



*[Eighth Parliament -First Session]*

**No. 1(10).]**

**ADDENDUM TO THE ORDER BOOK No. 1**

**OF**

**PARLIAMENT**

**Issued on Saturday, December 12, 2015**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR WHICH NO DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED**

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Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe  
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella  
Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva  
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka  
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara,— Sectoral Oversight Committees,—  
That this Parliament resolves that—

- (a) There shall be in Parliament Committees styled “Sectoral Oversight Committees” as indicated below, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions as indicated to examine all Bills, Resolutions, Treaties, Reports and Other Matters relating to subjects within their jurisdiction;
- (b) The Committee of Selection shall allocate the subjects, functions, departments and institutions assigned to Ministries under Articles 43(1) and 43(2) of the Constitution to the appropriate Sectoral Oversight Committee, which shall be as follows:—
1. Economic Development
  2. International Relations
  3. National Security
  4. Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources
  5. Women and Gender
  6. Education and Human Resources Development
  7. Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment
  8. Transport and Communication
  9. Agriculture and Lands
  10. Legal Affairs (anti corruption) and Media
  11. Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage
  12. Business and Commerce
  13. Energy
  14. Manufacturing and Services
  15. Internal Administration and Public Management
  16. Reconciliation and North & East Reconstruction

(2)

- (c) All Bills, Resolutions, Treaties, Reports and Other Matters within their jurisdiction shall be referred to the relevant Committees for report prior to being considered by the Parliament.
2. (a) The several Sectoral Oversight Committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph 1.(c) in order to assist Parliament in:—
- (i) its analysis, appraisal and evaluation of—
    - (a) the application, administration, execution and effectiveness of legislation passed by Parliament; and
    - (b) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and
  - (ii) its formulation, consideration, and enactment or changes in laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.
- (b) In order to determine whether laws, projects and programmes addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a Committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Parliament and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall review and study on a continuing basis—
- (i) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of legislative projects and programmes addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;
  - (ii) the organization and operation of Departments and Institutions having responsibilities for the administration and execution of legislative projects and programmes addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;
  - (iii) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a Bill or a Resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and
  - (iv) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.
- (c) Each Committee may conduct at any time such investigations and studies as it considers necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities.
- (d) Not later than six weeks after the commencement of the first session of Parliament, each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall, adopt its oversight plan for that Parliament. Such plan shall be submitted to the Committee on Parliamentary Business. In developing its plan each Committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible—
- (i) consult with other Committees that have jurisdiction over the same or related legislative projects, programmes, or agencies within its jurisdiction with the objective of ensuring maximum coordination and cooperation among Committees when conducting reviews of such legislative projects, programmes, or agencies and include in its plan an explanation of steps that have been or will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

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- (ii) review specific problems with Government rules, regulations, statutes and court decisions which need further consideration, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals;
    - (iii) give priority consideration to including in its plan the review of those legislative projects, programmes, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority; and
    - (iv) to ensure that all significant legislative projects, programmes, or agencies within its jurisdiction are subject to periodic review.
  - (e) not later than nine weeks after the commencement of the first session of Parliament, the Speaker shall report to Parliament the oversight plans submitted by Committees together with any recommendations that it may make to ensure the most effective coordination of oversight plans and otherwise to achieve the objectives of this sub clause.
3. (a) Parliament may refer any item to any Sectoral Oversight Committee.
- (b) A Minister may refer any matter to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee having jurisdiction over the subject, function, department or institution coming under the Minister.
4. (a) The Speaker shall refer each Bill, Regulation, Resolution or other matter that relates to a subject listed under a Sectoral Oversight Committee named under paragraph 1(a) above in accordance with the provisions of this Standing Order.
- (b) The Speaker shall refer matters under paragraph 4 (a) in such manner as to ensure to the maximum extent feasible that each Committee that has jurisdiction under paragraph 1(a) over the subject matter of a provision thereof may consider such provision and report to Parliament thereon.
- (c) In carrying out paragraphs (a) and (b) with respect to the referral of a matter, the Speaker:—
- (i) shall designate a Committee exercising primary jurisdiction;
  - (ii) may refer the matter to one or more additional Committees for consideration initially or after the matter has been reported by the Committee exercising primary jurisdiction for its opinion;
  - (iii) may subject a referral to appropriate time limitations; and
  - (iv) may make such other provision as may be considered appropriate.
- (d) The opinion shall deal solely with those matters that fall under the areas of responsibility of the Committee giving an opinion.
- (e) The Committee which has primary jurisdiction shall fix a deadline within which the Committee asks for an opinion and must deliver if it is to be taken into account in the Committee which has primary jurisdiction.

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5. (a) Each Committee when acting in the exercise of its jurisdiction shall submit to the Speaker a report in respect of each item considered by the Committee. The Speaker shall cause such report to be tabled before Parliament.
- (b) (i) Any Report by a Committee on any Bill or Regulation shall comprise draft amendments if any to the proposal accompanied, if appropriate by short justifications.
- (ii) Any such amendment to a Bill will be moved by the Chairman of the Committee or any other member designated by the Committee during the Committee stage of such Bill under Standing Order No. 56 of the Parliament as an amendment moved by the Chairman of the Committee.
6. (a) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall prepare a calendar of its meetings.
- (b) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee will meet not less than two days of the month. The meetings of each Sectoral Oversight Committee will be summoned in accordance with the calendar/timetable or as decided by the Chairman.
- (c) Additional meetings of any Sectoral Oversight Committee shall be summoned either by the Chairman or at the request of half the members of the Committee.
7. Every Sectoral Oversight Committee will function for the duration of Parliament.
8. (a) All Members of Parliament other than the following are eligible to serve as Members of Sectoral Oversight Committees:—
  - (i) Speaker
  - (ii) Deputy Speaker
  - (iii) Deputy Chairman of Committees
  - (iv) Prime Minister
  - (v) Leader of the House
  - (vi) Leader of the Opposition
  - (vii) Government and Opposition Whips
  - (viii) Ministers of Cabinet appointed under Article 43(2) of the Constitution
  - (ix) Ministers appointed under Article 44(1) of the Constitution the subjects and functions of whose Ministries do not come within the purview of a Minister of the Cabinet or is not delegated subjects and functions under Article 44(5).
- (b) Every eligible member shall serve as a Member of not more than three Sectoral Oversight Committees. Deputy Ministers and Ministers not falling under paragraph 8 (a)(viii) shall not serve in any Sectoral Oversight Committee whose jurisdiction and related functions are the same as any subject, function, Department or Institution of the Minister of the Cabinet under whose purview such Deputy Minister or Minister functions.

- (c) The places in each Sectoral Oversight Committee will be allocated by the Committee of Selection to political parties and independent groups represented in Parliament according to the numerical strength amongst the list of eligible members.
  - (d) The Leaders of the political parties or of the independent groups represented in Parliament shall submit the nomination of members of each Sectoral Oversight Committee to the Committee of Selection. The Speaker shall announce such names to Parliament in consultation with the Committee of Selection.
  - (e) The Leader of any political party or independent group represented in Parliament may in writing request the Committee of Selection to remove any such Member nominated under paragraph 8(d) from such Committee. The Committee of Selection shall on receiving such request discharge such Member from such Committee and inform Parliament.
  - (f) Each Sectoral Oversight Committee shall at its first meeting and thereafter at the first meeting after the post of Chairman becomes vacant elect a Chairman from among the Members of the Sectoral Oversight Committee.
  - (g) Any Member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings without leave of the Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of the Committee.
9. Each Sectoral Oversight Committee may when it considers necessary appoint Sub Committees of its own members to examine and report to such Committee such matters as deemed necessary.
10. Matters referred to a Sectoral Oversight Committee may not be taken up for consideration by Parliament until 6 weeks has lapsed from the reference unless the Parliament has directed otherwise and provided that if Parliament has by resolution extended the time for the reporting on any specific matter then the consideration of such matter shall take place only after the lapse of the period as referred to in the resolution.
11. Every Sectoral Oversight Committee may in regard to any Bill or any other matter of public importance call for evidence from all parties affected by such Bill or of any interested parties or persons.
12. (a) Every Sectoral Oversight Committee shall be empowered to send for persons, papers and records and shall submit Reports containing their opinions and observations together with the Minutes of evidence taken before them to Parliament.
- (b) A reservation by any member of a Sectoral Oversight Committee may be attached to any Report of such Committee.
13. (a) Whenever the Report of a Sectoral Oversight Committee recommends the enactment of legislation, the Cabinet of Ministers shall submit its opinion to Parliament within 6 weeks of such Report being tabled in Parliament.
- (b) Whenever the Report of a Sectoral Oversight Committee is a non-legislative report, the Cabinet of Ministers shall submit its opinion within 6 weeks of the Report being tabled in Parliament.
14. Paragraph 8(a) shall apply to Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Public Enterprises.

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Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara,— Committee on Public Finance,— That this Parliament resolves that there shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Finance consisting of a Chairman and eleven members nominated by the Committee of Selection provided that the Chairman shall be elected by the Members of the Committee.

2. It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine :

- (a) the collection of revenue under Article 148 of the Constitution;
- (b) the payment from the consolidated fund under Article 149(1) of the Constitution;
- (c) the utilization of public funds for specific purposes by law under Article 149(1) of the Constitution;
- (d) the application of public funds under Article 150(1) and 150(2) of the Constitution;
- (e) the recessions of appropriations contained in the Appropriation Act, for the current year, the transfer of appropriation and the unexpected balance;
- (f) the implementation of the Appropriation Act for the current year;
- (g) public debt and debt service;
- (h) reports and statements under the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act, No. 3 of 2003.

3. The Committee shall from time to time report to Parliament matters arising from the matters referred to in paragraph 2.

4. The Committee shall present within 6 weeks of the tabling of the Budget Estimates of the Bill a Report on the estimates including whether the money is well laid out within the limits of Government policy.

5. The Committee shall present before Parliament within 04 days after the presentation of the Budget and the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill a Report on the fiscal, financial and economic assumptions used as bases in arriving at total estimated expenditures and receipts.

(2) (a) That the Committee and its Chairman shall be nominated by Mr. Speaker,

(b) That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 95 of the Parliament, the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) Members.

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(3) That the Committee shall have the power to:

- (a) fix its quorum;
- (b) send for persons, papers and records, may order any person to attend before Parliament or before such Committee, and to produce any paper, book, record or document in the possession or under the control of such person;
- (c) verify or otherwise ascertain by the oral examination of witnesses and examine witnesses upon oath or affirmation which the Chairman of the Committee or a person specially authorized for that purpose may administer;
- (d) obtain the services of Specialists and Experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee ; and
- (e) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.

(4) The Committee shall make its Report within One Year of the date of its first sitting or such other or further time as Parliament may grant.

\* *Indicates Government Business*

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