



*(Tenth Parliament - First Session)*

No. 10.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, January 09, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

### PRESENT :

**Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne**, Speaker

**Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih**, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

**Hon. (Mrs.) Hemali Weerasekara**, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

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**Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya**, Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

**Hon. (Prof.) A.H.M.H. Abayarathna**, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

**Hon. (Prof.) Chrishantha Abeysena**, Minister of Science and Technology

**Hon. Anura Karunathilaka**, Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing

**Hon. K.D. Lal Kantha**, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

**Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage**, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

**Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar**, Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

**Hon. Kumara Jayakody**, Minister of Energy

**Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa**, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

**Hon. (Prof.) Anil Jayantha**, Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development

**Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law**, Minister of Justice and National Integration

**Hon. (Dr.) Dammika Patabendi**, Minister of Environment

**Hon. (Dr.) Upali Pannilage**, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

**Hon. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj**, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

**Hon. Bimal Rathnayake**, Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation and Leader of the House of Parliament

**Hon. Ananda Wijepala**, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

**Hon. K.V. Samantha Vidyarathna**, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

**Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe**, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development

**Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi**, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

**Hon. Sunil Handunnetti**, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

**Hon. Vijitha Herath**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

**Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

**Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

**Hon. Namal Karunaratne**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

**Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku**, Deputy Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation

**Hon. Rathna Gamage**, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

**Hon. Eranga Gunasekara**, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs

**Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways

**Hon. Anton Jayakody**, Deputy Minister of Environment

**Hon. Mahinda Jayasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Labour

**Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera**, Deputy Minister of Defence

**Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne**, Deputy Minister of Sports

**Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake**, Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

**Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa**, Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

**Hon. Muneer Mulaffer**, Deputy Minister of National Integration

**Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Tourism

**Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe**, Deputy Minister of Land and Irrigation

**Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law**, Deputy Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs

**Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni**, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media

**Hon. Eranga Weeraratne**, Deputy Minister of Digital Economy

**Hon. Upali Samarasingha**, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Development

**Hon. T. B. Sarath**, Deputy Minister of Housing

**Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana**, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs

**Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma**, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning

**Hon. P. Ruwan Senarath**, Deputy Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

**Hon. (Dr.) Madhura Senevirathna**, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education

**Hon. Arun Hemachandra**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

**Hon. Nalin Hewage**, Deputy Minister of Vocational Education

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**Hon. Roshan Akmeemana**

**Hon. Ajith Agalakada**

**Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan**

**Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa**

**Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda**, Attorney at Law

**Hon. Hector Appuhamy**

**Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana**

**Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama**, Attorney at Law

**Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama**

**Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe**

**Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna**

**Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala**

**Hon. M.K.M. Aslam**

**Hon. Heshu Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi**

**Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi**

**Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi**

**Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne**

**Hon. B. Ariyawansa**

**Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika**

**Hon. K. Ilankumaran**

**Hon. Arkam Ilyas**

**Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe**

**Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga**

**Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka**

**Hon. Ravi Karunanayake**

**Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi**

**Hon. M. Nizam Kariapper, PC**

**Hon. Upul Kithsiri**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathan**  
**Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara**  
**Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara**  
**Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani**  
**Hon. Mano Ganesan**  
**Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage**  
**Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage**  
**Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage**  
**Hon. Nihal Galappaththi**  
**Hon. Ajith Gihan**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha**  
**Hon. D. V. Chanaka**  
**Hon. Gayan Janaka**  
**Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**  
**Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne**  
**Hon. Dilith Jayaweera**  
**Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. T.K. Jayasundara**  
**Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy**  
**Hon. M.A.M. Thahir**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Chandana Thennakoon**  
**Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake**  
**Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva**

**Hon. Thanura Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena**  
**Hon. Mohamed Sali Naleem**  
**Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara**  
**Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara**  
**Hon. Aruna Panagoda**  
**Hon. Nimal Palihena**  
**Hon. Nishantha Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam**  
**Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Stepni Fernando**  
**Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu**  
**Hon. Amila Prasad**  
**Hon. Lal Premanath**  
**Hon. Rohana Bandara**  
**Hon. Nanda Bandara**  
**Hon. Padmasiri Bandara**  
**Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara**  
**Hon. Ravindra Bandara**  
**Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen**  
**Hon. Sudath Balagalla**  
**Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah**  
**Hon. E.M. Basnayaka**  
**Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake**  
**Hon. Sunil Biyanwila**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe**  
**Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga**  
**Hon. Jagath Manuwarna**  
**Hon. S.M. Marikkar**  
**Hon. Imran Maharoof**  
**Hon. Chanaka Madugoda**

**Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala**  
**Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC**  
**Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed**  
**Hon. Danushka Ranganath**  
**Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha**  
**Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri**  
**Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake**  
**Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka**  
**Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe**  
**Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala**  
**Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran**  
**Hon. Mujibur Rahman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage**  
**Hon. R.G. Wijerathna**  
**Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera**  
**Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana**  
**Hon. Jagath Vithana**  
**Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi**  
**Hon. Athula Welandagoda**  
**Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan**  
**Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan**  
**Hon. Fasmin Sharif**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam**  
**Hon. Dinindu Saman**  
**Hon. Thilina Samarakoon**

**Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera**  
**Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath**  
**Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasingha**  
**Hon. Dewananda Suraweera**  
**Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi**  
**Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara**  
**Hon. Aravinda Senarath**  
**Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj**  
**Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna**  
**Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Kabir Hashim**  
**Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah**  
**Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi**  
**Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi**  
**Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Dinesh Hemantha**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Muhammad Faizal**  
**Hon. Riyas Farook**

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

**Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.**

**1. Announcements by the Speaker:** The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I table in all three languages the lists of names of the members of the Government nominated to serve in the following Committees for Special Purposes and the lists of names of the members nominated to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committees during the First Session of the Tenth Parliament as per the motions agreed to by Parliament on 06 December 2024 and the approval of the Committee of Selection on 08 January 2025:-

1. Legislative Standing Committee;
2. Committee on Standing Orders;
3. House Committee;
4. Committee on Ethics and Privileges;
5. Committee on Public Accounts;
6. Committee on Public Enterprises;
7. Committee on Ways and Means;
8. Committee on Public Petitions;
9. Committee on High Posts;
10. Backbencher Committee;
11. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence;
12. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
13. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Digital Economy;
14. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education;
15. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation;
16. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism;
17. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources;
18. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Entrepreneurship Development;
19. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation;
20. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation and Community Infrastructure;
21. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health and Mass Media;
22. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development;
23. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour;
24. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development, Construction and Housing;
25. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government;
26. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Rural Development, Social Security and Community empowerment;
27. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Science and Technology;

28. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs;
29. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy;
30. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports;
31. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Women and Child Affairs;
32. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment;
33. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs; and
34. Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration

Legislative Standing Committee;

I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated with the Deputy Speaker as the Chair and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees by the Committee of Selection to serve on the Legislative Standing Committee, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 113 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage

Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran

Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law

Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law

Hon. Aruna Panagoda

Hon. Ravindra Bandara

Committee on Standing Orders;

I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve on the Committee on Standing Orders, with the Speaker as the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairperson of Committees, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 116 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa

Hon. (Dr.) Prasanna Gunasena

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika

House Committee;

I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve on the House Committee, with the Speaker as the Chair, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 117 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. Ananda Wijepala

Hon. Gamagedara Dissanayake  
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam  
Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani  
Hon. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan  
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera

Committee on Ethics and Privileges;

I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve on the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 118 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. (Prof.) Chrishantha Abeysena  
Hon. (Dr.) Upali Pannilage  
Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama  
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi  
Hon. Sarath Kumara, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law

Committee on Public Accounts;

I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 119 of the Parliament, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve on the Committee on Public Accounts, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. Anton Jayakody  
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera  
Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne  
Hon. Nalin Hewage  
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi  
Hon. K. Ilankumaran  
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga  
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody  
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna  
Hon. Lal Premanath  
Hon. Dinindu Saman  
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi  
Hon. Aravinda Senarath  
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna

## Committee on Public Enterprises;

I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 120 of the Parliament, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve on the Committee on Public Enterprises, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam  
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha  
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera  
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake  
Hon. Sudath Balagalla  
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah  
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna  
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama  
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha  
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe  
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana  
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon  
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera  
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi  
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law

## Committee on Ways and Means;

I wish to inform that the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve on the Committee on Ways and Means, in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 124 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe  
Hon. (Prof.) Ruwan Ranasinghe  
Hon. Eranga Weeraratne  
Hon. (Dr.) Harshana Suriyapperuma  
Hon. Arkam Ilyas  
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilanthi Kottahachchi, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake  
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila  
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama  
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon  
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi

## Committee on Public Petitions;

I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 125 of the Parliament, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve on the Committee on Public Petitions, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. R.M. Gamini Rathnayake  
Hon. Ajith Agalakada  
Hon. Upul Kithsiri  
Hon. Ajith Gihan  
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena  
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake  
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara  
Hon. Nishantha Perera  
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga  
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri  
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe  
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha  
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel  
Hon. Muhammad Faizal

## Committee on High Posts;

I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Orders 127(1) and 130(1) of the Parliament, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection, to serve on the Committee on High Posts, under the chairmanship of the Speaker, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya  
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake  
Hon. Kumara Jayakody  
Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Mrs.) Saroja Savithri Paulraj  
Hon. (Dr.) Hiniduma Sunil Senevi  
Hon. (Dr.) Hansaka Wijemuni  
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe

## Backbencher Committee;

I wish to inform that, notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 129 of the Parliament, the following Members have been nominated with the Chief Government Whip as the Chair and the Chief Opposition Whip, by the Committee of Selection to serve on the Backbencher Committee, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika  
Hon. K. Ilankumaran  
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law

Ministerial Consultative Committees;

I wish to inform that notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 112 of the Parliament, the following Members have been nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve in the Ministerial Consultative Committees, as per the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2024:—

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence

Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar  
Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Ananda Wijepala  
Hon. Eranga Gunasekara  
Hon. Wasantha Piyathissa  
Hon. Muneer Mulaffer  
Hon. Sunil Watagala, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Eranga Weeraratne  
Hon. Upali Samarasingha  
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne  
Hon. D. V. Chanaka  
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam  
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika  
Hon. K. Ilankumaran  
Hon. Ajith Gihan  
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga  
Hon. Sanjeeva Ranasingha  
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe  
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe  
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake  
Hon. Kabir Hashim  
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Roshan Akmeemana

Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage  
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage  
Hon. Gayan Janaka  
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera  
Hon. Nimal Palihena  
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake  
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila  
Hon. Riyas Farook  
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna  
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon  
Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi  
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi  
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi  
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Muhammad Faizal

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Digital Economy

Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku  
Hon. Ajith P. Perera  
Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne  
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam  
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika  
Hon. Arkam Ilyas  
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga  
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage  
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi  
Hon. Gayan Janaka  
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera  
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Thanura Dissanayake  
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Ravindra Bandara  
Hon. Suranga Rathnayaka  
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon  
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera  
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi  
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education

Hon. Anura Karunathilaka  
Hon. (Dr.) Upali Pannilage  
Hon. (Dr.) V.S. Radhakrishnan  
Hon. D. V. Chanaka  
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan  
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna  
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa  
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi  
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne  
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha  
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran  
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon  
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva  
Hon. Nimal Palihena  
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara  
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama  
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala  
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha  
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka  
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

Hon. Upali Samarasingha  
Hon. T. B. Sarath  
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala  
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi  
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha  
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan  
Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran  
Hon. Kins Nelson  
Hon. Rohana Bandara  
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama  
Hon. Upul Kithsiri  
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena  
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody  
Hon. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan  
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna  
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara

Hon. Aruna Panagoda  
Hon. Sudath Balagalla  
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka  
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law  
Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage  
Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana  
Hon. Hector Appuhamy  
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana  
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna  
Hon. Roshan Akmeemana  
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam  
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika  
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage  
Hon. Ajith Gihan  
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy  
Hon. Susantha Dodawatta, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara  
Hon. Stepni Fernando  
Hon. Nanda Bandara  
Hon. Riyas Farook  
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka  
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi  
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi  
Hon. Hector Appuhamy  
Hon. Imran Maharroof  
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan  
Hon. Roshan Akmeemana  
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa  
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama  
Hon. K. Ilankumaran

Hon. Arkam Ilyas  
Hon. Upul Kithsiri  
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage  
Hon. Ajith Gihan  
Hon. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan  
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon  
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna  
Hon. Stepni Fernando  
Hon. Sudath Balagalla  
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe  
Hon. Muhammad Faizal

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

Hon. Upali Samarasingha  
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake  
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri  
Hon. Waruna Liyanage  
Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga  
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage  
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera  
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera  
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara  
Hon. Sellaththamby Thilaganathan  
Hon. Aruna Panagoda  
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara  
Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake  
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha  
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage  
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera  
Hon. Athula Welandagoda  
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon  
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi  
Hon. Muhammad Faizal

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation

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Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka  
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera  
Hon. Ajith Agalakada

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Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law  
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Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake  
Hon. Ravindra Bandara  
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Hon. Jagath Vithana  
Hon. Dinindu Saman  
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasinga  
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera  
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Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera  
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Hon. Ajith Agalakada  
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa  
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Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage  
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara  
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran  
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake  
Hon. Nishantha Perera  
Hon. Lal Premanath  
Hon. Nanda Bandara  
Hon. Sunil Biyanwila  
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala  
Hon. Danushka Ranganath  
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha  
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Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj

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Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu  
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Hon. Jagath Manuwarna  
Hon. (Dr.) Nandana Millagala  
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath  
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade, Commerce, Food Security and  
Cooperative Development

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Hon. Heshan Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi  
Hon. Rohana Bandara  
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam  
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Hon. Riyas Farook  
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri  
Hon. R.G. Wijerathna

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Hon. Wijesiri Basnayake  
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Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran  
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Hon. Nimal Palihena  
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna  
Hon. Danushka Ranganath  
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe

Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana  
Hon. Fasmin Sharif  
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera  
Hon. Aravinda Senarath  
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

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and Local Government

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Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala  
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi  
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi  
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Hon. Muhammad Faizal

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Community Empowerment

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Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara  
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Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha  
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya  
Hon. Thilina Samarakoon  
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel  
Hon. Dewananda Suraweera  
Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna  
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha

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Hon. Arkam Ilyas  
Hon. Wasantha Pushpa Kumara  
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage  
Hon. Chathura Galappaththi  
Hon. Ashoka Gunasena  
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera  
Hon. Stepni Fernando  
Hon. Amila Prasad  
Hon. Ravindra Bandara  
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Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama  
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Dr.) Nishantha Samaraweera  
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Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law

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Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law  
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Hon. K. Ilankumaran

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Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe  
Hon. Shantha Pathma Kumara Subasinga  
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Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law

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Hon. K. Ilankumaran  
Hon. M.S. Uthumalebbe  
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Hon. Thanura Dissanayake  
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake  
Hon. Aruna Panagoda  
Hon. Ravindra Bandara  
Hon. E.M. Basnayaka  
Hon. Danushka Ranganath  
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha  
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Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya  
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Hon. S.M. Marikkar  
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna  
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi  
Hon. Waruna Liyanage

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Hon. (Mrs.) M.A.C.S. Chathuri Gangani  
Hon. Lasith Bhashana Gamage  
Hon. Gayan Janaka  
Hon. Kosala Nuwan Jayaweera  
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran  
Hon. Kanthasamy Prabu  
Hon. Amila Prasad  
Hon. (Dr.) Sandaruwan Madarasinghe  
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama  
Hon. Riyas Farook  
Hon. Kanchana Welipitiya  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law  
Hon. Dinindu Saman  
Hon. Aravinda Senarath

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Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna  
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law  
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne  
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage  
Hon. (Mrs.) Samanmali Gunasingha  
Hon. (Mrs.) Anushka Thilakarathne, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah  
Hon. (Mrs.) A.M.M.M. Rathwaththe  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam  
Hon. (Ms.) Ambika Samivel  
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Environment

Hon. Eranga Gunasekara  
Hon. Asoka Sapumal Ranwala

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi  
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna  
Hon. Kins Nelson  
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena  
Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama  
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe  
Hon. Upul Kithsiri  
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Gunawardana  
Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody  
Hon. Padmasiri Bandara  
Hon. Manoj Rajapaksha  
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law  
Hon. (Mrs.) Deepthi Wasalage  
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law  
Hon. Asitha Niroshana Egoda Vithana  
Hon. (Dr.) Elayathamby Srinath  
Hon. Aravinda Senarath  
Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa  
Hon. Gayantha Karunathilleka  
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi  
Hon. Lakshman Nipuna Arachchi  
Hon. Nayana Wasalathilaka  
Hon. (Ms.) Krishnan Kalaichelvi  
Hon. Chaminda Lalith Kumara  
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy  
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva  
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake  
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara  
Hon. Nishantha Perera  
Hon. Lal Premanath  
Hon. Nanda Bandara  
Hon. Lieutenant Commander (Rtd.) Prageeth Madhuranga  
Hon. Jagath Manuwarna  
Hon. Manjula Sugath Rathnayaka  
Hon. Thurairasa Ravikaran  
Hon. Fasmin Sharif

## Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and National Integration

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law

Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam

Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law

Hon. M.K.M. Aslam

Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne

Hon. (Mrs.) Chamindranee Kiriella, Attorney at Law

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Hon. (Dr.) S. Sri Bavanandarajah

Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law

Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law

Hon. Major General (Rtd.) G.D. Sooriyabandara

Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi

Hon. Bhagya Sri Herath, Attorney at Law”

**2. Presentation of Papers:** (1) The Speaker presented the —

- (i) Second Installment – Parts LX, LXI and LXII and Ninth Installment – Part XLII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2022; and
- (ii) Second Installment – Parts XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX and XXX, Third Installment – Part XV, and Ninth Installment – Parts XV, XVI and XVII of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2023

in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said, Reports do lie upon the **Table** and be printed.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Annual Performance Report of the Delimitation Commission for the year 2023 and moved that Report be referred to the relevant Committees.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Science and Technology presented the Annual Report of the Industrial Technology Institute for the year 2022 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

**3. Presentation of Reports from Committees:** The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on the—

- (i) Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979;
- (ii) Orders under the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007;
- (iii) Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme under the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002; and
- (iv) Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008

which were referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

**4. Appropriation:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented,— Bill to provide for the service of the financial year 2025; to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka, for the purpose of such service; to make financial provision in respect of certain activities of the Government during that financial year; to enable the payment by way of advances out of the Consolidated Fund or any other fund or moneys, of or at the disposal of the Government, of moneys required during that financial year for expenditure on such activities; to provide for the refund of such moneys to the Consolidated Fund and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, January 23, 2025, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

**5. Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions):** The Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government presented,— Bill to provide for the calling of fresh nominations and the holding of elections in respect of certain local authorities where the elections of such local authorities have been called and postponed; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, January 23, 2025, be printed and be referred to the relevant Committee.

**6. Sittings of the Parliament:** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— 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 11.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

**7. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the Order made by the then Minister of Investment Promotion under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 regarding CESS levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2400/25 of 05<sup>th</sup> September 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

(At 11.15 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

**8. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 1):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2384/31 of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**9. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 2):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the then Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2395/32 of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**10. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 3):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2404/19 of 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**11. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 4):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism under Sections 2 and 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2406/02 of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**12. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 5):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2408/15 of 01<sup>st</sup> November 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**13. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act (No. 6):** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2412/38 of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**14. Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme under the Welfare Benefits Act:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— That the Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 9 of the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002, relating to Welfare Benefits and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2415/66 of 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024, which was presented on 07.01.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**15. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education moved,— Order 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 Colombo West International Terminal (Private) Limited and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2401/19 of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, which was presented on 17.12.2024, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**16. Adjournment (Immediate Programme to Reduce Cost of Living):** The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 2.10 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That Hon. Aravinda Senarath do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.51 p.m. Hon. Aravinda Senarath took the Chair.)

And it being 5.30 p.m., Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.

Parliament adjourned accordingly until 9.30 a.m. on Friday, January 10, 2025.