



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 1(1).]

ADDENDUM TO THE ORDER BOOK No. 1

OF

PARLIAMENT

Issued on Wednesday, February 15, 2023

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR WHICH NO DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED

P.1/2023

Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Hon. D. Weerasingha

Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama

Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya

Hon. Milan Jayathilake

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda

Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana

Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi

Hon. Kapila Athukorala

Hon. Sudath Manjula

Hon. Gamini Lokuge

Hon. Sampath Athukorala,— Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into the matters relating to the Election Commission in respect of the incidents of infringement of privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament and to make suitable recommendations in that regard,— Whereas the Election Commission consisting of Mr. N. G. Punchihewa (Chairman), Mr. S. B. Divaratne, Mr. M. M. Mohamed, Mr. K. P. P. Pathirana and Ms. P. S. M. Charles was appointed on 03rd December 2020;

And whereas the Election Commission is responsible to Parliament under Article 104B (3) of the Constitution;

And whereas by Article 30(4) of the Twenty First Amendment to the Constitution the members of the Commission have ceased to hold office and are exercising and discharging of powers and functions of the transitional members;

And whereas on 18th January 2023 the Election Commission purported to call nominations for the Local Authorities Elections;

(2)

And whereas two members of the Commission decided to fix 09th March 2023 as the date of polling and claimed to have obtained the consent of the other three members;

And whereas the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies has filed an Affidavit in Court stating that it would be challenging to find funds for holding such an election in March 2023;

And whereas there is a question of whether the Commission itself is satisfied that all preconditions for holding such an election are fulfilled;

And whereas on 25th January 2023 Ms. P. S. M. Charles, member of the Commission tendered her resignation to the President;

And whereas the Commission has failed to report to Parliament which is responsible for public finance on issues that have arisen on Local Authorities Elections;

And whereas if the privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament have been infringed, it should be investigated into and suitable recommendations in that regard should be made;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to investigate into the matters relating to the Election Commission in respect of the incidents of infringement of privileges of the Members of Parliament and of the Parliament and to make suitable recommendations in that regard.

2. (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
(b) that in terms of the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consist of seven (07) Members.
 3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to procure and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment or prorogation of Parliament.
 4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of one month (01) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.
-