



(Tenth Parliament - First Session)

No. 48.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, April 09, 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

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

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

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. (Dr.) Chrishantha Abeysena, Minister of Science and Technology

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

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 Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media and Chief Government Whip

Hon. (Dr.) 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.) 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 Viddyaratna, 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. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

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

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. R.M. Jayawardhana, Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

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. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Hon. Muneer Mulafter, 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. 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. (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

Hon. Roshan Akmeemana
Hon. Ajith Agalakada
Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Aboobucker Athambawa
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. U.P. Abeywickrama, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) L.M. Abeywickrama
Hon. (Dr.) Nihal Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Ramanathan Archchuna
Hon. M.K.M. Aslam
Hon. Hesha Withanage Ankumbura Arachchi
Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi
Hon. (Dr.)(Ms.) Kaushalya Ariyaratne
Hon. B. Ariyawansa
Hon. (Dr.) Najith Indika
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. Kathiravelu Shanmugam Kugathanan
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. Lasith Bhashana Gamage
Hon. Thilanka U. Gamage
Hon. (Mrs.) Nilusha Lakmali Gamage
Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage

Hon. Chathura Galappaththi
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. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. Dilith Jayaweera
Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, Attorney at Law
Hon. T.K. Jayasundara
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Mayilvaganam Jegatheeswaran
Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy
Hon. M.A.M. Thahir
Hon. (Dr.) Sellaththamby Thilaganathan
Hon. Chandana Thennakoon
Hon. Jeevan Thondaman
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. Sugath Wasantha de Silva
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva
Hon. Dharmapriya Dissanayake
Hon. Sujeewa Dissanayake
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna
Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara
Hon. Nandana Pathmakumara
Hon. Aruna Panagoda
Hon. Nimal Palihena
Hon. Nishantha Perera
Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. Chithral Fernando, Attorney at Law
Hon. Stepni Fernando
Hon. Amila Prasad

Hon. Lal Premanath
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. Padmasiri 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. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ruwan Mapalagama
Hon. Ismail Muththu Mohamed
Hon. Danushka Ranganath
Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha
Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri
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. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sunil Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Hasara Liyanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna , Attorney at Law
Hon. Ruwan Wijeweera
Hon. Darmapriya Wijesinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Hiruni Wijesinghe, Attorney at Law

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Athula Welandagoda
Hon. Gnanamuththu Srineshan
Hon. Fasmin Sharif
Hon. (Dr.) Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
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. Kitnan Selvaraj
Hon. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah
Hon. Chandima Hettiaratchi
Hon. Champika Hettiarachchi
Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake
Hon. (Ms.) Lakmali Hemachandra, Attorney at Law
Hon. Dinesh Hemantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Herath, Attorney at Law
Hon. Muhammad Faizal
Hon. Riyas Farook

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne, Acting Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Presentation of Papers: (1) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Resolution under the Schedule “A” of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties (Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/05 of 27th January 2025) and moved that this Resolution be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under Section 10A of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) as amended by Act, No. 83 of 1988 relating to Preferential and General Duties on imported goods and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2421/43 of 31st January 2025.

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

(3) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Reports on the observations and steps taken in terms of the Standing Order 119(4) of the Parliament with regard to the matters mentioned on the Ministry of Mass Media and the institutions coming under its purview in the reports of the Committee on Public Accounts which were presented to Parliament and moved that those Reports be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board for the year 2022; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the year 2023

and moved that those Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Resource Sustainability.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Health and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Government Analyst's Department for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Governance, Justice and Civil Protection.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment presented the Annual Report of the National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education, Manpower and Human Capital.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Women and Child Affairs presented the Annual Report of the National Child Protection Authority for the year 2023 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health, Media and Women's Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, the Chair of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill; and
- (ii) Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme under Section 9 of the Welfare Benefits Act, No. 24 of 2002

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Presentation of Public Petitions:

- (1) Hon. Rajeevan Jeyachandramoorthy presented a petition dated 19.01.2025 from Mr. Subramaniam Nagarasa of No. 12, Collingswood Place, 2/2, Colombo 06.
- (2) Hon. Ravindra Bandara presented a petition dated 19.12.2024 from Mr. K. G. Jeewan Sirisena of Siddhi Araawa, Pahala Kadurugamuwa, Diyathalawa.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

4. Business of the Parliament: The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 2 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. 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 7.00 p.m.. At 5.00 p.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 7.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill: Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice and National Integration moved,—That Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.25 p.m. Hon. Sanjeewa Ranasingha took the Chair.)

(At 4.44 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 1 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“Sri Lanka, with effect from October 1,”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 20 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“October 1, 2025,”; and”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed another amendment to leave out line 25 in page 2 and substitute the following:—

“machinery imported prior to October 1,”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 12 were agreed to.

Clause 13

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed an amendment to leave out line 18 in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“2011 but prior to October 1, 2025”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed another amendment to leave out lines 22 and 23 in page 13 and substitute the following:—

“(3) for any period commencing on or after October 1, 2025-

(a) a period of one month-

- (i) where any person considers as an eligible exporter under this Act;
- (ii) where any person has commenced any business or any project in Sri Lanka and undertakes to comply with the requirements specified in subsection (7) of section 22;
- (iii) where any person supplies goods or services to any Strategic Development Project under item (xx) of paragraph (b) of Part III of the First Schedule to this Act during the project implementation period or any specified project identified by the Minister under Item (xxi) of paragraph (b) of Part III of the First Schedule to this Act;”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development proposed another amendment to leave out lines 9 to 13 (both inclusive) in page 14 and substitute the following:—

“products derived from plants cultivated on land or in a green house, and include products that have undergone preliminary processing steps such as cleaning, sizing, sorting, grading, cutting or chilling for the purpose of sale;”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clauses 14 and 15 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Labour and Deputy Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Payment Scheme under the Welfare Benefits Act:

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of 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. 2429/02 of 24th March 2025, which was presented on 08.04.2025, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (2023): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 08.01.2025 under Section 33 of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act, No. 51 of 1979, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Annual Report of the Jaya Container Terminals Limited (2023): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Jaya Container Terminals Limited 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 24.01.2025 under Section 153 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council (2022): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Sri Lanka Press Council 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 19.02.2025 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Annual Report of the Ayurvedic Medical Council (2023): The Minister of Health and Mass Media moved,— That the Annual Report of the Ayurvedic Medical Council 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 08.01.2025 under the Ayurvedic Act, No. 31 of 1961, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (2022): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 17.12.2024 under Section 20(2) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

13. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund (2022): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 17.12.2024 under Section 23(4) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

14. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (2023): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 05.02.2025 under Section 20(2) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

15. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund (2023): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Fund 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 05.02.2025 under Section 23(4) of the Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

16. Annual Report of the National Livestock Development Board (2019): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Livestock Development Board 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 14.02.2025 under Section 23 of the State Agricultural Corporations Act, No. 11 of 1972, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

17. Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Limited (2021/2022):

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Limited 2021/2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.03.2022 and presented on 18.12.2024 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

18. Annual Report of the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management (2022):

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 05.02.2025 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

19. Annual Report of the National Paper Company Limited (2015/2016):

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Paper Company Limited 2015/2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.03.2016 and presented on 08.01.2025 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

20. Annual Report and Accounts of the Mantai Salt Limited (2020/2021):

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the Annual Report and Accounts of the Mantai Salt Limited 2020/2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.03.2021 and presented on 18.12.2024 under Section 14(3) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

21. Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board (2022):

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 05.02.2025 under Section 64 of the National Crafts Council and Allied Institutions Act, No. 35 of 1982, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

22. Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon (2022):

The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the Annual Report of the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon 2022 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2022 and presented on 18.02.2025 under Section 39 of the Industrial Development Act, No. 36 of 1969, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

23. Annual Report of the National Crafts Council (2023): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development moved,— That the Annual Report of the National Crafts Council 2023 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2023 and presented on 21.01.2025 under Section 20 of the National Crafts Council and Allied Institutions Act, No. 35 of 1982, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

24. Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund (2016): The Minister of Health and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs moved,— That the Annual Report of the Central Cultural Fund 2016 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2016 and presented on 05.02.2025 under Section 9(4) of the Central Cultural Fund Act, No. 57 of 1980, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

25. Adjournment (Promotion of Solar Power Generation): The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Energy moved,—That Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.48 p.m. Hon. (Prof.) Sena Nanayakkara took the Chair.)

And it being past 7.00 p.m. Parliament was at 7.04 p.m. 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 Thursday, April 10, 2025.