



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 1(13).]

ADDENDUM TO THE ORDER BOOK No. 1

OF

PARLIAMENT

Issued on Friday, May 12, 2023

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Address for the removal of Mr. J.W.M.J.P.K. Ratnayake, the incumbent Chairman and the member of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, from the said membership in terms of Section 7 of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002,— Since the Report of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, dated April 18, 2023 presented to Parliament on May 09, 2023 reported that, in terms of Section 7 of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002, Mr. J.W.M.J.P.K. Ratnayake, the incumbent Chairman and member of the Commission is disqualified to continue in the post of Chairman and the membership under Section 7(a)(iii) and 7(a)(v) of the aforesaid Act, this Parliament resolves that Mr. J.W.M.J.P.K. Ratnayake be removed from the membership of the Commission in terms of Section 7(c) of the aforesaid Act.

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The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3(3) of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/67 of 31st December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/68 of 31st December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

(2)

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The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Notification under the Excise Ordinance,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding Excise duty on liquor, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/70 of 31st December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 07/2022)

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Tobacco Tax Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 21 of the Tobacco Tax Act, No. 8 of 1999 amended by the Act, No. 9 of 2004 read with Section 2 of the aforesaid Act regarding imposition of Tobacco Tax on Beedi and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/71 of 31st December 2022, which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 5 of the Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act, No. 12 of 2006 relating to Stamp Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/73 of 31st December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulation under the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka Act,— That the Regulation made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 155(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 19 of 2021 relating to the rate of CESS to be charged and levied on every Repurchase transaction in Corporate Debt Securities carried out on the “Over the Counter Platform” of the Colombo Stock Exchange and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2316/32 of 26th January 2023, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

(3)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 regarding Embarkation Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2309/37 of 09th December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 2(1) of the Finance Act, No. 25 of 2003 regarding Embarkation Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2314/16 of 11th January 2023, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Regulations under the Finance Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 22 read with Section 26 of the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004 regarding International Telecommunications Operators Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/80 of 01st January 2023, which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Order under the Finance Act,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2312/69 of 31st December 2022, which was presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Orders under the Finance Act,— That the Orders made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under Section 51 read with Section 19 of the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 relating to Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2318/53 of 10th February 2023, which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

(4)

*

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,— Resolution under the Inland Revenue Act,— That this Parliament resolves under Section 75(1) of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 that the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to taxes on income entered into on 03rd February, 2023 between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Czech which was presented on 11.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Minister of Public Security,— Regulations under the Immigrants and Emigrants Act,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Public Security under Section 52 read with Section 23 of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, (Chapter 351), which were presented on 09.05.2023, be approved.

(Cabinet approval signified.)

*

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year (2017),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year for the year 2017 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2017 and presented on 05.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year (2018),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC for the year 2018 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2018 and presented on 05.01.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2019),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2019 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2019 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2020),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2020 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2020 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

*

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing,— Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year (2021),— That the Annual Report of the Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd for the year 2021 together with the observations of the Auditor-General for the year ended 31.12.2021 and presented on 09.02.2023 under Section 14 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971, be approved.

(Considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing on 10.03.2023 and presented its report to Parliament on 21.03.2023)

** Indicates Government Business.*

Thursday, May 25, 2023

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

*

Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill— Second Reading.
(Cabinet approval signified.)

** Indicates Government Business.*

QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWERS

(Thursday, May 25, 2023)

3266/2023

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the local government authorities in the Southern Province which do not have simultaneous interpretation facilities for Sinhala, Tamil and English in the chambers where monthly council meetings are held;
- (ii) whether local government areas in the Southern Province where significant numbers of Tamil-speaking people live have been identified;

(6)

- (iii) if so, of the aforesaid local authorities; and
- (iv) whether simultaneous interpretation facility is provided at the monthly council meetings of the Local Authorities in the Southern Province in which both Sinhala and Tamil languages are considered as the administrative languages?

(b) If not, why?

3267/2023

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether he is aware that the name of “Asadpura” village situated in Dikwella Pradeshiya Sabha area and the name boards which contained the name “Yonakapura” and were erected on either side of the Dikwella-Beliatta Main Road have been removed and name boards containing other names have been erected in violation of the provisions of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987 and the Naming of Streets and the Control of the Erection of Monuments Law No. 4 of 1975;
- (ii) if so, of the action that will be taken against the Chairman and the Secretary of the aforesaid Pradeshiya Sabha in that regard;
- (iii) whether disciplinary action and legal action will be taken against the Chairman and the Secretary of the Dikwella Pradeshiya Sabha for not taking any action in response to the letter No. 4/2/4 dated 08.02.2022, which was sent to them by the Commissioner of Local Government of the Southern Province in connection with this matter; and
- (iv) if so, of the dates on which such action will be taken?

(b) If not, why?

3268/2023

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the reasons for not maintaining a database regarding movable and immovable property owned by mosques as well as charities including Taqiyya, Zaviya and Dargah by the Waqf Board of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs;
- (ii) whether he is aware that certain corruption and malpractices such as, using property owned by the aforesaid institutions for personal purposes and selling of aforesaid property at higher prices without the consent of the Waqf Board, are taking place due to not maintaining a database; and
- (iii) whether expeditious measures will be taken to create a database regarding the aforesaid property as a preliminary measure to prevent corruption and malpractices?

(b) If not, why?

(7)

Tuesday, June 06, 2023

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1459/2023

Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal,— To ask the Minister of Plantation Industries,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the extent of lands in which cashew has been cultivated;
 - (ii) the annual cashew production;
 - (iii) whether cashew plants and various concessions will be given to encourage the farmers who engage in cashew cultivation; and
 - (iv) the actions that will be taken to promote cashew cultivation; with respect to Puttalam district?
- (b) If not, why?

1503/2023

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene,— To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation,—(3)

- (a) Will she inform this House—
 - (i) whether development activities of the Pinnawala Zoological Gardens are being carried out at present;
 - (ii) the date on which the development activities concerned will be concluded;
 - (iii) whether basic amenities necessary for local and foreign tourists to see the Zoo concerned have been made available;
 - (iv) whether a course of action has been formulated in order to attract tourists to the Zoo in future; and
 - (v) if so, the details related to that?
- (b) If not, why?

1542/2023

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe,— To ask the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number who received training at the training school of youthful offenders from the year 2015 to now;
 - (ii) of the number of such trainees who are engaged in a profession related to the training;

(8)

- (iii) whether follow-ups are done on the young offenders who have completed the training; and
- (iv) whether there is a program to direct them to local and foreign employment;
- (b) If not, why?

1578/2023

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House whether—
 - (i) he admits the fact that serious crimes including murder are being committed in various parts of Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) the Sri Lanka Police have a proper mechanism to suppress them;
 - (iii) he is aware that investigations related to house robberies, which are frequently committed in Sri Lanka, are not carried out promptly;
 - (iv) a proper mechanism will be put in place to keep the previous Security Committees active; and
 - (v) an urgent program will be implemented to prevent the activities of underworld groups and related killings of people?
- (b) If not, why?

1616/2023

Hon. Tissa Attanayake,— To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation,—(2)

- (a) Will she inform this House—
 - (i) the reasons for not demarcating the physical boundaries of the Muthurajawela Sanctuary which has been declared as a sanctuary through Gazette Notification No. 947/13 of 1996, if such demarcation has not been done; and
 - (ii) the reasons for not taking measures to separately identify the extents of state owned land and private lands located in the above sanctuary, if measures have not hitherto been taken towards such an identification?
- (b) Will she also inform this House—
 - (i) the extents of land possessed by the above sanctuary which have been identified through the maps prepared by the government and by the Central Environmental Authority, separately in hectares; and
 - (ii) the reasons that contribute to the contradiction between the extent of land identified as per the maps prepared by the government and the extent of land identified by the Central Environment Authority?
- (c) If not, why?

1637/2023

Hon. Milan Jayathilake,— To ask the Minister of Plantation Industries,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) farmers cultivated Turmeric abundantly in the recent past;
 - (ii) the Spices and Related Products Marketing Board purchased that Turmeric harvest; and
 - (iii) as at present, the price of Turmeric has gone down?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether steps have been taken to import Turmeric from India; and
 - (ii) whether a programme has been prepared to purchase the Turmeric harvest of the farmers with a view to encouraging them?
- (c) If not, why?

1676/2023

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan,— To ask from the Minister of Agriculture,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) about 15km long agricultural road exists from Kokkuththoduwai area of Muhudubadapattu Divisional Secretariat Division in Mulativ District to Thennei Marawadi in Trincomalee District;
 - (ii) farmers cannot use that road as it is in a dilapidated condition; and
 - (iii) it is the only access route that farmers use to sell their harvest of the nearby paddy fields;
- (b) Will he inform this House whether steps would be taken to repair that road for the benefit of the farmers?
- (c) If not, why?

1757/2023

Hon. Samanpriya Herath,— To ask the Minister of Health,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the number of persons suffering from malnutrition in relation to each province, separately; and
 - (ii) the steps that have been taken to control malnutrition?
- (b) If not, why?

1799/2023

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture,—(2)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) dairy farming is common in Moneragala district; and
 - (ii) farmers have found it difficult to feed dairy cows and that they frequently engaged in confrontations with wildlife officers and forest conservation officers?
- (b) If so, will he inform this House whether arrangements will be made to provide the dairy cows with proper grazing lands?
- (c) If not, why?

1808/2023

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(2)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) various crimes have been committed in the last few years in the village of Kotadeniyawa in Gampaha district; and
 - (ii) the people living in that village have been terrorized by now because of the various crimes committed there?
- (b) Will he inform this House of the measures taken to bring this situation under control?
- (c) If not, why?

Wednesday, June 07, 2023

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

2531/2023

Hon. Imran Maharoof,— To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation,—(1)

- (a) Will she inform this House of—
 - (i) the number of Divisional Secretariats in Trincomalee district where Human-Elephant conflict prevails;
 - (ii) the names of such Divisional Secretariats;
 - (iii) the locations of the said Divisional Secretariats where the electric fences have been erected; and
 - (iv) the total length of the said electric fences?

(11)

(b) Will she also inform this House of—

- (i) the locations of the said Divisional Secretariats where the electric fences have not been erected;
- (ii) the steps to be taken to erect the electric fence in the said areas; and
- (iii) the steps taken to extend the already erected electric fence?

(c) if not, why?

2574/2023

Hon. D. Weerasingha,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the current number of dairy cattle in Sri Lanka;
- (ii) of the annual requirement of liquid milk in Sri Lanka;
- (iii) of the extent of grazing land reserved for dairy cattle;
- (iv) of the areas in which such grazing lands are situated; and
- (v) whether action will be taken to provide dairy cattle to meet the liquid milk requirement of Sri Lanka;

(b) If not, why?

2621/2023

Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Defence,—(1)

(a) Will he state—

- (i) whether any irregularity, irregular appointment, any act of corruption or any illegal activity has taken place in National Council for Disaster Management during the period from year 2015 to 2019;
- (ii) if so, separately the nature of such acts that have taken place at the aforesaid Council; and
- (iii) separately, the value of the financial, property and human resources that the government has lost due to each of the aforesaid acts?

(12)

(b) Will he also state—

- (i) whether investigations have been carried out to identify the officers who are responsible for the acts mentioned in (a)(i) above;
- (ii) if the responsible officers have been identified, the action that has been taken against them;
- (iii) if no action has been taken against them, the reasons for that;
- (iv) whether action will be taken against them in future; and
- (v) the measures that will be taken to prevent the occurrence of such acts in future?

(c) If not, why?

2690/2023

Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture,—(1)

(a) Is he aware that—

- (i) finding high quality seeds is a major problem faced by farmers engaged in agriculture;
- (ii) seeds are sold in the market at exorbitant prices;
- (iii) such seeds are not of the proper standard; and
- (iv) farmers have been inconvenienced owing to the aforesaid situation?

(b) Will he inform this House—

- (i) of the nature of the programmes that have been implemented at present to provide high-quality seeds to farmers;
- (ii) whether a programme will be implemented under the sponsorship of the government to provide the seeds that the farmers require;
- (iii) whether steps will be taken to fix a control price for seeds;
- (iv) whether a programme will be implemented to produce the seeds that Sri Lanka needs in this country itself and to provide them to farmers at low prices; and
- (v) whether steps will be taken to upgrade the Agrarian Service Centers as Regional Seed Storage Centres?

(c) If not, why?

2842/2023

Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura,— To ask the Minister of Industries,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the measures that have been taken so far to improve the quality of life of those that are engaged in the blacksmith industry as a profession in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) whether he is aware that they are making various products whilst carrying on in the industry in the face of great difficulty;
 - (iii) of the measures taken to promote blacksmiths' products in the local market;
 - (iv) whether he is aware that the blacksmith industry can be protected by discouraging the importation of agricultural implements; and
 - (v) if so, of the measures taken for it?
- (b) If not, why?

2932/2023

Hon. Hector Appuhamy,— To ask the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the date on which the Police unit of Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment was established and the date on which it was removed;
 - (ii) of the reasons for removing that unit;
 - (iii) whether he admits that the decision to remove the said Police unit was taken without a legal and logical basis in a backdrop where bribery, fraud and corruption have increased in the foreign employment sector; and
 - (iv) if so, of the measures taken to reestablish that Police unit?
- (b) If not, why?

2969/2023

Hon. Heshu Withanage,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this house—
 - (i) of the amount of plastic that has been imported into Sri Lanka since 2018 to date;
 - (ii) of the amount of money that has been spent thereon; and
 - (iii) of the measures that will be implemented to control the import of plastic into Sri Lanka?
- (b) If not, why?

3074/2023

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) separately, the number of employees served in Sri Lanka Railway Department by their position;
 - (ii) separately, the number of employees served on permanent and contract/casual basis; and
 - (iii) the action that will be taken to confirm the service of employees on contract/casual basis?
 - (b) If not, why?
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Thursday, June 08, 2023

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

3/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the time period in which Mr. Arjun Mahendran functioned as the Governor of the Central Bank;
 - (ii) whether he admits that a bond scam occurred there during that time;
 - (iii) whether he is aware that the Presidential Commission appointed in this regard accused Mr. Arjun Mahendran of having a direct involvement in that bond scam; and
 - (iv) the names of the political authorities who recommended and approved the appointment of Mr. Arjun Mahendran as the Governor of the Central Bank?
- (b) If not, why?

383/2023

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Technology,—(2)

- (a) Is he aware that —
 - (i) SIM cards issued by various telephone companies are sold on the pavement in major cities without any proper regulation by the government;
 - (ii) such SIM cards are misused and various misdeeds are committed by persons who fraudulently buy them in bulk;
 - (iii) a racket is being run online to fraudulently get money credited to bank accounts promising that goods will be delivered to people; and

- (b) youth in many areas including Kandy, Ratnapura, Piliyandala, Badulla and Colombo have become victims of such rackets? If so, will he inform this House separately of the measures that have been taken so far and the measures that are expected to be taken in the future to prevent the aforesaid frauds?
- (c) If not, why?

3090/2023

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana,— To ask the Minister of Urban Development and Housing,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House separately of—
 - (i) the dates on which development of the cities of Kandy, Galle and Jaffna with foreign aid was commenced;
 - (ii) the international organizations that had consented to provide aid for the development of each of the said cities;
 - (iii) the amount that had been provided for the development of each of the said cities; and
 - (iv) the due date for completion of the development of each of the said cities?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of—
 - (i) the reasons for the delay in the project to develop the said cities;
 - (ii) the amount of aid lost due to the delay in that project; and
 - (iii) the measures taken to implement the project under World Bank aid within the scheduled time frame?
- (c) If not, why?

3100/2023

Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of employees of the National Savings Bank who have been granted promotions after 2015;
 - (ii) of the methodology adopted in granting those promotions;
 - (iii) whether there was bias towards the employees at the Head Office branch of the National Savings Bank in granting promotions; and
 - (iv) whether showing outstanding progress at the branches where the managers had served previously has been considered in granting them promotions?
- (b) If not, why?

3103/2023

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of principals who serve in the schools island wide on the basis of acting principals; and
 - (ii) out of the above principals, the number of principals who serve in the Northern and Eastern provinces?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of—
 - (i) the reasons for not granting the salary increments, promotions and transfers to the aforesaid principals who have been appointed on acting basis;
 - (ii) the dates on which the salary increments, promotions and transfers will be given to the aforesaid principals;
 - (iii) the reasons for not absorbing the aforesaid principals to the permanent service at present, in spite of the fact that under the general procedure, the acting principals are absorbed to the permanent principals service; and
 - (iv) the date of absorbing the aforesaid principals to the permanent service?
- (c) If not, why?

3154/2023

Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan,— To ask the Minister of Urban Development and Housing,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform the House—
 - (i) whether he is aware that resettlement activities have not been completed up to now in Kanchikudiyaru, Thangavelayudapuram, Sagamam and Kanchirankuda, which are villages that had been severely affected during the period of past conflicts within the Thirukkivil Divisional Secretariat Division of Ampara District;
 - (ii) of the initial steps were taken for resettling people of the villages referred to above after the end of conflict situation;
 - (iii) of the number of houses have been constructed in these villages up to now;
 - (iv) of the number of houses have been scheduled to be constructed; and
 - (v) whether steps will be taken to complete the activities of resettling people in the villages referred to above before the end of the year 2023?
- (b) If not, why?

3170/2023

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

(a) Will he admit—

- (i) that the cost incurred on the printing of term test papers and other assignments in schools is currently charged from the parents; and
- (ii) that bearing these expenses has become immensely difficult for the parents due to the economic crisis currently prevailing?

(b) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether the right to enjoy reasonable and equal access to education entitled to all the citizens through the constitution gets violated owing to payments of the above nature;
- (ii) whether he is aware that there is no alternative for the principals and the education officers, other than charging the printing expenses from parents in this manner;
- (iii) if so, of the measures that will be taken by the ministry in relation to these payments charged; and
- (iv) whether measures will be taken to limit or to halt the provision of school text books owing to the prevailing situation?

(c) If not, why?

3228/2023

Hon. Niroshan Perera,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether complaints have been received from the public in the year 2023 against the police officers serving at Koswatta Police Station in Puttlam district;
- (ii) if so, the name and rank separately, of each police officer against whom complaints have been received;
- (iii) whether investigations have been conducted regarding those complaints; and
- (iv) of the measures taken by now regarding those complaints?

(b) If not, why?

3265/2023

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether the Malimbada Police Station has been informed of the removal by an organized gang of the dead bodies of Muslims buried in the cemetery at Soragoda Village, Telijjawila, in Malimbada Police Area in Matara;
 - (ii) whether a formal investigation has been conducted into the complaint made in this regard to Malimbada Police Station under No. C.I.B.(2) 332/125 on 16.06.2020;
 - (iii) if so, of the progress of the aforesaid investigation; and
 - (iv) of the measures that will be taken to prevent the disappearance of dead bodies of Muslims buried in the said cemetery?
- (b) If not, why?

3276/2023

Hon. Lalith Ellawala,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether he is aware of the fact that all the lands have been acquired for the construction of the Ruwanpura Expressway by now;
 - (ii) if so, whether the payment of compensation to the aforesaid land owners has been completed;
 - (iii) of the total amount of compensation paid;
 - (iv) the date on which the above compensation will be paid, if they have not been compensated yet;
 - (v) whether the said lands will be reassessed based on the current market value, in a situation where the land owners face severe injustices as the assessment value of the government is far below the current market value of the said lands as per the calculations of compensation done for the acquired lands; and
 - (vi) if so, of the date on which it will be done?
 - (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether there is a procedure to handover the remaining extent to the land owner after proper demarcation, in the instances where only a portion of a particular land is acquired; and
 - (ii) if so, of the aforesaid procedure adopted?
 - (c) If not, why?
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Friday, June 09, 2023

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

420/2023

Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka,— To ask the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of Sri Lankans who migrated for employment from 2015 to 2019;
 - (ii) the newly identified countries for sending Sri Lankans for foreign employment during the above period;
 - (iii) the number of Sri Lankans who were sent for employment in those countries; and
 - (iv) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Sri Lankans who were employed in foreign countries for Sri Lanka, from 2015 to 2019 separately?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether the contributory pension scheme that has been proposed by the “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” manifesto for the migrant workers who have server for over 6 years in foreign countries, is in operation at present;
 - (ii) if so, the date on which it was implemented; and
 - (iii) the number of people who benefitted from that pension scheme?
- (c) If not, why?

474/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the taxis and taxi service related foreign companies operating in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) separately, the income earned by each of such company from 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2021 on per year basis in rupees; and
- (b) separately, the amount of tax paid by each of these companies during the aforesaid period on per year basis in rupees? Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether he admits that Sri Lankan taxi service providers operating in the business have faced with difficulties as a result of the entry by foreign taxi service companies;
 - (ii) whether measures have been taken to monitor and secure Sri Lankan Taxi Service; and
 - (iii) if so, such measures taken?
- (c) If not, why?

689/2023

Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam,— to ask the Minister of Health,—(1)

- (a) Will he accept that—
 - (i) a permanent doctor has not been appointed to the divisional hospital in Kaludavalai within the Kaluvanchikudy Divisional Secretariat Division of the Batticaloa District; and
 - (ii) people of the area have been suffering as a result?
- (b) Will he inform the House—
 - (i) of the reasons for not appointing a permanent doctor to the hospital referred to above;
 - (ii) of the reasons for not appointing a pharmacist to the hospital; and
 - (iii) of the date on which the vacancies that exist at present in the hospital will be filled?
- (c) Will he also inform the House—
 - (i) whether he admits that no renovation has been carried out in respect of the hospital from the time of its inception up to now?
 - (ii) if so, what the reasons for it are; and
 - (iii) of the steps will be taken for the renovation of this hospital?
- (d) If not, why?

816/2023

Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) the number of police officers who shirked their responsibility during the clashes that occurred in Sri Lanka on 09.05.2022, separately according to each rank;
 - (ii) the measures taken against those officers;
 - (iii) whether he admits that there were individuals who harassed some police officers including a Deputy Inspector General of Police and behaved in a provoking manner disrupting their performance of duties on the said date and within the months around the said time;
 - (iv) whether those persons have been identified by now; and
 - (v) if so, whether legal action has been taken against them?

(21)

(b) Will he also inform this House—

- (i) whether he is aware of the fact that a Member of Parliament was assassinated amidst the clashes that occurred on 09.05.2022;
- (ii) whether the persons involved in that assassination have been identified;
- (iii) if so, the number of persons involved; and
- (iv) whether legal action has been taken against them?

(c) If not, why?

834/2023

Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(2)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) separately, the number of Cabinet Ministries and the State Ministries;
- (ii) the names of aforesaid Ministries;
- (iii) separately, among the above Ministries, the number of the Cabinet and the State Ministries that maintain their ministerial offices in private buildings;
- (iv) the names of aforesaid Ministries;
- (v) separately, of the amount of monthly rent, paid for each office;
- (vi) the steps that will be taken to shift the Ministry offices, housed in private buildings to Government buildings?

(b) If not, why?

850/2023

Hon. Gamini Waleboda,— To ask the Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(1)

(a) Will he inform this House—

- (i) whether he is aware that a substantial portion of the foreign exchange due for Sri Lanka for exported goods, is held overseas without being remitted to Sri Lanka;
- (ii) whether steps have been taken to identify the amount of foreign exchange so held; and
- (iii) if so, of the steps?

(22)

- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) of the existing laws in Sri Lanka to prevent, detect and take action against the perpetrators of internal foreign exchange frauds; and
 - (ii) whether steps will be taken to make the necessary amendments to the Foreign Exchange Act in order to prevent the aforesaid exchange frauds?
- (c) If not, why?

859/2023

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Minister of Health,—(2)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether the Minister of Health is in agreement with the statement made by the State Minister of Indigenous Medicine on 29.11.2022 that the Ministry of Health was misled on its policy decision with regard to the cremation of COVID-19 deaths by a ‘Committee of Experts’; and
 - (ii) whether the aforementioned Committee was a government appointed Committee?
- (b) If the above Committee was a government appointed Committee, will he also inform this House—
 - (i) the recommendations of it specifically on COVID-19 death disposals;
 - (ii) appointing authority;
 - (iii) terms of Reference and/or mandate;
 - (iv) names of the members and designations;
 - (v) name of the Chair;
 - (vi) whether it meets continuously;
 - (vii) if not, the last date it met;
 - (viii) number of meetings held to date;
 - (ix) the place where meetings held; and
 - (x) separately, the names of the individuals chaired each of the meetings?
- (c) If not, why?

867/2023

Hon. Rohana Bandara,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the area under maize cultivation in Vanni Palugollawa village in the Anuradhapura district;
 - (ii) whether the maize crop has been affected due to a new virus; and
 - (iii) if so, of the measures that will be taken to provide relief to the farmers, cultivating maize in the aforesaid village?
- (b) If not, why?

1305/2023

Hon. Kins Nelson,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of buses that has been deployed in the Polonnaruwa district under the “Sisu Seriya” programme at present;
 - (ii) the routes on which each such bus is run, separately; and
 - (iii) the measures that would be taken to further expand the “Sisu Seriya” programme throughout the Polonnaruwa district?
- (b) If not, why?

1713/2023

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of drug related cases that are currently pending in the courts in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) of the number of persons who appeared as witnesses for the drug related cases and were assassinated on the roads from 01.01.2020 until now;
 - (iii) whether he is aware that the unarmed peaceful civilians are frightened due to those assassinations; and
 - (iv) if so, the courses of action taken by the Ministry to control such assassinations?
 - (b) If not, why?
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NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

P.2/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Establishing all public institutions in Government owned buildings,— That this Parliament resolves that action be taken by the Government to establish all public institutions in Government owned buildings only whereas a massive amount is unnecessarily spent as a result of establishing the public institutions maintained using tax monies of the public in private buildings whereas a huge amount can be saved by establishing such institutions in Government owned buildings.

P.3/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Uplifting the collapsed financial institutions,— That this Parliament resolves that a programme be formulated by the Government with immediate effect to uplift the financial institutions of the country, whereas several such institutions have collapsed throughout the past period and whereas the depositors of the said institutions encounter a number of common issues in spite of the fact that a significant impact is made by these financial institutions towards the economic development and on the financial market of a country.

P.4/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Increase of the local canned fish production,— That this Parliament resolves that action be taken by the Government to initiate a programme with immediate effect to develop the local canned fish industry, whereas a substantial amount of money is annually spent on the importation of canned fish required by the country amidst Sri Lanka being a country surrounded by the sea.

P.5/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Disposal of garbage in Local Authorities,— That this Parliament resolves that the required steps be taken by the Government to deploy the workers serving in the Local Authorities in garbage disposal activities whereas a substantial amount of money belonging to the tax payers of the country is diverted to certain private companies which have been entrusted with the duty of disposing garbage in most of the Local Government Institutions of the country at present.

P.6/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Repairing the disposable vehicles in Local Authorities,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should prepare an accelerated programme to repair the disposable vehicles that are piled up in Local Authorities, which is a common scene, whereas a large amount of money can be saved by repairing those vehicles without purchasing new vehicles.

P.7/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Ensuring welfare for migrant workers,— That this Parliament resolves that steps be taken expeditiously to launch a programme ensuring welfare for the families of migrant workers who contribute most of the foreign exchange to Sri Lanka.

P.8/2023

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri,— Developing the bee honey industry,— That this Parliament resolves that an expedited programme should be implemented by the government to develop the local bee honey industry as bee honey is of very high medicinal value and in great demand in the local and international market.

P.9/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pahthirana,— Conducting a systematic study about King Ravana,— That this Parliament resolves that a study should be conducted about King Ravana through a panel of experts due to the fact that a study on King Ravana enables to unveil a hidden period of time in Sri Lankan history, and use the knowledge that King Ravana possessed for the uplifting of the country and enhance the attitudes in the country about him, even though specific historical information about him are not available.

P.10/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pahthirana,— Educating the public on the nutritious value of traditional, local rice varieties,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should prepare and implement a national level programme to educate the public on the nutritious value of the traditional, local rice varieties available in the Sri Lankan market at present, of the new rice varieties consumed at present, and of the varieties of rice that should be consumed by people with various diseases, and also to provide facilities for farmers to cultivate those varieties of paddy.

P.11/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Minimizing the damage caused to bio-diversity by invasive plants and animals,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should make interventions to identify and name the invasive plants and animals that can cause damage to bio-diversity in Sri Lanka and to prohibit breeding and importing of such plants and animals in order to protect the environment in Sri Lanka and that appropriate action should be taken promptly to formulate necessary laws in that regard.

P.12/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Formulating the research theses of the students of universities and other tertiary education institutions with a focus on the development work undertaken by the relevant ministries,— That this Parliament resolves that a formal procedure be formulated by the government to make use of the research theses written by the students of the universities and the other tertiary education institutions to achieve the long-term, medium-term and short-term objectives of the relevant ministries when the future development processes are undertaken as it is of utmost importance to draft the research theses of the students of universities and other tertiary education institutions functioning in Sri Lanka at present related to their courses of study, with a focus on the economic, social and cultural developments in Sri Lanka, and whereas an officer responsible for each ministry at ministry level is required to be appointed to coordinate between the thesis supervisor and the ministry concerned.

P.13/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Taking the initiative to protect the Buddhist places of worship worldwide,— That this Parliament resolves that an appropriate programme be formulated by the government enabling Sri Lanka to initiate advocating the Buddhist leaders and organizations around the world with a view to establishing a strong organization to tighten the security of the Buddhist temples worshipped by the Buddhists living around the world to lobby on behalf of Buddhists at the international level.

P.14/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Expanding the Maintenance Boards for Elders island wide,— That this Parliament resolves that the necessary steps be taken by the government enabling the expansion of Maintenance Boards for Elders functioning under the National Council and Secretariat for Elders of the Ministry of Health to the provincial, district and divisional secretariat levels with the objective of facilitating the elders, who spend the last stage of life, to lodge complaints regarding various injustices faced by them due to the discrimination caused by their family members and certain organizations.

P.15/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Combining the knowledge on Sri Lankan food culture with the teaching process,— That this Parliament resolves that an appropriate programme be implemented by the government to make the food culture of Sri Lanka known among local and foreign people and elevate the Sri Lankan identity by endowing the future generations with the Sri Lanka food culture pedagogy through pedagogical methodologies as food art of Sri Lanka is comprised of a number aspects including the art of flavors and mixation, art of cooking food, art of coloring and the art of food carving.

P.16/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Suppressing the drug rackets carried out through online marketing,— That this Parliament resolves that a proper programme be formulated and implemented by the government whereas substandard pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and beauty culture products are hugely sold online at present and this makes a huge threat to the safety of the lives of the people of our country.

P.17/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Making the society aware of the value of school children,— That this Parliament resolves that a national level programme be formulated and implemented by the government in regard to the manner in which children should be protected in the face of social challenges for the future betterment of the society and the country, having explained the value of children in a simple manner through sociological and psychological methodologies to the persons such as parents, teachers, sports coaches, school van drivers that always associate with school children.

P.18/2023

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Strengthening the economy of elderly communities through a loan scheme,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should make a suitable arrangement to implement a loan scheme through the banking system for those who are above 60 years of age, whereas the contribution of the elderly community over 60 years can be obtained to enhance the development in the entire Sri Lankan economy by strengthening their livelihood, and whereas they are discriminated against in the society as that elderly community is not granted loan facilities through the banking system.

P.19/2023

Hon. Kins Nelson,— Empowerment of small and medium scale rice mill owners,— That this Parliament resolves that an accelerated programme be setup by the government immediately, in order to solve the host of issues that the small and medium scale rice millers who are capable of controlling the price of rice in Sri Lanka, are encountered with.

P.20/2023

Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda,— Controlling the Toque Macaque population that damages crops,— That this Parliament resolves that a suitable programme that can scientifically control the Toque Macaque population be implemented by the government whereas massive damage is caused to the agricultural crops of Sri Lanka by wild animals, and whereas according to the reports of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, the annual damage caused to crops by wild animals is nearly 40% which amounts to over 1800 Crores, and whereas the farmer community and the national economy of the country are directly affected owing to the fact that crop damage by Toque Macaque is gradually increasing, and whereas killing Toque Macaques as a solution to this problem cannot be approved as Sri Lanka is a country that upholds a Buddhist and non-violent culture.

P.21/2023

Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe,— Promoting a programme related to children's health education at the school level,— That this Parliament resolves that a programme on children's health education be setup and implemented by the Government jointly with the health authorities that could make aware that physical health and wellness can be increased through the consumption of nutritious food as various institutions have shown that children in Sri Lanka are suffering from severe illnesses and shortened lifespan due to the consumption of toxic food.

P.22/2023

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene,— Strict regulation of microfinance institutions and leasing companies,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary action be taken by the Government to strictly regulate microfinance institutions and leasing companies as the urban and rural community is shattered by the actions of the microfinance institutions, and whereas a large number of families that obtained loans due to the inducement of such institutions on microfinance and leasing facilities are traumatized, and whereas the interest rates of those institutions are at different levels, and whereas people who fail to pay lease installments are subjected to various harassments and violations.

P.23/2023

Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law,— Issuance of a circular outlining the methodology to be followed in school development activities,—That this Parliament resolves that appropriate measures be taken by the Government towards releasing a circular outlining the method of allocating the required funds for school development initiatives, the manner of display of such financial statements, and as to how the follow up on the aforesaid developmental activities be carried out because the financial allocations required for school development activities are charged annually from parents and which are unbearable for some parents due to the current economic crisis and students of such parents have to endure inconveniences in the classroom.

P.24/2023

Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara, — Granting transfers to Sri Lankan teachers once in five years,— That this Parliament resolves that appropriate programme be formulated by the Government to grant transfers to all teachers once in five years for the purpose of creating an educational system that will fulfil the sole objective of providing education and creating a good social citizen, since the personal contacts formed due to working in the same school for many years may at times cause injustice to some children, working with children from different layers of society deprives teachers of the opportunity to understand child mentality and gain experience, Political and Social relationships can create obstacles to maintain an independent education system, the opportunities to understand different subcultures in the society could be lost, opportunities would be very little to gain experience from dialects and subcultures.

P.25/2023

Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna,— Procurement of office equipment from the State Timber Corporation and other responsible institutions,— That this Parliament resolves that appropriate programme be implemented by the Government to procure office equipment from the State Timber Corporation and other responsible institutions due to reasons that although the wooden furniture used as office equipment in the past by Government and statutory bodies in Sri Lanka had been used for longer period of time, the equipment utilized by such institutions at present are produced of plywood sheets and other artificial sheets which are brittle and nondurable do not last long, importation of raw materials from foreign countries required to manufacture contemporary office equipment causes a huge outflow of money and because these materials have an immense impact on our environment.
