



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 52.]

ORDER PAPER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1.

496/2025

Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara,—To ask the Minister of Health and Mass Media,— (2)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of Sri Lankan television channels that are broadcast in Sri Lanka at present;
 - (ii) number of government television channels and the number of private television channels that are among them, separately;
 - (iii) names of the government and the private television channels, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) whether he accepts that a code of ethics should exist for the media;
 - (ii) of the manner in which the aforesaid code of ethics is being enforced in respect of the Sri Lankan television channels;
 - (iii) of the manner in which focus has been made on the programmes that are being broadcast on television channels at present ;
 - (iv) whether an investigative course of action is going to be implemented in respect of the programs concerned; and
 - (v) if so, of the manner in which such course of action is going to be implemented?
- (c) If not, why?

2.

500/2025

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Justice and National Integration,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether he is aware that there are no chambers for new lawyers practicing in the courts in the Kandy District;

(2)

- (ii) if so, of the number of lawyers who have not had chambers so far, separately for each court in the Kandy District;
- (iii) whether he is aware that steps have been taken to construct new law chambers on the land adjacent to the lawyers' office complex established in Gatambe, Kandy;
- (iv) whether he is aware that construction work pertaining to it has been stopped halfway;
- (v) of the measures that will be taken to expedite the construction work of the said new law chambers?

(b) If not, why?

3.

516/2025

Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika,— To ask the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) whether he is aware of the statement made by the President to the effect that the investigations in relation to seven crimes, which had been suspended, were resumed after the appointment of the current President;
- (ii) of the current progress of the investigation into the disappearance of the two political activists 'Lalith Weeraraj and Kugan Muruganandan', who disappeared in Jaffna in 2011;
- (iii) whether the investigations have been completed by now in relation to any of the other disappearances that occurred after the end of the civil war in the North-Eastern regions of Sri Lanka and which were not solved up until now;
- (iv) whether the political interferences caused the delay in the investigations into the said disappearances; and
- (v) if so, of the measures taken in this regard?

(b) If not, why?

4.

519/2025

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala,— To ask the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House whether —

- (i) there is a serious discrepancy between the pension of government pensioners who retired before 31.12.2015 and that of those who retired after 31.12.2015;
- (ii) steps will be taken to remove the said pension discrepancy;

(3)

(iii) he is aware that the cost of living allowance of present government employees is Rs. 17,800 and the cost of living allowance of government pensioners is Rs. 9,025, and that as a result, there is a discrepancy of Rs. 8,775; and

(iv) steps will be taken to remove the said discrepancy?

(b) If not, why?

5.

542/2025

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna,— To ask the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

(i) of the number of applications that are received per day for obtaining new passports;

(ii) of the number of applications that have been received by now for obtaining new passports;

(iii) of the number of new passports issued per day;

(iv) whether he is aware that a long time is spent after applying to the Department of Immigration and Emigration for obtaining a new passport or extending the period of validity of an existing passport; and

(v) of the steps that have been taken to resolve this problem?

(b) If not why?

6.

571/2025

Hon. Kitnan Selvaraj,— To ask the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure,— (1)

(a) Is he aware that the —

(i) people of the plantation sector have been faced with immense difficulties due to lack of clean drinking water since the previous governments did not commence drinking water schemes in those areas; and

(ii) UNICEF commenced the Plantation Sector Drinking Water Scheme in 1987?

(b) Will he inform this House —

(i) of the number of Plantation Sector Drinking Water Schemes commenced by the UNICEF;

(ii) of the names of the districts and the plantation estates in which the schemes concerned were commenced;

(4)

- (iii) whether those schemes are functioning at present; and
- (iv) of the current situation of each of the aforesaid schemes, separately?
- (c) Will he also inform this House of the —
 - (i) number of drinking water schemes that were implemented in the estate areas in the Badulla District during the past five (05) years;
 - (ii) amount of money that had been allocated for the said schemes;
 - (iii) amount of money that had been allocated for the drinking water scheme that has been implemented to supply water to the LLG Capkade New Housing Scheme in Poonagala, in the Haldummulla Divisional Secretariat Division; and
 - (iv) present status of the drinking water scheme concerned?
- (d) If not, why?

7.

573/2025

Hon. Athula Welandagoda,— To ask the Minister of Environment,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware of the problems relating to the shortage of employees, housing facilities of employees, and facilities such as tourist bungalows, toilet facilities, roads network, and common amenities in the Yala National Park;
 - (ii) of the number of registered tourist jeeps that are allowed to enter the Park;
 - (iii) of the number of jeeps registered but not currently providing services to tourists;
 - (iv) of the action that will be taken regarding those jeeps;
 - (v) whether steps will be taken to register new jeeps to replace the jeeps concerned; and
 - (vi) separately, of the short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures that will be taken to protect and develop the wildlife and the ecosystem in the Yala National Park, which has secured significant tourist attraction and attention and generates a substantial daily income for Sri Lanka?
- (b) If not, why?

(5)

8.

578/2025

Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan,— To ask the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation,— (1)

- (a) Will he admit that a —
 - (i) severe adverse effect has been caused to transport and economic activities of people living in the territory where it has been split in twain as Eluwankarai and Paduwankarai because of the lagoon situated in the Batticaloa District; and
 - (ii) need has arisen to erect a bridge in order to solve the transport problems faced by the people concerned?
- (b) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) of the difficulties faced by the people in the Batticaloa district concerned due to lack of bridges as adequate;
 - (ii) of the approximate number of bridges that need to be built for overcoming the difficulties referred to above;
 - (iii) of the areas through which those bridges will be constructed;
 - (iv) whether action will be taken to construct at least two of the bridges lined up, using the Budgetary Allocations for the year 2025 and international donations; and
 - (v) of the social and economic benefits that will be accrued to people in the Batticaloa district by the construction of the bridges?
- (c) If not why?

9.

790/2025

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

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) whether he is aware that there are lands coming under the purview of the Irrigation Department located in the vicinity of Deduru Oya of the Yapahuwa kingdom;
 - (ii) whether expeditious measures will be taken to renovate the holiday resorts built on the lands concerned which are now falling into disrepair;
 - (iii) whether the Irrigation Department has a course of action to provide sanitary facilities to the area concerned since local tourists make use of the area for recreational purposes and nevertheless no sanitary facilities are available;

(6)

- (iv) whether the Irrigation Department has a plan to improve the conditions of the Ridibendi Ella anicut area together with the holiday resorts in order to attract local and foreign tourists; and
- (v) whether steps will be taken to overcome the obstacles to agricultural activities owing to poor drainage of irrigated water, due to existence of several irregular constructions in the aforesaid area?

(b) If not, why?

10.

835/2025

Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation,— (1)

(a) Will he inform this House —

- (i) of the number of major irrigation reservoirs existing in Sri Lanka;
- (ii) whether the reservation boundaries of the reservoirs concerned have been identified;
- (iii) if so, of the number of reservoirs in which reservation boundaries have been identified;
- (iv) whether the reservation boundaries of the reservoirs, in which reservation boundaries have been identified, have been gazetted; and
- (v) of the reservoirs whose reservation boundaries have been gazetted?

(b) Will he also inform this House —

- (i) of the number of families living within the reservation boundary of the Nuwara Weva Reservoir in the Anuradhapura District;
- (ii) whether a list of names of such people will be tabled;
- (iii) whether permits have been granted for lands in which they live; and
- (iv) if so, whether a list of people whom have been granted with a permit will be presented?

(c) If not, why?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*1.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989, as amended, relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/42 of 31st January 2025, which was presented on 08.05.2025, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*2.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/30 of 31st January 2025, which was presented on 08.05.2025, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*3.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,— Notification under the Finance Act,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 19 read with Section 51 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/41 of 31st January 2025, which was presented on 08.05.2025, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*4.

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 Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 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. 2428/07 of 19th March 2025, which were presented on 08.05.2025, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*5.

Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill — Second Reading.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*6.

Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the establishment and maintenance of places of unlawful detention and torture chambers at the Batalanda Housing Scheme,—
Adjourned debate on question (10th April 2025) Motion made and question proposed,—
“Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the establishment and maintenance of places of unlawful detention and torture chambers at the Batalanda Housing Scheme, which was tabled in Parliament on 14th March 2025, be considered by Parliament.”

** Indicates Government Business.*
