



(Ninth Parliament - Fifth Session)

No. 1(1).]

ADDENDUM TO THE ORDER BOOK No. 1

OF

PARLIAMENT

Issued on Friday, February 16, 2024

Tuesday, March 05, 2024

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1/2024

Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law,— To ask the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government,—(1)

- (a) Is he aware that —
 - (i) residents of Akurana dump garbage, scrap building materials, empty tins, plastic bottles and faecal waste continually in the Pinga Oya stream that flows through the Akurana Town; and
 - (ii) at the same time, they construct buildings illegally on the banks of that stream?
- (b) Will he inform the House—
 - (i) whether inspections have been carried out and reports obtained in order to ascertain the risk of floods occurring in rainy season and possibility of noxious waste infiltrating into the Mahaweli River due to the reasons mentioned in (a) above;
 - (ii) of the number of illegal buildings that have been constructed on both sides of the Pinga Oya;
 - (iii) whether a proper course of action is in place to take legal action against the persons who dump garbage and waste in the Pinga Oya and to demolish the illegal buildings constructed on both sides of the Pinga Oya;
 - (iv) whether measures have been taken to remove the waste found in the Pinga Oya at present; and
 - (v) if so, what those measures are?
- (c) If not, why?

(2)

41/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— To ask the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House,—
 - (i) of the number of persons who were hanged to death following the imposition of the capital punishment after 04.02.1948 in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) whether arrangements would be made to make the Certificates of Death of the persons who were hanged to death, available to their relatives; and
 - (iii) if so, the time it will take?
- (b) Is he aware that,—
 - (i) the Certificates of Death of Ven. Thalduwe Somarama Thero who was found guilty of assassinating the former Prime Minister late Hon S.W.R.D Bandaranayake has not been issued yet; and
 - (ii) a Certificate of Death in the name of Ven.Thalduwe Somarama Thero dated 06.07.1962 has not been registered even though it is mentioned that he was hanged to death on that day?
- (c) Will he also inform this House,—
 - (i) whether an inquiry has been conducted in relation to the non-issuance of the Certificate of Death of Ven Thalduwe Somarama Thero;
 - (ii) if so, its conclusion;
 - (iii) if not, whether an inquiry would be conducted; and
 - (iv) whether there are any other persons in relation to whom Certificates of Death have not been issued following enforcement of the capital punishment?
- (d) If not, why?

309/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of,—
 - (i) the number of official foreign trips undertaken by the Speaker of the Ninth Parliament on international relations and educational programmes for the wellbeing of the country from 20.08.2020 up to date;
 - (ii) the names of the Members of Parliament and the offices who attended each such foreign tour, separately; and
 - (iii) the benefits accrued to the country from the above foreign tours?
- (b) If not, why?

(3)

354/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House, as at 31st December 2022 of—
 - (i) the total amount earned by the Employees' Provident Fund by investing its funds;
 - (ii) the value of the total deposits of the fund; and
 - (iii) the total amount earned by investing its funds, as a percentage of the value of the fund's total deposits?
- (b) Will he inform this House, as at 31st December 2022 of —
 - (i) the number of contributors to the Employees' Provident Fund;
 - (ii) the number of active contributors;
 - (iii) the total value of the balances in the accounts of the above active contributors; and
 - (iv) the total amount earned by the Fund from investing its funds, as a percentage of the total value of the balances in the accounts of active contributors;
- (c) If not, why?

361/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House in regard to the situation by 01st October 2023, separately of —
 - (i) the number of teachers, grade holding principals and the principals of the Education Administration Service working in government schools;
 - (ii) the number of teachers who should be there for each subject of mathematics, science, technology, English, aesthetics, sports and primary education, and the number of teachers who are currently working there, in each education zone;
 - (iii) the number of vacancies in the post of principal in each education zone; and
 - (iv) the number of teachers serving as Acting Principals in each education zone?
- (b) Will he also inform this House separately of the names of the 20 education divisions where there is the highest shortage and surplus of teachers and principals?
- (c) If not, why?

(4)

365/2024

Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the names of the government institutions that have been established to promote the coconut industry in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) of Sri Lanka's annual coconut production, the amounts used for domestic consumption, coconut oil production, and export-related industries separately;
 - (iii) Sri Lanka's coconut harvest in each year from 2001 to 2020 separately;
 - (iv) of the programs carried out during the above period to increase coconut harvest; and
 - (v) the amount spent on the said programs?
- (b) If not, why?

373/2024

Hon. Niroshan Perera,— To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of Sri Lanka Transport Board busses that were involved in road accidents during the year 2022;
 - (ii) of the number of passengers killed and injured separately as a result of those accidents;
 - (iii) whether investigations have been conducted by the Ministry regarding the above accidents; and
 - (iv) if so, of the conclusions of those investigations?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of—
 - (i) the number of private buses that were involved in road accidents during the year 2022; and
 - (ii) the number of passengers killed and injured separately as a result of those accidents?
- (c) Will he further inform this House of the steps taken by the Ministry to reduce accidents?
- (d) If not, why?

377/2024

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara,— To ask the Minister of Power and Energy,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform the House of—
 - (i) the number of major fuel distribution centres installed in Sri Lanka for the distribution of fuel;
 - (ii) the storage capacity at each such centre, separately; and

(5)

- (iii) the dates on which the storage capacity was increased for the last time in respect of each such centre, separately?
- (b) Will he also inform the House —
 - (i) whether he accepts that the capacity at the above-mentioned centres remains at a low level compared to the present demand for fuel in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) whether action will be taken, in that case, to increase their capacity;
 - (iii) of the courses of action have been taken in that direction;
 - (iv) whether he accepts that transporting fuel using freight trains is a cheaper and less problematic method than transporting fuel by tanker trucks (Bowsers); and
 - (v) whether, in that case, action will be taken to use rail progressively for transport of fuel?
- (c) If not, why?

464/2024

Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma,— To ask the Minister of Wildlife and Forest Conservation,— (1)

- (a) Will she inform this House of—
 - (i) the revenue earned by the Department of Forest Conservation, as the license fee for granite quarrying in the lands owned by the Department, separately according to each year from the year 2015 to date;
 - (ii) the date on which it was decided to reduce the license fee by 50%;
 - (iii) the factors behind the reduction of license fees;
 - (iv) the amount of revenue lost by the Department of Forest Conservation as a result of the said decision, from the date of implementation of the decision referred to in (ii) above, to date separately according to each year; and
 - (v) the reasons available for justifying the decision referred to in (ii) above?
- (b) If not, why?

1220/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the volume of paddy purchased by the government from the Moneragala district during on year 2022 the Maha season to be distributed among the Samurdhi beneficiaries and low income families;
 - (ii) of the amount allocated for Moneragala district for the purpose; and
 - (iii) of the amount spent to purchase paddy from the allocated funds?

(6)

- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) whether the mill owners have been able to carry out the service expected from them when converting purchased paddy into rice; and
 - (ii) whether the divisional secretariats have successfully carried out their duties when distributing aforesaid rice among the beneficiaries?
- (c) If not, why?

Wednesday, March 06, 2024

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

509/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House, separately of—
 - (i) the number of officers recruited to the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service under the open and limited competitive examinations from 2010 up to date;
 - (ii) the name, address and current place of work of each such officer;
 - (iii) the above officers, the number of officers who have furnished applications for transfers from 2018 up to date, the name, address and current place of work of each such officer; and
 - (iv) the officers mentioned in (iii) above, the number of officers who have received and not received transfers up to date, the name, address and place of work of each such officer?
- (b) Will he also inform this house of the measures that will be taken to implement a fair transfer policy for the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service as are found in the services such as the Sri Lanka Principals' Service and the Sri Lanka Teachers' Service?
- (c) If not, why?

539/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene,— To ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
 - (i) the number of vehicles in public institutes in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) the number of vehicles owned by Corporations and Statutory Bodies out the above vehicles;

(7)

- (iii) the number of vehicles acquired by public institutes on rental basis; and;
 - (iv) the annual rental amount paid on vehicles that have been acquired on rental basis?
- (b) If not, why?

562/2024

Hon. Sanjeewa Edirimanna, - To ask the Minister of Buddhasasna, Religious and Cultural Affairs,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House,—
- (i) of the number of traditional fine arts academies (kalayathana) found in Sri Lanka by now;
 - (ii) whether those institutions have been classified; and
 - (iii) if so, the classification?
- (b) Will he also inform this House,—
- (i) whether a monthly allowance is paid for the aforesaid fine arts academies;
 - (ii) if so, how much that allowance is; and
 - (iii) of the number of traditional fine arts academies that receive the said allowance by now?
- (c) If not, why?

587/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of—
- (i) the income and expenditure of Sri Lanka in relation to each source of income and each source of expenditure;
 - (ii) the export income in relation to each head of exportation and import expenditure in relation to each head of importation;
 - (iii) the income earned through tourism; and
 - (iv) the loans, aid and remittances received by Sri Lanka;
- from 2019 to the first quarter of 2022, in relation to each year in US Dollar Billions, separately?
- (b) If not, why?

609/2024

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha,— To ask the Minister of Health,— (1)

- (a) Separately, will he inform this House according to each year—
 - (i) of the number of persons who have received treatments from government hospitals due to dog bites; and
 - (ii) of the number of persons who have died after being infected with rabies;
 during last three years?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) whether it has been revealed that rabies can be contracted from stray dogs as well as from domestic dogs;
 - (ii) if so, of the measures taken to minimize the spread of rabies;
 - (iii) whether laws/regulations are in place with regard to having pets or a mechanism is available to register pets; and
 - (iv) if not, whether measures will be taken to introduce such laws/regulations or a mechanism to register pets?
- (c) If not, why?

Thursday, March 07, 2024

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

612/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of public corporations, authorities, boards and other production and service institutions owned by the Government of Sri Lanka by the year 1978;
 - (ii) of the name of each such institution along with the product manufactured/service provided separately;
 - (iii) of the number of institutions currently functioning out of those mentioned in (i) above; and
 - (iv) separately of the percentage of government ownership of each of the aforesaid institutions;
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
 - (i) of the number of institutions that have been privatized out of the production/service establishments referred to in (a)(i) above;

(9)

- (ii) separately of the name of each such institution and the product manufactured /service provided;
 - (iii) of the institutions that have gone bankrupt out of those mentioned in (a)(i) above?
 - (iv) of the names of such bankrupt institutions ?
- (c) If not, why?

635/2024

Hon. B.Y.G. Ratnasekara, — To ask the Minister of Public Security, —(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) of the number of murders that were committed in Sri Lanka in year 2023;
 - (ii) of the number of suspects that have been arrested in connection with the aforesaid murders; and
 - (iii) out of the said number of suspects, of the number of those who have been prosecuted?
- (b) Will he also inform this House of—
- (i) the volume of narcotics that were seized during year 2023;
 - (ii) the action that has been taken in respect of the said narcotics; and
 - (iii) the progress of the ‘Yukthiya’ programme that has been implemented by the Sri Lanka Police?
- (c) If not, why?

1089/2024

Hon. Samanpriya Herath,— To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries,— (1)

- (a) Will he inform this House —
- (i) whether he is aware that the use of machinery for harvesting of crops including paddy has increased at present;
 - (ii) if so, whether a mechanism is in place to regulate the machinery used for harvesting; and
 - (iii) if not, whether measures will be taken in the future regarding the matter ?
- (b) Will he also inform this House—
- (i) whether he admits that farmers are facing immense difficulties since the fees charged for hiring of machinery related to agriculture have increased as well;

(10)

- (ii) whether measures will be taken to stipulate a maximum fee for the machinery in terms of an acre of land / bushel of paddy; and
- (iii) if so, the time period a maximum fee will be declared ?
- (c) If not, why?

1125/2024

Hon. D. Weerasinghe,—To ask the Minister of Transport and Highways,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House of the number of,—
 - (i) the buses belonging to Sri Lanka Transport Board as of now;
 - (ii) the buses in running condition among them;
 - (iii) such buses returned back into transportation service after restoration;
 - (iv) the buses assigned to the ‘Sisuseriya’ service; and
 - (v) the buses purchased by the Sri Lanka Transport Board from 2019 to the present in each year, separately?
- (b) If not, why?

1145/2024

Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi,— To ask from the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs,— (1)

- (a) Is he aware that—
 - (i) the cultural centre of Ratnapura, Weligepola Divisional Secretariat Division has been dilapidated for a long time; and
 - (ii) no steps have been taken so far to reconstruct it?
- (b) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) whether steps are taken to allocate necessary funds for the reconstruction of the said cultural centre; and
 - (ii) if so, the dates on which the said reconstruction activities will be commenced?
- (c) If not, why?

1149/2024

Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara,— To ask the Minister of Education,—(1)

- (a) Will he state, separately of—
 - (i) the number of Tamil medium schools in each of the Education zones of Kalutara, Horana and Matugama;

(11)

- (ii) the number of vacancies existing for Tamil medium teachers in each such Education zone at present; and
 - (iii) the number of Tamil medium teachers posted to each of the above mentioned zones when appointments were given to Colleges of Education Diploma holders recently?
- (b) Will he also state—
- (i) whether he is aware that there are nearly 15 vacancies for teachers including the vacancy for a Mathematics teacher in the Ka/Al-Hasania Maha Vidyalaya in the Kalutara Education zone in which around 620 students study;
 - (ii) if so, whether steps would be taken to fill those vacancies for teachers;
 - (iii) whether he is aware that the above school does not have sufficient building facilities;
 - (iv) whether he is aware that the construction work of the three-storied building consisting of 12 classrooms being constructed with the support of the philanthropists is at its final stage at present; and
 - (v) whether steps would be taken to provide desks and chairs to those 12 classrooms?
- (c) If not, why?

1151/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House—
- (i) of the measures that have been taken to promote minor export crops, namely pepper, cloves, cardamom and cinnamon at rural level;
 - (ii) of the areas where the minor export crops will be promoted in the future;
 - (iii) whether a program has been implemented to provide fertilizer for minor export crops;
 - (iv) if so, the aforesaid program is; and
 - (v) whether the program to establish minor export crop villages will be further carried out?
- (b) If not, why?

1246/2024

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

- (a) Will he inform this House of —
 - (i) the progress of the Presidential Commission appointed to probe into the allegations levelled by Channel 4 on Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka in 2019,—
 - (ii) the date when the report of the above Commission will be made available to this House and the public; and
 - (iii) the reasons if there is no progress in the investigation?
- (b) Will he also inform this House —
 - (i) of the reasons for the appointment of a Select Committee of Parliament to investigate into the same allegations levelled by Channel 4 regarding the aforesaid attacks;
 - (ii) of the progress of the above Committee;
 - (iii) if there is no progress, the reasons; and
 - (iv) of the parameters of the above Committee?
- (c) Will he further inform this House of the reasons the government has repeatedly ignored calls for an independent international inquiry on the said attacks?
- (d) If not, why?

1251/2024

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana,— To ask the Minister of Public Security,—(1)

- (a) Will he inform this House—
 - (i) of the observations and recommendations made on the Senior Deputy Inspector General Mr. Nilantha Jayawardhana in the report of the Presidential Commission appointed to investigate on the Easter Sunday Attack;
 - (ii) of the date on which he was appointed to the position of the Head of Police Administration Division, the date on which he was recommended for the said position and separately of the names of the individuals and institutions that recommended him for the aforesaid position;
 - (iii) of the factors that contributed towards the appointment of the above officer to the said position in spite of being alleged in relation to the Easter Attack; and
 - (iv) whether measures will be taken to reconsider the above appointment?
- (b) If not, why?

1280/2024

Hon. W.H.M. Dharmasena, — To ask the Minister of Power and Energy, —

- (a) Will he inform this House —
 - (i) separately on per year basis, of the total number of electricity consumers in the Moneragala District from year 2015 to date, and of the number of electricity consumers whose electricity supply has been disconnected during the same period;
 - (ii) separately on per year basis, of the revenue that has been earned by the Ceylon Electricity Board during the aforesaid period by reconnecting the electricity supply after it had been disconnected; and
 - (iii) of the steps that are expected to be taken in future regarding the price of a unit of electricity?
- (b) If not, why?

Friday, May 10, 2024

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

P.1/2024

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.2/2024

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.3/2024

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.4/2024

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.5/2024

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.6/2024

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.7/2024

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.8/2024

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.9/2024

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana,— Launching a book on the history of Sri Lanka,— That this Parliament resolves that suitable steps be taken by the government to launch a book on the history of Sri Lanka on the sponsorship of the government under a proficient board of editors upon studying archeology, literature, folklore and Roman, Greek and Persian history from the human evolution.

P.10/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— The need for preventing religious extremism,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare an expeditious program to prevent the attempts made to surface and promote religious extremism and to rehabilitate those who have already become victims of it, since having extremist views in any field in any country can be immensely harmful, whereas there has been a serious discourse in society regarding religious extremism following the Easter Sunday attack taken place.

P.11/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Continuing the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take necessary measures to carry out the construction work of Ruwanpura Expressway continuously at least in phases since not only the people living in Ratnapura district but also in Badulla and Hambanthota districts will be benefitted from the construction of the Expressway as it would help gain immense benefits despite the economic difficulties the country is currently experiencing.

P.12/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— Extending the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take measures to extend the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura since it is considered as one of the railway lines that generate a higher income for the Sri Lanka Railways Department, whereas people living in a number of districts, including Ratnapura, Hambanthota and Badulla will be benefitted from extending the Kelani Valley railway line up to Ratnapura.

P.13/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— 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.14/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— 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.15/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— 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.16/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— 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.17/2024

Hon. Hesha Withanage,— 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.18/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Filling all public sector job vacancies on the basis of Z-score obtained by students in the G.E.C. (Advance Level) Examination,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should take necessary measures to take into account the Z-score obtained in the G.E.C. (Advance Level) Examination by the students when filling vacancies at all government departments, corporations, authorities, boards and provincial councils affiliated institutions, whereas the policies adopted by the former and existing governments in recruitment to the public service on the basis of political allegiance or preferences have seriously damaged the independence of the public service, and due to the fact that it is necessary to make the highly politicized public service completely independent, as giving jobs only on the basis of educational qualification will ensure justice and fairness to the talented and qualified youth, and eradicate youth unrest, and as the vacancies arising in the district would be given to the residents of the respective district will assure the economic security of the employees and create the opportunity to get a highly efficient service to the public sector.

P.19/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Compilation of the Constitution of Sri Lanka in “Braille” and “Audio” mode,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary actions be taken by the Government to compile the Constitution of Sri Lanka in “Braille” and “Audio” mode for hearing and visually impaired community to gain knowledge and understanding of the fundamental law of the country, whereas the Constitution is the fundamental law and the basic model of the state in any country, whereas almost two million citizens out of nearly twenty two million Sri Lankan citizens are from the disabled community, and whereas almost six hundred thousand citizens from among the disabled community are hearing and visually impaired citizens as well .

P.20/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Computing the Z-score, the index used to select the university admissions on National Merits and School Basis at 50% each,— That this Parliament resolves that steps be taken by the government to categorize all three thousand forty two schools (3042) within the school system in which A/L stream is available computing the Z-score for university entrance admissions based on National Merits and school basis distinctively at 50% each in place of the district and remote district basis, whereas the number of university admissions eligible for all faculties except for art faculties among the students who have passed the A/L examination is based on the Z-score as the accepted index, accordingly, whereas 40% of the Z-score is based on national merits, 55% is based on district basis and 5% is based on the remote district basis and whereas it is unfair and unjustifiable to consider or substitute the same cut-off mark for all schools in each district.

P.21/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Mentioning only the initials of the family name along with the first name or the National Identity Card number when calling out the name of a person publicly,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should take necessary measures to mention only the initials of the family name along with the first name or the National Identity Card number when calling out the name of a person publicly abolishing the law, the custom or the tradition that is rejected by the present generation and which cannot be applicable to the modern world whereas many persons are left embarrassed when their first names are called out loud along with the family name during a court hearing or when a voter is asked to cast the vote during an election or when an undergraduate's name is announced during a convocation whereas in the Sri Lankan society family names are mainly based on the duties vested to each person in the feudal society and the positions their ancestors had served the king therefore indicating the caste relevant to each profession.

P.22/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Converting all Colleges of Education in Sri Lanka into University Faculties,— That this Parliament resolves that necessary action be taken by the Government to enforce the Cabinet decision regarding which the proposal was presented and approval obtained by me on 13th February 2020 as the Minister of Education to convert the currently functioning nineteen Colleges of Education into University Faculties to be suitable for awarding a four-year degree course with a three-year theoretical course and one-year school-based training, whereas it is necessary to make all the teachers in the school system into trained graduate teachers by the year 2023 in order to upgrade the education in Sri Lanka to the advanced international level, and whereas the majority of teachers are currently awarded a higher diploma at the end of a three-year theoretical and practical course.

P.23/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Giving at least 5% representation to citizens with disabilities in the election of representatives to all public representative bodies,— That this Parliament resolves that the Government should amend the relevant Acts and Laws so that citizens with disabilities have at least 5% representation in the preparation of nominations for electing representatives to all public representative bodies, whereas the disabled community in this country has exceeded 8% of the total population as per the last census conducted in Sri Lanka, whereas the space is very little for the disabled community to be elected to public representative bodies from the local government where the rural administration takes place to the Parliament where national policies are formulated and whereas the policies related to the disabled citizens of this country have not been made and are not made in accordance with the concepts of developed countries.

P. 24/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Providing opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent a national sports team or claim a national level record to read for any degree course related to the field of sports,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should prepare the necessary legal and higher educational structure for sportsmen and sportswomen who represent any national sports team in Sri Lanka or claim a national level record to pursue any degree course related to the field of sports, not based on their basic educational qualification or the Z-score.

P.25/2024

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma,— Speedy implementation of the Nilwala River Development Project,— That this Parliament resolves that the government should implement speedily the preliminary plans of the Nilwala river development project with a focus on diverting the Uruboku Oya and Kirama Ara to Hambantota district in the arid zone, creating the Batuwita reservoir, Athuraliya reservoir, Kadawedduwa reservoir and Dediyaigala reservoir of the lower basin and reconstructing the abandoned bunds after making fresh studies on the safe zone and unsafe zone, all of which have a direct bearing on the districts of Matara and Hambantota, and whereas the daily lives and the economy of the people living in the Matara district and the Nilwala basin are faced with a severe crisis owing to the failure of the completion of the Nilwala River Development Scheme which was initiated in the 1980's.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR WHICH NO DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED

P. 26/2024

Hon. Sajith Premadasa
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. Kabir Hashim
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. Tissa Attanayake

Hon. S. M. Marikkar,— Select Committee of Parliament to inquire into the matters of revision of the electricity tariff by the Ceylon Electricity Board in contravention of the rules of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and the absolute duty of the government of ensuring the well being of the people and obtaining the “approval” for that,— Whereas the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity for the use of the people of Sri Lanka in whom sovereignty has been vested by Article 3 of the Constitution, are regulated by the Sri Lanka Electricity Act, No. 20 of 2009 and that they are exercised by the public authorities established for that purpose by the law;

And whereas the function of administration of the provisions of the Act has been vested in the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka which was established under Act, No.35 of 2002, by Section 2 of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act;

And whereas “to regulate tariffs and other charges levied by licensees and other electricity undertakings, in order to ensure that the most economical and efficient service possible is provided to consumers” is the function of the Commission in terms of Section (3)(1)(d) Sri Lanka Electricity Act and it shall at all times be the people in whom sovereignty has been vested by the Constitution who shall be the end recipients of these public utilities rendered by the government;

And whereas in terms of Section (3)(1) of the said Act the Chairman and the Members of the Commission can be appointed by the Minister only with the concurrence of the Constitutional Council and Section 6 has ensured the independence of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka stipulating that the members are subject to a disciplinary control exercised directly by Parliament;

And whereas according to the documents tabled when the Address for the removal of the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka was taken up for debate on 24.05.2023, the approval of the Commission for a tariff revision had been sought by Ceylon Electricity Board (C.E.B.) which is a public corporation licenced for distribution of electricity through the letter dated 05.01.2023, and accordingly the Commission decided to engage in consultation with the stakeholders by publishing advertisements in 3 national newspapers and requested several clarifications from C.E.B;

And whereas it was repeatedly stated by the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka that the increase in the electricity tariff as proposed by the Ceylon Electricity Board was not necessary;

And whereas two members of the Commission including the Deputy Chairman resigned on 08.02.2023 and the Chairman was out of Sri Lanka from 13.02.2023 up to 27.02.2023 on a leave approval obtained from the Prime Minister in October 2022;

And whereas two new members were appointed to the Commission on two days as on 02.02.2023 (for a vacancy that had existed earlier) and on 13.02.2023 (for a vacancy that occurred as a result of the resignation on 08.02.2023);

And whereas it becomes apparent that three members of the Commission including the two newly appointed members had met on 14.02.2023 claiming that the meeting was to “approve” the total tariff revision requested by C.E.B., and that the tariff revision “was approved” was informed to C.E.B. by the acting Director General of the Commission and the letter had been signed by two members of the Commission and it carried the seal of the Commission;

And whereas it has been specifically provided by Section 9(1) of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002 that a meeting of the Commission may be convened by the Chairman of the Commission and while the Commission was engaged in consulting the stakeholders, the authority to take a decision regarding a crucial matter such as tariff revision that would seriously affect the public should not be vested in the three members;

And whereas the Section 9(3) of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002, requires that all the meetings of the Commission should be presided over by the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, the Chairman did not preside over the “meeting” which was said to have held as he was overseas, and the Deputy Chairman could not preside as he had resigned, resulting no one presided over such meeting;

And whereas Section 9(6) of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002 stipulates that all the decisions that are taken by the Commission should be justified by reason in writing, and the said letter which was purported to have given “approval”, bears no validity as it has not been supported accordingly;

And whereas there is no clarity as to where the “meeting” was held, as to who participated, as no minutes of the said meeting were recorded in the Meeting Record Book of the Commission, and as per Section 3(1), the Commission should be comprised of five members while the Section 10(c) of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 35 of 2002 clearly stipulates that the “The seal of the Commission shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except with the sanction of the Commission”,

And whereas the “meeting” of the three Members at which the total tariff revision was said to have been approved as requested by C.E.B., was not a valid one, in view of the following facts:—

- (i) The meeting was not summoned by the Chairman in terms of Section 9(1) of the Act and was not held in terms of the provisions of the said Act;
- (ii) The decision is not justified by reasoning in terms of Section 9(6) of the Act; and
- (iii) The seal of the Commission has been affixed, in breach of Section 10(c) of the Act to indicate that the “approval” of the Commission was granted with the authority of the Commission, and the members of the said process are guilty of conspiracy and abetment of forgery since the letter itself is a forged document within the interpretation of Section 453 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 454 of the same;

Whereas the extremely elevated tariff rates are charged by the C.E.B currently as a fixed tariff, based on the number of units of electricity consumed and with a special service levy on the total payable, making it three times the actual amount of electricity consumed. This is an increase of 1138% on the 1.5 million consumers and creates a serious impact specifically on the consumers who are in dire poverty consuming less than 35 units monthly and therefore can be called as a measure that engulfs the poor in the dark;

And whereas in terms of Article 148 of the Constitution which bestows full control over public finance on Parliament, and in terms of the provisions of the Sri Lanka Public Utility Commission Act, No.35 of 2002 is finally answerable to Parliament as the Commission;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed in terms of Article 74(1) of the Constitution;

- (a) to recommend the measures to be taken against the responsible authorities in relation to the revision of electricity tariffs, after having examined the legitimacy and appropriateness of the “approval” given for the tariff revision that is currently adopted by the C.E.B, in case if this approval is deemed illegitimate and/or inappropriate in any way; and
 - (b) to recommend the emergency remedial measures that need to be taken by Parliament in the public interest including a tariff structure and redressing the “low end” consumers, domestic consumers and consumers of religious and charity organizations focusing on the cost recovery guidelines declared by the International Monetary Fund and the Supreme Court Determination Number SCFR 113/2008 dated 22-10-2008, in case if the aforesaid “approval” is deemed to be given against the provisions of the Sri Lanka Public Utility Commission Act, No. 35 of 2002 since the commission was defunct.
 2.
 - (a) that the Chair and Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker; and
 - (b) that notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 101 of Parliament, the Committee shall consist of twenty one (21) 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 three months (03) from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant.
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