii) whether that Folk Arts Centre is in a still usable condition;
 - (iii) or else, whether that can be reused after renovation; and
 - (iv) of the steps that will be taken to restore its administrative functions?
- (b) If not, why?

10.

290/2024

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Defence,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) whether he is aware that the remains of the persons who died of COVID-19 Pandemic were buried in “Majma Nagar” area in Batticaloa on a policy decision of the government and the assistance and contribution of the three forces were obtained for this purpose;
 - (ii) of the number of staff officers and other ranks included in the subdivision detailed for such burial activities, separately;
 - (iii) of the amounts paid as allowances to those officers in addition to the basic salary;
 - (iv) of the number of vehicles of the three forces and the number of vehicles obtained on rent basis for the use in burial activities
 - (v) of the amount of money borne as expenditure for fuel for each such vehicle;
 - (vi) whether the relatives of the deceased person were charged fees for burial activities; and
 - (vii) if so, of the amount so charged separately?
- (b) If not, why?

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 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 24(2) of the Parliament.

2.

The Leader of the House of Parliament,— Sittings of the Parliament,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 9.45 a.m. on Monday, February 17th, 2025.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

1.

P. 1/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.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.

3.

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.

4.

P.15/2024

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Formulation of a proper methodology for the appointment of Labour 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.

5.

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.

(7)

6.

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.

7.

P. 2/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

8.

P. 3/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

9.

P. 4/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

10.

P. 5/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

11.

P. 6/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

12.

P. 7/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

13.

P. 8/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

14.

P. 9 /2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

15.

P.10/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi,— 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.

16.

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.

17.

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.

18.

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.

19.

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.

20.

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.

21.

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.

22.

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.

23.

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.

24.

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.

25.

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.

26.

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.

27.

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.

28.

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.

*29.

Appropriation Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*30.

Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

** Indicates Government Business.*
