



Eight Parliament of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
(Third Session)

Parliamentary Series No. 204

First Report of the Ministerial Consultative
Committees
(October - 2019)

Presented by
Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Deputy Chairperson of Committees

on 23 October 2019

Minutes of the following Ministerial Consultative Committee Meetings are included in the report as the Committee has confirmed them.

Name of the Ministerial Consultative Committee		Date
01.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development	08.03.2019
02.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	15.03.2019
03.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration & Disaster Management	19.03.2019
04.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Megapolis & Western Development	22.03.2019
05.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping and Southern Development	26.03.2019
06.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	05.04.2019
07.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	09.05.2019
08.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	20.06.2019
09.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education	09.07.2019
10.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping and Southern Development	10.07.2019
11.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	11.07.2019
12.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine	12.07.2019
13.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	25.07.2019
14.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	23.08.2019

Minutes of the following Ministerial Consultative Committee Meetings are not included in the report, as the Committee has not confirmed them.

Name of the Ministerial Consultative Committee		Date
01.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mahaweli Development and Environment	07.02.2019
02.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence	26.02.2019
03.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour and Trade Union Relations	26.03.2019
04.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice and Prison Reform	03.04.2019
05.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration & Disaster Management	23.05.2019
06.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport and Civil Aviation	19.06.2019
07.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Science, Technology & Research	21.06.2019
08.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development	09.07.2019
09.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education	26.07.2019
10.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology	09.08.2019
11.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Megapolis & Western Development	20.08.2019
12.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Development Strategies and International Trade	21.08.2019
13.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine	22.08.2019
14.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping and Southern Development	17.09.2019
15.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Finance	17.09.2019
16.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative Development	19.09.2019
17.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Internal and Home Affairs and Provincials and Local Government	20.09.2019

**Ministerial Consultative Committee Meeting on Agriculture, Rural
Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries
and**

Aquatic Resources Development

First Meeting – 08 March 2019

Committee members present

Hon. P. Harison (Chairman)

Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi

Non - Committee members present

Hon. R.M. Ranjith Maddumabandara

Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera

Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan

Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Wasantha Senanayake

Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathna

Hon. Seeniththi Yoheswaran

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Notices of absence

Hon. Ranjith Aluwihare

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

1. Consideration of notices of motions

**1.1. Request made by the Secretary to the All Island Natural Drinking
Water Bottle Producers Organization regarding fixing of water
meters for drinking bottled water factories – (Hon. Buddhika
Pathirana – Motion No. 18)**

It was informed that the explanation reports for this motion had been submitted to the Hon. Member.

2. Motions of the Hon. Members

**2.1 Retaining the waters of Mahaweli river in the country,
prevention of sand mining at the left bank of Mahaweli river and
Construction of Brahmanayagama Anicut – Hon. Susantha
Punchinilame**

**2.1.1. Devising a methodology to divert the waters of
Mahaweli river in the Country**

The Hon. Member requested to implement the proposal of bringing spilled water of Kantale reservoir to the reservoirs located lower attitudes. The Hon. Chairman informed that a study is being carried out.

The Hon. Member requested that a storage tank be built in order to provide drinking water requirement and other water requirement of public in Trincomalee.

The Committee was informed that the study on the Kantale Kalu Ganga project has been finalized and it is due to be commenced.

Further, The Committee was informed that a pre-feasibility study had been conducted by the CRIP project under the study of basins in order to utilize the water from Minipe in Mahaweli river to control flooding and minimize drought and it is expected to implement those projects in future.

The Hon. Chairman informed to submit the Hon. Member's suggestion to the Secretary to the Ministry.

2.1.2. Prevention of sand mining at the left bank of Mahaweli River

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that permitting for sand mining in the Mahaweli River would affect the life of people adversely and suggested avoiding it.

The Hon. Chairman instructed not to issue sand mining permits again.

2.1.3. Construction of Brahmanayagama Anicut – Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

The Hon. Chairman instructed to obtain the project proposal of Brahmanayagama anicut and other document from the Hon. Susantha Punchinilame and take further action.

2.2 Development of Fishing Harbours and other matters – Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

2.2.1 Converting Cod Bay Fishing Harbor into an Employment Generating Place

The Hon. Member suggested that *Cod Bay* fishing harbour should be converted into employment generating Centre.

It was also suggested to develop the harbour in order to provide facilities for foreign vessels.

The Hon. State Minister informed the Committee that the action related to it, is being carried out. The Chairman, Fisheries Corporation informed the Committee that a boat yard is not available presently and even small-scale ships could also be anchored in the harbor after the completion of constructions.

2.2.2 Removing abandoned boats from Harbours

The Hon. Member suggested that a proper mechanism to be devised in order to remove damaged abandoned boats from harbours.

The Director General of Fisheries informed that a committee would be appointed jointly with the Marine Environmental Protection Authority, Ministry of Environment and Harbour Corporation and action would be taken to implement a project to submerge abandoned boats in order to breed fish. And he also informed that equipment is required for burning fiber. The Hon. Chairman instructed that action be taken to expand those projects for Trincomalee Harbour also.

2.3 Opening of Filling Stations at suitable places and other matters – Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

2.3.1. Opening of Fuel filling Stations

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that although kerosene oil filling stations have been constructed in Kokilai, Kuchchiweli, and Kinniya area, they are unable to be functioned due to legal issues between the Petroleum Corporation and Fisheries Department.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to carry out an investigation in that regard.

2.3.2. Controlling Explosive Dynamite - Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that usage of dynamite explosives had been controlled in his area to a certain extent. The Hon. Chairman informed that those methodologies are already in operation.

2.3.3. Implementation of the Transfer Procedure – Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

The Hon. Member suggested that a mechanism should be introduced for transferring the officers, working in the same place for a long time at the Department of Fisheries.

The Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed the Committee that the transfer procedures have already been implemented.

2.3.4. Garbage Issue in the Trincomalee Fish Market

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that lots of garbage has been dumped at the fish market in Trincomalee as the taxes to the urban council have not been settled by the fisheries corporation.

The Chairman instructed the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to attend in order to resolve the issue.

2.4 Allocating a Land for Drying Paddy Harvest – Hon. Charls Nirmalanathan

The Hon. Member suggested that it would be appropriate to provide a suitable state land for drying paddy in the Mannar District. The Hon. Member, also, informed the Committee that such land is available for this in the area and a provision of Rs. 2 million is sufficient for that.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the matter to be discussed with the Divisional Secretary at the District Coordinating Committee and take action to obtain the said land.

2.5 Re-acquisition of Valachchena Paddy Storage and other matters – Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

2.5.1. Re-acquisition of Valachchena Paddy Storage

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the Paddy Stores in Valachchena, previously belonged to the Paddy Marketing Board has been given to a private party.

The Committee was informed that the Divisional Secretary handed over the stores about five years ago. It was, further, informed that the Paddy Marketing Board has no right of ownership.

The Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen informed the Committee that it has been transferred to the Ministry of Lands under long-term lease.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the officials of the Paddy Marketing Board either to check the possibility of obtaining a paddy storage facility from private sector on rental basis.

2.5.2. Opening Paddy Stores on the proper date

The Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran informed the Committee that the farmers are facing inconveniences as Paddy Collecting Centres in Batticaloa is not opened on time.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to issue instructions as early as possible to open the Paddy Collecting Centres in the North and the East by January 15.

2.6 Renovation of Nanattan Paddy Storage and other matters – Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

2.6.1. Renovation of Nanattan Paddy Storage

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan requested to renovate the Paddy Marketing Board stores in Mannar, that had been destroyed during the war. The Hon. Chairman instructed to take action to build a paddy store in Nanattan, Mannar.

2.6.2. Renovation of “Yodha Wewa” Reservoir

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that financial provisions are needed to renovate Yodha wewa (Giant Tank) and there has been a shortage of excavating machines to do so. Also, the Hon. Member informed the Committee that only a part of the tank is being renovated and it is appropriate to renovate the whole canal instead. The Hon. Chairman informed that Rs. 300 million was allocated from this budget for the purpose and action could be taken to request more provision if it would not be sufficient.

2.6.3. Renovation of Road Systems

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to renovate the road system belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Commissioner General of Agrarian Development informed the Committee that he may discuss with the Agrarian Commissioner to prepare estimates and further action would be taken accordingly.

2.6.4. Discussion on Issues Pertaining to Fisheries Community

The Hon. Member requested for an opportunity to discuss the issues of the fishing community in his area with the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The Hon. Chairman instructed to take necessary action within a week with the coordination of the Hon. State Minister.

2.7 Functioning of Ice Factory in Batticaloa - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that it is appropriate to restart the ice factory in Batticaloa. The General Manager of the Fisheries Corporation informed the Committee that further action would be taken in this regard.

2.8 Construction of a Canned Fish Factory and other matters - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

2.8.1. Construction of a Canned Fish Factory

The Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran requested to start a canned fish factory. The Hon. Chairman informed to submit the relevant project proposal.

2.8.2. Opening a Dairy Production Center

The Hon. Chairman approved the request made by the Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran for a project proposal for commencement of a dairy production center.

2.8.3. Providing relief to poor rural farmers

The Hon. Member requested that water spraying machines and agro - cultivation wells be provided among poor rural farmers with the mediation of the ministry and the Hon. Chairman approved it.

2.8.4. Construction of Kiranpul Dam

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the construction of Kiranpul Dam has not been completed yet. The Director General of Irrigation informed the Committee that since it would cost Rs.2000 million he suggested a low cost method. The Hon. Member requested to execute the proposal accordingly.

2.9 Expediting the irrigation projects in Monaragala District and other matters – Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara

2.9.1. Expediting the irrigation projects in Monaragala District

The Hon. Member questioned as to how much would be spent on minor irrigation works in the Monaragala District.

The Commissioner of Agrarian Development informed the Committee that Rs. 18 million had been allocated by the vote on account. The Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara inquired about the present status of Kumbukkan Oya project. The Additional Secretary, Irrigation Development informed the Committee that a feasibility study would be carried out by signing an MOU with a Chinese Company and financial allocations has to be obtained.

The Hon. Chairman further informed that provisions can be allocated if the results of environmental feasibility studies were successful.

2.9.2. Development of “Heda Oya”

The Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara suggested that “Heda Oya” should be converted into a water scheme that provides more water.

The Additional Secretary, Irrigation informed the Committee that a feasibility study report and the environmental impact assessment were not successful due to the lack of economic productivity and disapproval of the residents in the area.

2.10 Creating a New Reservoir in Ambewela and Development of the Dam – Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera

2.10.1. Creating a New Reservoir in Ambewela

The Hon. Member inquired about the progress of the project on formation of a separate reservoir in Ambewela area as the approval had been obtained from the Wild Life Department.

Director of Irrigation (Bandarawela) informed the Committee that the project has been suspended due to non-availability of provisions. The

Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General, Irrigation to receive the relevant estimate.

2.10.2. Increasing the Height of the Dam of Ambewela Reservoir

The Hon. Member inquired about the old proposal of increasing the height of the dam of the Ambewela Reservoir. He further stated that a portion of excess water could be used by the water supply and drainage board and the balance could be supplied to the farmers.

The Irrigation Engineer (Badulla) informed the Committee that the work is being carried out by the National Water Supply Board and his institution has no objection to that.

2.11 Preparation of Divulwatta Wewa in Alawathugoda, construction of Lunukottawela Anicut and other matters - Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera

2.11.1. Preparation of Divulwatta Wewa in Alawathugoda and construction of Lunukottawela Anicut

The Hon. Member inquired about the progress of these proposals. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Regional Engineer, Badulla, Director General of Irrigation and Additional Secretary to Irrigation to initiate the construction of the Divulawatte tank and Lunukottawala anicut as early as possible after sending the estimate to the head office by 30th March.

2.11.2. Expediting the Katumana Wewa Project, Nuwaraeliya – Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera

The Hon. Member inquired about ‘Katumana Wewa’ project of Nuwaraeliya. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General, Agrarian Services to co-ordinate with the Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera and follow up the works.

2.12 Expediting Valachchena Harbor Project – Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen

Project Director informed the Committee that a consultative service should be obtained to conduct a pre-feasibility study to improve facilities (expanding the bund or any other suitable method) of the stage bund of Valachchena fishing harbor and necessary arrangements are being made for that.

2.13 Removing Difficulties Faced by Prawn Cultivators - Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that although licenses had been issued for several prawn farms, permission has been given

for the prawn breeders to buy prawns only from one such farm and it has caused problems.

Director, National Aqua Culture Development Authority informed the Committee that as the prawns in all farms except Batticaloa suffered a disease called white patch disease, some licenses have not been issued. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General to intervene into the problem personally and look into the 60 prawn farms in Valachchena. Further, he is instructed to submit a report to the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture.

2.14 Compensations to the Owners of Cattle died of a Viral Disease - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

The Hon. Member informed that it is appropriate to pay owners with compensation since a large number of cattle died in the Batticaloa District.

Director General of the Department of Livestock and Health, informed that cattle had been died from hemorrhagic septicemia, a bacteria-related disease and giving compensation would be difficult if animals have not been insured. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a program is available in the Agrarian Insurance Board to insure the animals and action would be taken accordingly in this year.

2.15 Providing Grass Lands for Cattle - Hon. Susatha Punchinilame

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there is a lack of lands to feed grass for cattle in Kinniya area.

2.16 Taxes imposed on Fishing Gear and other matters – Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

2.16.1. Taxes imposed on Fishing Gear

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the fishing community give up the industry as taxes are imposed on fishing gear and requested to reduce the taxes. The Hon. Member suggested that it is more appropriate to utilize supplementary estimates for the resources available with the fishing sector as much as possible other than paying salaries to employees.

The State Minister, informed the Committee that relevant relief proposals have been included in budget estimates and action would be taken to direct youth to fisheries and commercial sectors by improving fishing harbours at Mirissa, Tangalle, Madagala, Thelee and Udappuwa on a discussion with a Korean Company.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the fishermen would be facilitated by granting a low interest (6.3%) loan to purchase boats and fishing gear under the “Enterprises Sri Lanka” Project.

2.16.2. Implementation a Procedure for Modernization of Cold Rooms

The Hon. Member suggested that a program to install cold rooms close to fishing harbours be initiated to facilitate the public residing far away.

The Hon. State Minister informed the Committee that they are jointly working with a Korean Company to renovate the existing cold rooms.

2.16.3. Development of Anchorages

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to start several anchorages to avoid the lack of fishing harbours in the country.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that studies had been carried out in this year to commence work in the North and East and the program would be successful.

2.16.4. Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

The Hon. Member suggested that a suitable insurance scheme be introduced for fishermen.

The Hon. State Minister informed the Committee that the majority have been insured by the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation and payment of benefits are very weak. The Director-General informed the Committee these issues have been identified and insurance policies for both fisherman and boats were submitted to an evaluation committee.

3. Adjournment

The Committee, at 4.00 p.m. was adjournment sine die.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development**

First Meeting – 15 March 2019

Committee Members present

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen (Chairman)

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. A.D. Premadasa

Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana

Motions for leave of absence

Hon. Siripala Gamlath

Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera.

1. Motions of the Hon. Members

1.1 Financial losses faced by the State Trading Corporation - Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that although various state institutions had purchased items from the State Trading Corporation for the last few years on credit basis, due to the not making payments the institution had faced a serious financial loss.

Chairman of the State Trading Corporation informed the Committee that Presidential Secretariat, District Secretariat – Gampaha, Saumyamoorthy Thondaman Commemoration Foundation, Janatha Estate Development Board, Sri Lanka Consumers' Co-operative Society, Ceylon Workers Congress and Ministry of Fisheries had purchased items valued at about Rs. 115 million and he had already informed in writing to the respective institutions according to the Cabinet decision to recover this money.

The Chairman instructed to submit a cabinet memorandum again if the responses are not successful within two weeks.

1.2 Restore Textile Industry in the Central Province – Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

1.2.1 Textile Industry in the Central Province

The Hon. Member requested the Committee that the textile industry in the Central Province be restored in order to generate more employment opportunities. The Hon. Chairman directed to submit a report in that regard by the 5th of April 2019.

1.2.2 Corruption and fraud at co-operative elections

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that co-operative elections had been carried out without any transparency and that various corruptions and frauds were taken place. He requested that a formal inquiry be held. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to inform the Provincial Commissioners in writing to conduct the co-operative elections transparently.

1.2.3 Issues of opening new Sathosa outlets

The Hon. Member informed that no response had been received for written requests made, to open new Sathosa outlets in the plantation areas, and requested that arrangements be made to install new Sathosa outlets in such areas. The Hon. Member requested the Committee to arrange a mobile Sathosa service in plantation areas on salary days or once a week by taking vehicles on rent basis.

The Deputy Minister also instructed to conduct a Market Survey and set up Sathosa outlets in Agalawatta area. The Hon. Chairman further instructed the Chairman Sathosa to take action to conduct a Market Survey before establish a new outlet in any part of the country.

1.3 Injustice caused to a group of farmers in Polonnaruwa district – Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne.

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that Douglas and Sons Company in Maradana had sold harvesting machines to farmers in the Polonnaruwa District, and within a few months they had been deactivated and farmers had lodged complaints with the Consumer Services Authority.

The Hon. Chairman informed that Consumer Affairs Authority had not provided justice in that regard and directed the Chairman, Consumer Affairs Authority to provide the farmers with the necessary legal advice. The Hon. Chairman also instructed the Consumer Affairs Authority to strengthen the legal division to provide legal advice and representation to their customers.

Since amendment of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act was necessary, the Hon. Chairman advised the Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority to take steps to amend it. The Hon. Chairman further instructed the Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority to provide a more productive and efficient service to the customers through a hotline of the Authority and Consumer Services Division. The Hon. Chairman also instructed the Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority to set up an institute to conduct necessary tests regarding consumer items.

1.4 Utilizing the amount of Rs. one billion allocated for the Industrial Development Authority for the activities of the Ministry.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Secretary of the Ministry to utilize the amount of Rs. one billion allocated for the Industrial Development Authority for the activities of the Ministry.

2. Adjournment

The Committee, at 11.05 a.m. was adjourned till 05.04.2019 at 10.00 a.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Administration &
Disaster Management
First Meeting - 19 March, 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara (Chairman)

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Priyankara Jayarathna

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail

1. Motions of the Hon. Members

1.1. Difficulties facing with Certain Divisional Secretaries - Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that it is very difficult to work with certain Divisional Secretaries in development activities. He further informed that the service of the Divisional Secretaries in Haputale and Badulla is very commendable, and it is very difficult to coordinate with the Divisional Secretary, Haldummulla.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Member to refer this complaint to him.

The Hon. Member further informed the Committee that it is appropriate to inform the public about the 117 hotline related to disaster management.

1.2. Deprivation of political rights of employees in Public Service - Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the intellectuals would not be able to join the Parliament as members due to the deprivation of political rights for those who are engaged in certain services in the public service.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the persons who are in the staff grades do not have political rights as per the Establishments Code.

1.3. Opportunity to sit for the Limited Competitive Examination in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service for Parliamentary Officers and other matters - Hon. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

1.3.1. Opportunity for Parliamentary Officers of Parliament to sit for the Limited Competitive Examination in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the Parliamentary officers submitted a request for a new gazette notification in order to allow them to sit for the limited competitive examination of the SLAS as they have lost the opportunity to sit for the above examination since 29.08.2008.

The Hon. Chairman requested the Hon. Member to give him this particular request and he further informed that he would discuss this matter with the Public Services Commission.

1.3.2. Compensation for the Victims who are affected by recent Disaster in Wilgamuwa Divisional Secretariat Division

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the victims of cyclone situation prevailed in the Wilgamuwa Divisional Secretariat Division in 2017 had not received any compensation so far although they had submitted applications within the period of 3 months. The Hon. Member further informed that a proper mechanism regarding disaster management should be introduced.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to inform the relevant officials in the event of a disaster. The Hon. Chairman further instructed to prepare a report, including a time frame for the steps to be taken aftermath of a disaster.

1.4. Compensation for Crop Damages - Hon. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna

The Hon. Member inquired about the methodology of distributing compensation for crop damages caused by dry weather.

The Director of the National Disaster Relief Services Center informed the Committee that compensations had been paid in 7 installments by cabinet papers for damages to crops and livelihood caused by dry weather conditions.

The Director informed the Committee that 523,000 families have been compensated by paying Rs.10,000/- per family, who were affected by the crop damage in the 2016/17 Maha season. The Committee was informed that 4 dry rations of Rs.2000/- or Rs.2500/- per 2 weeks was granted for August and September in 2017 based on the number of members in a family for the families faced economic difficulties due to blocking the agricultural activities and livelihood as a result of dry weather.

Further the Committee was informed that two dry rations of Rs.4000/- or Rs.5000/- were issued during March and April of 2018 in each month. Also, it was informed one dry ration was given for November 2018.

1.5. Reinstating the Private and Public Properties damaged by Natural Disasters. – Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the Ministry of Disaster Management had spent a large amount of money for the situation of disaster in the Kegalle District and other districts in 2016.

The Hon. Member requested to expedite the opening of villages which had been almost completed after the disaster.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to complete the renovation of these villages.

1.6. Role of public at a disaster situation methodology of providing compensation for Victims – Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

The Hon. Member inquired the Committee of the need to implement an appropriate program for the speedy implementation of public institutions when there was any disaster on public holidays.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the Emergency Pre-Disaster Information Centers are operating 24 hours a day participating with the Armed forces under the Ministry at present. The Hon. Member inquired about the possibility of increasing the amount of compensation for the damage to property and life after some disasters.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a new system of granting of compensation was introduced which did not exist before by using a premium to the National Insurance Trust Fund.

The Hon. Member requested to pay attention that the present attitude of the people regarding the weather forecasts is not positive.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that at present weather forecasts are issued according to international information using the equipment with the Meteorological Department.

2. Any Other Business

2.1. Issue related to Polpithigama Divisional Secretariat

The Hon. Chairman inquired about the issue related to Divisional Secretariat, Polpithigama. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee even two circulars had been issued in 2018 regarding the provision of dry rations, the Divisional Secretary of Polpithigama had not followed the second circular and due to this the farmers in this division had not received any concessions from the government policy.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to conduct an investigation regarding the officer and to take action to provide for granting of reliefs for the farmers who have not been compensated of the Polpithigama Divisional Secretariat.

3. Discussion on the affairs of the Ministry of Public Administration & Disaster Management

3.1. National Insurance Trust Fund

The Hon. Chairman inquired about the benefits granted, as a result of increasing the premium paid for the National Insurance Trust Fund. The Committee was informed that as the provisions allocated by the Ministry of Finance for payment of insurance benefits were insufficient, the insurance premium was increased. It was further informed the Committee that it is necessary to look into the possibility of increasing the amount of compensation for the loss of life.

The Hon. Chairman inquired about the revision of compensation as valued compensation submitted to NITF by Divisional Secretary at a disaster situation. The Hon. Chairman instructed to assess the compensation by inspecting the places of disaster by conducting a joint investigation with relevant parties including officers of the National Insurance Trust Fund. He also informed the necessity for a proper procedure regarding the determination of compensations when the amount exceeds Rs.25, 000/-.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to devise a methodology to report all the operational activities due to be carried out by the Assistant Director after a disaster. The Hon. Chairman instructed to devise a productive methodology regarding releasing of compensation by the NITF and submit him.

3.2. Progress of the activities of the Meteorological Department

The Hon. Chairman instructed Director General, Meteorological Department that action be taken to expedite the project of modernization of Meteorological Department.

3.3. National Building Research Organization

The Hon. Chairman inquired about the progress of construction of houses and the number of houses which the funds have been approved.

The Director General of the National Building Research Organization informed that a programme of construction of 10,000 pre-fabricated houses are being implemented for the families living in areas with high risk landslides and floods and that Cabinet approval has been received for construction of 1170 houses in Kalutara and Ratnapura districts. Also, he informed that suitable lands were available in Kalutara and Ratnapura districts to be able to build 400 houses at a cost of Rs. 800 million and the District Secretaries had been advised to reserve these lands for the pre-fabricated housing project.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General to expedite the work of the project.

The Director General informed that the Cabinet approval had been received to obtain US \$110 million from the Chinese Government for landslide and disaster recovery projects and, also, informed that it was expected to construct side bunds to reduce the number of landslides associated with highways, schools and hospitals, rectification methods and water control methods.

3.4. Department of Pensions

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General of Pensions to provide the report on the Department of Pensions as soon as possible. It was further informed that 90% of the pension are given during a month, but the remaining amount would have to be returned due to the failure to update the personal files of the officials of the Department of Education and Health by the relevant institutions.

The Director General of Pensions informed the Committee that the Department of Pensions has to face an issue when referring applications by the institutes for granting of pensions to those recruited over 45 years of age.

3.5. New Recruitments in the Public Service

3.5.1. The Hon. Chairman made inquiries from the Director General of Combined Services regarding new appointments in the Sri Lanka Information Technology Service. The Director General, Combined Services informed that although there are 911 vacancies exist in the carder, only 907 applicants are recruited as there are a large number of applicants have same marks level and all the applicants who have basic qualifications would be recruited.

3.5.2. The Hon. Chairman inquired about granting approval for recruitment to the Accountants' Service by the Public Service Commission exceeding the number permitted by the gazette, and vacancies and re-recruitment in the Accountants' Service.

The Committee was informed that about 200 vacancies exist even after new recruitments. It was further informed that the Public Service Commission has not yet decided to recruit a second batch.

3.5.3. The Hon. Chairman inquired about the reason as to why the Engineering service recruitments be done according to the order of graduation. The Committee was informed that it is difficult to prepare order of merit as GPA is differed

from university to university and recruitments are carried on based on other qualifications. The Hon. Chairman informed that discussions were being held for a new methodology to fill vacancies in all island services by one competitive examination.

3.6. Productivity Secretariat

The Hon. Chairman inquired about issues in the productivity section. The Committee was informed that action would be taken for a progress in the productivity section through a special programme for the Divisional Educational Offices.

3.7. Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration

The Hon. Chairman inquired about the progress of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration.

The Committee was informed that training programmes are being held at present in the whole premises. The Committee was further informed about the scheduled training programs for new appointees in the public service.

- 3.8.** The Hon. Chairman inquired about the Cabinet paper issued for the payment of compensation for those who have been subjected to political victimization. The Committee was informed that the Treasury had not passed the funds for the Rehabilitation Department and funds had been allocated for the Public Administrative Officials.

4. Adjournment

The Committee, at 12.50 p.m. was postponed until 23rd May, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Megapolis & Western
Development**

First Meeting - 22 March 2019

Committee Members present

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka (Chairman)

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

Hon. Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. S. M. Marikkar

Hon. Malith Jayathilaka

1. Motions of the Hon. Members

**1.1 Project plan of Meethotamulla garbage dump and other matters
- Hon. S.M. Marikkar**

1.1.1 The plan of Meethotamulla garbage dump project

The Hon. Member inquired about present position of Meethotamulla garbage dump plan, ability to build a city in surrounding area of garbage dump after construction of a city park in a portion of land where the garbage dump is distributed and possibility of evacuating and resettling them in other places and giving compensation to those who have freehold deeds.

General Director, Urban Development Authority (UDA) informed the Committee that the UDA has allocated estimate of Rs. 1200 million for this project and the city park would be built on a 9 acre portion of the land. He further informed that an investigation team is collecting data for relocation.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the residents having freehold deeds would be given house units proportionately to the value of their lands.

1.1.2 Illegal constructions in Megoda Kolonnawa

The Hon. Member requested to pay attention on the large number of illegal constructions taking place in Megoda Kolonnawa area close to Sinhapura.

1.1.3 Heavy traffic congestion in Narahenpita

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that it is appropriate to use an alternative road due to heavy traffic jam, at Kirimandala Mawatha in Narahenpita during morning and afternoon.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that at present, a proposal has been forwarded coordinating with the Municipal Council to widen the Kirimandala Mawatha up to a four ways lane and the acquisition of required lands for this purpose is being carried out. The Hon. Chairman also informed General Manager, Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation to pay attention on using the alternative road mentioned by the Hon. Member.

The Hon. Member further informed the Committee that since there is a traffic jam at Hill Street, Dehiwala during morning and evening and it could be minimized by constructing of a small bridge connecting the Kadawatha road and Quarry road.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Member to submit a proposal to the Road Development Authority.

1.2 The Urban Development Plan, Minuwangoda - Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that although the Urban Development Authority (UDA) had devised a development plan for Minuwangoda town, the Ministry of Local Government had constructed a toilet system in the center of the city by deviating the above plan. He further informed that there was a plan to construct another building at this place.

The Chairman, UDA informed the Committee that there has not been a new plan for the development of Minuwangoda town, and available plan is 10 years old. He further informed the Committee that action has been taken to prepare a city development plan for Minuwangoda in 2019 and it could be completed at the end of this year. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Chairman, UDA to make an investigation regarding this matter and arrange a discussion with Hon. Edward Gunasekara, Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga and the Mayor of Minuwangoda.

1.3 Ratmalana, Weres Ganga Project and Ratmalana New Town Project - Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra

The Hon. Member inquired about the area covered by the Weras Ganga project in Ratmalana.

General Manager, Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation, informed the Committee that this project will not cover Applewatte area and only the area on the left side of the Bolgoda Lake will be covered. He further informed that a plan has been prepared to cover the rest of the area and Apelwatte area will be covered by the projects.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the area from Nugegoda to Karadiyana - Kandawala is covered by the Weres Ganga project and Moratuwa area is covered by Lunawa project. He also informed that the area between Kandawala and Katubedda is not covered by any project. The Hon. Chairman, further, informed the Committee that funds have not been approved for this intermediate area, but the plan has been completed.

The Hon. Member inquired about the Ratmalana New Town Project as well. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the discussions are being held with the Department of Railways regarding the acquisition of unutilized lands belong to Railway Department in Ratmalana and Dematagoda. The Hon. Chairman further informed that two housing projects would be proposed for the land belong to the Irrigation Department and Battiriwatta in Ratmalana area.

1.4 Traffic congestion in Bandaragama - Hon. Malith Jayatilake

Hon. Member, inquired about the measures to be taken to minimize the heavy traffic congestion in Bandaragama.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that as a solution to the traffic congestion in Bandaragama, the Urban Development Authority has identified another alternative for that.

The Chairman, UDA informed the Committee that there is a plan to connect Horana, Kalutara and Piliyandala roads under the road development of Bandaragama town development plan.

The Hon. Malith Jayathilaka inquired as to how compensation is paid for the acquisition of paddy lands. The Chairman informed that usually Rs. 9000/- is paid for one perch of paddy lands in urban areas and Rs. 7000/- for one perch in rural areas.

1.5 Shopping Complex building in Angunakolapelessa area and unauthorized constructions in Tangalle town - Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

1.5.1 Shopping complex in Angunakolapelessa area

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the construction of the Angunakolapelessa shopping complex has not been completed yet. The Deputy Director General, UDA informed the Committee that provisions have been allocated for this purpose.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that arrangements have been made to open the buildings complex constructed in Tissamaharama in the Hambantota District, the market in Sooriyawewa and the Beralihela market within the next two months.

1.5.2 Unauthorized constructions outside the Tangalle Urban Council area by filling up a paddy land

The Hon. Member requested to pay attention on this unauthorized construction and devise a proper plan for this.

The Hon. Chairman inquired about 72 new business stalls constructed in Tangalle.

The Chairman, Urban Development Authority (UDA) informed that immediate action will be taken to distribute them. He also informed that a plan will be launched for Tangalle town early. The Hon. Chairman instructed that arrangements be made to provide new stalls after removal of the unauthorized shops.

1.6 Construction of public ground in Mannar - Hon. I. Charls Nirmalanathan

The Hon. Member inquired about the progress of construction activities of public ground in Mannar.

The Deputy Director General, UDA informed the Committee that the contract of grass laying has not been properly carried out and steps will be taken to be done the job again. The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Member that electricity could be supplied in the ground for fishermen to play during the night, and informed to devise a methodology to pay the bills.

The Hon. Chairman informed that construction work of the Mannar Bus Stand will be completed by June and the construction of the Mullaitivu Bus Stand has been completed now. Further, the Deputy Director General, UDA informed that the construction of the Mannar Market complex will also be completed within two months. The Hon. Chairman, also, informed that the construction in the Vavuniya Market Complex will be completed within two months.

1.7 Land to establish the fire brigade unit of the Air Force and progress of the Kaluoya Flood Control Project - Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

1.7.1 A land to establish the fire brigade unit of Air Force

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there is an issue regarding a land in Narahenpita area to establish the firefighting unit of Air Force.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that UDA had sent a letter to Air Force giving permission to conduct a survey investigation. He further informed that, even though, Ministry of Defence has taken approval for allocation by a Cabinet Memorandum, this delay was occurred because of restricting the provisions of funds by the Treasury.

1.7.2 Progress of Kalu Oya flood control project

The Hon. Member inquired about the current status of Wattala-Kalu Oya flood control project.

The Deputy Director General, Land Reclamation and Development Corporation informed the Committee that on completion of the feasibility study, Kalu Oya Project has been handed over to JICA project for further steps and discussions are being held with them now.

1.8 Development work in Batticaloa town - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to renovate the road system in Batticaloa Municipal Council area. He further requested to construct a bridge to cross over watery areas.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the Batticaloa town will be built as a well-planned city as planned by the Ministry. The Hon. Chairman further informed that it has been planned to convert Jaffna as well as Batticaloa cities as strategic cities.

The Chairman, UDA informed that Saturukondan urban park and the bus stand in Batticaloa town can be identified as two main projects in Batticaloa and it is proposed to implement several projects including construction of commercial building complex in this district in next year.

2. Adjournment

The Committee, at 4.00 p.m was adjourned sine die.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping
and Southern Development
First Meeting – 26 March 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka (Chairman)
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail

1. Motions of the Hon. Members of Parliament

1.1 Present progress of the Galle Port Development activities – Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member inquired about the current progress of the construction of the Yacht Marina for small scale operation and passenger transport in the Galle Port premises.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the Standing Committee has decided to recall the requests for proposals for projects due to a certain problematic situation, although requests for proposals had already been called and evaluated.

The Hon. Member inquired whether the cement stores inside the harbor had an adverse effect on the said development activities. Mr. Susantha Abeyesiriwardena, Chief Engineer, Ports Authority replied that in addition to an old cement warehouse, approval had been granted for the commencement of a small crushing plant. He informed that although the machines had been fixed it had not been started yet.

The Hon. Member inquired whether there was any harm to the tourism industry of the area and the environment of Rumassala area.

Chief Engineer informed that the institution had agreed to carry out the work complying with the existing industrial standards and to use the ‘De-dusting Hoppers’ to minimize the smoke on the occasion of landing of cement dust.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action had been taken by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka to obtain an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and had specified the required standards and has been informed to submit an Environmental Operations Plan and it will be terminated if not acted accordingly. The Hon. Chairman informed the Chief Engineer to submit a full report in this regard.

1.2 Development of the East Terminal of Colombo Port – Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

The Hon. Member inquired from the Committee whether the development work of the Ports Authority would be started as the Port Authority had suffered a severe loss due to the abandonment of its proposed development work to use Granty Crane at the East Terminal in 2014. The Hon. Member also inquired whether the operations of East Terminal was to be granted to Colombo International Container Terminal Limited (CICT).

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that at present, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority is discussing to purchase main equipment by

obtaining a loan from Japan at a concessionary interest rate. Hon. Chairman also informed the Committee that it is proposed to operate by a company and it has been proposed to operate 51% by the Ports Authority and to operate 49 % by a joint cooperation with India and Japan.

The Hon. Member of Parliament also inquired from the Committee whether steps have been taken to extend the service period of the Colombo International Container Terminal Limited (CICT).

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the contract period of the Colombo International Container Terminal Limited (CICT) was 35 years and it has been effective from 2011.

The Hon. Chairman also informed the Committee that South Asia Gateway Terminals Ltd. (SAGT) is a company to which leased out a jetty of Colombo Port, owing 15% of shares to the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Hon. Chairman further informed the Committee that although the development activities of the Eastern Terminal had been stopped for a long time, the proposed development program would be more productive for the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and its employees and the country.

1.3 Formal development of Kataragama town and the solution of its water problem - Hon. Ananda Kumarasiri

The Hon. Member informed that Kataragama town should be developed formally and a permanent solution should be given for the water problem. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that due to the Act for establishment of the Southern Development Authority has not been approved yet, it is not possible to directly intervene at the ministry level for development activities, and contribute to the development activities through a government institution and contribution is extended through the Urban Development Authority at present.

The Hon. Chairman also informed that a programme would be implemented by the Ministry of Southern Development to develop the areas that left by the Urban Development Authority and specially action would be taken for the welfare of the Kataragama pilgrims.

The Hon. Chairman further informed that these activities are implemented using the funds allocated for the development of the surrounding areas of the Detagamuwa Tank.

1.4 Establishment of an Oil Refinery in Hambantota District - The Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member inquired from the Committee with regard the commencement of an oil refinery center in Hambantota District.

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera inquired from the Committee that there was a public opinion regarding the effect of Saltern and Bird Park due to the commencement of the work, and inquired whether an Environmental Impact Assessment Report had been obtained in this regard.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been obtained for the industrial park related to the Port and a special Environmental Impact Assessment Report should be obtained due to the specialty of the works of the Hambantota Refinery Centre and he further informed the Committee that until it is received other possible activities are being performed.

The Hon. Chandima Weerakkody also informed the Committee that due to the scarcity of water, there was a disruption in the establishment of a refinery and a tannery. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the feasibility study report was envisaged to implement the 'Gin Nilwala Scheme' as there was a severe impact of the water problem on the drinking water requirements, the cultivation activities and the port industrial park.

The Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera also made a request to give priority, as it is an essential activity.

The Hon. Chandima Weerakkody requested to summon a meeting regarding the impact of the Ging Nilwala project as it runs through the Galle district. The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to summon the relevant parties to the meeting.

1.5 Provision of compensation for those who lost their lands owing to the Oluvil Port - Hon. Muhammadu Naseer

The Hon. Member requested the Committee compensation be granted for the families who were lost lands due to the Oluvil Port and to renovate the Oluvil harbour. The Hon. Member further informed that relief should be given to the people as paddy fields and lands have been damaged due to the tsunami disaster that found in Oluvil, Nindavur, and Rattapalam areas.

The Hon. Chairman informed that compensation should be given to the people in the area at first and secondly further development of the ports should be considered.

1.6 Problems faced by fishermen due to shortcomings in the Oluvil Port - Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to solve the problems taken place due to deposit of sand in the Oluvil Port, inadequate fuel supply to fishing boats, drinking water problem and the malfunctioning of ice factory.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a technical study should be conducted before taking a decision on this matter. The Hon. Deputy Minister informed the Committee that a group including officers of the Port Authority due to be held a discussion with the residents of the area regarding this issue. Hon. Nihal Galappaththi informed the Committee that the sand that would be removed from the Oluvil Port should be returned to the sea.

1.7 Development of the Jungle Beach, Rumassala - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to develop the Jungle Beach, Rumassala, which belongs to the Ports Authority. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action would be taken to look into this matter.

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to implement a programme for Yacht Marina as the investors are interested to invest in the Yacht Marina. The Hon. Member also requested the Committee to start cable car service from Rumassala to Galle as it would increase tourist attraction.

1.8 Releasing lands for the Aukana Buddha Statue proposed to be built near the 'Japanese Sama Chaitya' of Rumassala - Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage

The Hon. Member informed the Committee to release the land for the proposed Aukana Buddha Statue as it belongs to the Ports Authority. The Hon. Chairman informed to provide information in this regard.

1.9 Appointments to the employees of Sri Lanka Ports Authority who have passed the Examination for recruitment of the Management Assistants - Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the employees of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority have passed the examination nearly five months ago, but appointments yet to be given so far.

The Hon. Member also informed the Committee that some spouses of the Parliament Staff also belong to this category.

The Hon. Chairman informed that this will be looked into and necessary action would be taken.

1.10 Permanent Appointments to temporary and casual workers - Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to give permanent appointments to temporary and casual workers in the posts of driver and management assistant.

The Hon. Chairman informed that this would be investigated and necessary action would be taken.

1.11 Reconstruction of the Mullaitivu District Lighthouse - Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

The Hon. Member informed the Committee to take action to rebuild the lighthouse of Mullaitivu District which was completely destroyed during the war and to take measures to construct the lighthouse at the site which was identified in the center of the city.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Chairman, Ports Authority that necessary provisions were not available and directed that preliminary work be carried out until the funds will be provided.

1.12 Starting a Vessel Service from Talaimannar to India - Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

The Hon. Member requested to commence a vessel service from Talaimannar to Rameswaram in India as existed in the past.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the approval had been obtained to commence a vessel service from Kankasanthurai to Karikkal in India and that the Ports Authority had been informed to prepare plans for the development of the Talaimannar concurrently.

The Hon. Member requested the Committee that the residents of the Vanni District had gone to India during the war and living there in camps and requested to take action to provide them the vessel service to return to motherland carrying their items at least once a month.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Chairman, Ports Authority to find out whether a vessel could be hired and to discuss with the Ministry of Northern Development.

1.13 Development of Galle and Matara Districts, Kotawila New Town and Mirissa Tourism Zone by Southern Development Authority - Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

The Hon. Member inquired the Committee about the progress of the development activities in the Galle and Matara Districts in the past years and the delay in the development of the Kotawila and Mirissa Tourism Zone.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that no action could be taken as the Southern Development Authority Act had not been

passed and the Kotawila Town is not under the Southern Development Authority.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that all the development activities of Kotawila and Mirissa Development Zones have been handed over to the Tourism Development Board.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that arrangements are being made to carry out development activities of the Hambantota Industrial Zone by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI).

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the Galle Port under the Southern Development Authority came under the purview of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Cultural Affairs and the Matara Port does not come under the Southern Development Authority. He added that action would be taken to bring the ports in the Southern Province under the new Southern Ports Act, which is to be introduced.

The Hon. Member inquired whether the Colombo International Container Terminal Limited (CICT) had been granted permission to expand the terminal.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that no approval has been granted and the Cabinet approval has been obtained for technical evaluation.

2. Adjournment

The Committee was adjourned sine die.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development and
Vocational Training and Skills Development
Second Meeting – 05 April 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen (Chairman)

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Ajith P. Perera,

Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana,

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody,

Hon. S. Viyalanderan,

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne,

Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran,

Hon. E. Saravanapavan,

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera

Notices of absence:-

Hon. Siripala Gamlath .

1. Matters arising out of the minutes:-

1.1 Financial loss incurred by the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation

The Chairman of the State Trading (General) Corporation (CPC) informed the Committee that they had not been able to recover their money although discussions were held with the relevant institutions in that regard. He also informed that 109 million had to be recovered, and a Cabinet Memorandum would be submitted to the Ministry within a week.

Ms. Indika Ranatunga, Director informed that the Presidential Secretariat, the Saumyamoorthy Thondaman Memorial Foundation and the Janatha Estate Development Board were included in the cabinet memorandum which was submitted earlier and although efforts were taken to discuss with those institutions it was not successful .

The Hon. Chairman directed the Chairman of the State Trading (General) Corporation to take urgent action in that regard.

1.2 Taking action to reinstate the textile industry in the Central Province

The Director of the Department of Textile Industry informed that the report related to the matter had been submitted to the relevant divisions.

1.3 Issues taken place when co-operative elections were held

Additional Secretary (Co-operative Development) informed the Committee that the Provincial Commissioners had been informed in writing to act with transparency when conducting co-operative elections.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to inform the Hon. Members of Parliament relevant, to the matters with the signature of the Head of the Institution that action had been taken on the matters arisen in the Parliamentary Consultative Committee.

1.4 Issues taken place when CWE outlets are opened

The Chairman of Sathosa informed the Committee that ten Sathosa outlets had been opened after the last Committee meeting and six other institutions would be opened before the festive season. He further informed that a Mobile Sathosa service would also be

implemented during the festive season for the benefit of the people in the plantation areas. He, further, informed the Committee that 16 institutions were to be opened after taking buildings on rent. The Hon. Chairman instructed them to complete the work as soon as possible and inform the Ministry. He also informed the Committee that he had paid more attention on opening of new outlets in the festive season and after that attention would be paid on the market research before opening Sathosa institutions in Agalawatta.

The Chairman, also informed the Committee that there was a problem with setting up of new Sathosa establishments in Thawalama and it had been submitted to the Secretary to the Ministry to take a decision regarding the issue.

The Hon. Mr. Piyadasa informed that the property of Rathgama, Watawala and Ginigathhena, belong to the Textile Department in the Central Province but not recorded, had been unlawfully taken over and requested that urgent action should be taken against that.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director of Textile Department to provide such details expeditiously. The Chairman and the Executive Director of Salusala informed the Committee that the land had been taken over and a private investor was using it without any payment. The Chairman further informed that he did not agree to requests made for paying any rent.

1.5 Matters regarding the Central Province Department of Textile Industries

The Chairman, Salusala informed that a request had been made to provide the property to run a weaving mill by the Central Province Department of Textile Industries.

The Director of the Ministry stated that a suitable arrangement could be made for that according to the Cabinet approval and the Divisional Secretary could not transfer that to another party as it had been a purchased property.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to discuss the matter with the Secretary to the Cabinet according to the decision of the Ministerial Consultative Committee. In the same way instructions were given to take a Business plan from the relevant institution.

1.6 Injustice caused to some farmers in Polonnaruwa district - Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathna

The Hon. Chairman commented on taking a measure regarding the injustice through the intervention of the Consumer Affairs Authority.

The Hon. Member requested to take measures to provide a relief to the farmers as the reply from the company from which equipment were purchased was due to be received.

1.7 Provision of Rs. 1 billion allocated for Lanka Industrial Development Board

The Hon. Chairman advised the Chairman of the Industrial Development Board of Sri Lanka to take steps to identify lands, prepare survey plans and to prepare estimates when starting a new industrial zone.

Furthermore, the Hon. Chairman further instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to discuss with the Secretaries of the relevant Ministries if a Cabinet Memorandum was required to be submitted.

2. Any other business:

2.1 Expediting the Industrial Policy through Industrial Policy planning, - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Hon. Deputy Minister informed of the urgent need to expand the industrial policy through planning industrial policies, amending the Co-operative Act and creating an information window.

The Secretary to the Ministry stated about availability of 17 advisory committees and they were needed to be re - strengthened. He also stated that formulation of a sectoral industrial policy for the entire industrial sector would be more effective.

The Secretary of the Ministry added that revision of Industry Advisory Committees could be completed in due course.

The Hon Chairman informed that a Cabinet Memorandum should be prepared and matters should be studied by a special committee for all these matters and study.

Accordingly, the Hon. Chairman instructed that a request should be made to appoint a special committee with the chair of the Hon. Deputy Minister and representation of the relevant ministries to make recommendations.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that joining the industrial sector and skills development studies was essential.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry that an outline be prepared on the manner of implementation of this within 2 weeks.

2.2 Amendment of Co-operative Act.

The Co-operative Commissioner informed the Committee that a report consist of amendments need to take place in the Co-operative

Act had been submitted to the Ministry and a draft of the Cabinet memorandum had been submitted to get the approval needed for these amendments.

The Hon. Deputy Minister instructed to submit the relevant documents to the Legal Draftsmen's Department immediately.

Hon. K.K. Piyadasa informed that the correct method of conducting co-operative elections should be included in the new Act.

The Hon. Deputy Minister informed the Committee that a procedure should be prepared to present annual reports for the Committee of Public Accounts.

The Hon. Chairman stated that a committee chaired by the Hon. Deputy Minister would be appointed and the report should be submitted immediately.

In the same way, the Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a proper procedure of conducting co-operative elections should be introduced to the amendments.

Hon. Anura Sydney Jayaratne informed the Committee that outsiders were nominated except elected persons when the Boards of Directors were appointed in Co-operative Societies in some provinces.

The Additional Secretary informed the Committee that discussions were due to be held with all other institutions involved in the commencement of the industry in order to introduce the Single Window method.

The Chairman informed the Committee to appoint two representatives from each of the three main councils under the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka.

Since the funds had been allocated for the preparation of a business registry, the Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to expedite the activities by engaging the officials of the Ministry.

2.3 Commemoration of International Co-operative Day – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Commissioner of Co-operatives informed the Committee that arrangements were being made to conduct the International Co-operative Day celebrations at Sanath Jayasuriya grounds on July 7, 2019.

2.4 Remaining all the officials in the office on Wednesdays.

The Hon. Chairman informed to name substitute officers for duty on Wednesdays when the officers were away from the office in order to provide a satisfactory service to those who come for their services.

The Secretary to the Ministry requested to apply for overseas leave in advance as it was essential to apply for leave before sufficient period of time.

2.5 Develop activities in Pudukuduirippu, Valachchena areas under Kiran DS Division - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to open a Sathosa outlet covering the areas of Valachchenai, Chenkaladi and Sandiveli in the Kiran DS Division.

The Hon. Chairman informed that if a space with 3000 sq. feet was given steps would be taken to set up one outlet in each area of Arayampathi and Kiran.

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to re-establish the printing press at Kumburumulla, and the rice mills at Devapuram which were destroyed during the war time.

The Hon. Member stated that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture had agreed to grant assistance to establish a dairy factory at Siththandi and requested that corporation be granted for construction of the factory.

The Hon. Member also stated that the Hon. Minister had agreed to grant assistance to set up a canned fish factory in Kaluwakkeni area and requested to support the construction of the factory.

The Hon. Member informed that a request had been made through the Divisional Secretary to put up a rice mills at Koolavady area in the Kiran DS Division and requested that assistance be given in that regard also.

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there had been two tile factories located in Badulla road and Kadiriweli area and informed that the lands could be provided to re-restart the factories and also informed that skilled labor could be found from those areas.

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to facilitate the establishment of new tile factories at Kadiraweli-Vakarai and Arawavarpattu-Iluppichichenai.

The Hon. Member pointed out about lack of resources in the co-operative societies located in Vakarai, Valachchenai, Kiran, Kakkadichcholai, Vellaveli and Vavunathivu and requested to take action to develop those co-operative societies.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Co-operative Commissioner to take necessary action.

2.6 Land belong to the Ministry

The Co-operative Commissioner informed the Committee that the land in the extent of 13 perches at No. 05, Sri Gunananda Road, Kotahena, Colombo 13, had not belonged to the Ministry and it belonged to the Co-operative Ministry of the Western Province.

2.7 National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority and Sri Lanka Vocational Training Authority - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

2.7.1 Termination of the service of 24 employees who were recruited to NAITA

The Hon. Member informed that the service of 24 employees who were recruited to NAITA on contract basis according to the proper scheme of recruitment had been terminated without confirming them in the service.

The Chairman of the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority informed the Committee that the contract period of the employees had been extended by three months and the issue of conformation had arisen due to financial crisis.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the matter would be looked into.

2.7.2 Training courses conducted by the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka

The Hon. Member informed that persons with the knowledge on tourism sector had not been recruited for the management in the tourist training schools under the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka and also informed that only persons had been recruited on contract basis.

The Chairman of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka informed the Committee that the required cadre had already been submitted for approval and a professional expert could not be recruited until approval was received.

The Hon. Deputy Minister Karunaratne Paranavithana informed the Committee that measures would be taken to grant the service of an expert in the field of vocational training.

2.8 Development activities of Raigampura Industrial High zone - Hon Ajith P. Perera

2.8.1 Development activities of Raigampura Industrial High zone

The Hon. Minister requested to make arrangements to carry out all the development activities expeditiously in the 25 acre area until the administrative approval was obtained for the high zone.

The Hon. Minister also requested the land be divided as soon as possible for the investors to start their constructions.

Hon. Chairman informed that action would be taken to provide one or more land shares according to the investment.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director (Industrial Development) to expedite granting land lots with the conditions that the land could not be kept without development, could not be changed, or sold, and the investment should be started within a period of 03-06 months.

2.8.2 Construction of an IT park at Ingiriya, Horana

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that first of all, the Concept Paper should be prepared and suitable accommodations, gymnasiums, cinemas, restaurants and a good environment should be included in it.

Mr. Balasubramaniam, Additional Secretary (Industrial Development) informed that until then a concept paper had not been prepared in that regard.

The Hon. Member, stated that he was ready to provide full support for that.

Prof. G.L.D Wickramanasinghe, Vice Chancellor of the University of Vocational Technology informed the Committee that maximum support could be given as a separate section of the technology was available in the university.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to prepare the Concept Paper by discussing with Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, Secretary to the Ministry, Additional Secretary (Industrial Development) and officials of the Ministry with the Chairmanship of Hon. Ajith P. Perera.

2.8.3 Exports related information technology

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the fourth position in the field of foreign exchange earning had been received by IT related exports and that scarcity of skilled labour was a major issue and also informed that the task could be facilitated by the training institutions under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the number of HNDIT holders in the Technical Colleges should be increased and that they should be provided with the opportunity to continue their studies up to the degree.

The Hon. Chairman made a request to assist the students who had completed the Higher National Diploma in Information Technology (HNDIT) course for training in the Ministry of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology.

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that market surveys revealed that the information technology graduates have a large employment opportunities in the private sector and that the field should be strengthened.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to discuss the matter on the same day on which the discussions were due to be held regarding the IT Park and also instructed to discuss as to what institutions be contacted.

The Hon. Chairman further advised to contact the high level officer in the IT department of the Technical College and officials of the Vocational Training Authority and the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority of Sri Lanka if necessary.

2.9 Engineering Technology Institute, irregularities of Co-operative Society and institutions related to information technology - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

2.9.1 New branch of the Engineering Technology Institute at Imaduwa, Galle

The Hon. Member requested to expedite the establishment of an Engineering Technology Institute.

2.9.2 Irregularities in Habaraduwa Co-operative Society

The Hon. Member, informed the Committee about an issue regarding non-payment of the deposited money of the residents in the area by the Habaraduwa Co-operative Society.

Commissioner (Co-operative Development) informed the Committee that, it is subject of the Provincial Council and only opinion could be provided by the Central Government.

The Co-operative Commissioner informed that the Provincial Co-operative Commissioner did not have powers to remove a board of directors appointed by the general public and therefore, it had been submitted to the Cabinet to approve a Micro Finance Act as a solution and measures had been taken to prosecute them.

As the procedure for changing the Co-operative Act was in progress, the Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Hector Appuhamy to submit the amendments in writing to the Secretary to the Ministry.

2.10 Getting the participation of Samurdhi beneficiaries for making products by the Co-operative Societies - Hon. Hector Appuhamy

The Hon. Member requested to get the participation of samurdhi beneficiaries as self-employees for making products by the co-operative societies.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Co-operative Commissioner to pay attention in this regard.

3. Consumer Affairs Act

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director (Legal Empowerment), Consumer Affairs Authority to expedite the completion of amendment of the Consumer Affairs Act.

4. Adjournment

The Committee, at 12.30 p.m. was adjourned till 09.05.2019 at 11.00 a.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development and
Vocational Training and Skills Development
Third Meeting -9 May 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen (Chairman)
Hon. Karunarathna Paranavithana
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. A.D. Premadasa
Hon. K.K. Piyadasa
Hon. S. Shritharan

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Priyankara Jayarathna
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer

Notices of absence :-

Hon. Siripala Gamlath

1. Matters arising out of the minutes:-

1.1 Financial losses incurred by the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the Cabinet paper had been submitted.

1.2 Issues taken place when CWE outlets are opened

The Hon. Chairman informed the CEO, Sathosa to take action to open the Sathosa outlets that were not opened yet after paying the rent within six weeks.

The CEO, Sathosa was also informed to prepare a targeted program up to December of the current year to make the opening of 500 Sathosa outlets covering all the areas and submit it before the next meeting.

1.3 Amendments to the Co-operative Act.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that the relevant Cabinet memorandum had been handed over.

1.4 Progress of commemoration of International Co-operative Day – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Hon. Chairman instructed to take action to carry out the International Co-operative Day commemoration without interruption. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to take action to summon the Provincial Co-operative Commissioners at future Ministerial Consultative Committee meetings.

1.5 The land at No. 05, Sri Gunananda Road, Kotahena, Colombo 13 – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Commissioner (Co-operative Development) and Co-operative Society Registrar (Line) informed the Committee that bids had been called for the said land, belong to the Western Province Co-operative Department and that the work had not been completed.

1.6 Development activities of Raigampura High Industrial Zone – Hon. Ajith P. Perera

The Director (Industrial Development) informed the Committee that it had been forwarded to the Survey Department for land surveying activities.

1.7 Construction of an IT park in Ingiriya, Horana – Hon. Ajith P. Perera

The Director (Industrial Development) informed the Committee that preparation of the Concept paper was taking place.

1.8 Exports relating to information technology is a major foreign exchange source - Hon. Ajith P. Perera

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a report in this regard had been submitted to the Committee.

1.9 Amendment of Consumer Affairs Authority Act.

The Chairman, Consumer Affairs Authority informed the Committee that the revision of the Act had been forwarded to the Legal Draftsman's Department.

1.10 Institute of Engineering Technology, Imaduwa, Galle - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member requested to use the 21 acre land near the Imaduwa Expressway in Galle for the construction of an Institute of Engineering Technology. The Hon. Chairman instructed to take necessary action in that regard.

1.11 Lands belong to the Department of Textiles - Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there were other lands belong to the Department of Textiles which were not included in the report and that they were used by outsiders.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Secretary to the Ministry to identify lands belong to the Department of the Textiles by making a written request to the relevant Divisional Secretary and District Secretary.

1.12 Acquisition of the Salusala land in Galagedara, Kandy- Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Hon. Deputy Minister inquired about the measures taken for re-acquisition of the land located in Galagedara, Kandy by Salusala Institute, which was being used without a rent by a private investor.

The Secretary to the Ministry announced to the Committee that a Cabinet paper had been prepared in order to acquire the land by the Ministry.

2. Any other business:

2.1 Business progress of Sathosa outlets – Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

The Hon. Member requested to take measures for trade promotion through the implementation of trade promotion programs and reducing the prices of essential items.

The Hon. Chairman directed the CEO, Sathosa to take action to launch a promotion campaign through all TV channels to promote trade in Sathosa outlets and obtain the assistance of the suppliers for that.

2.2 Cleanliness of Sathosa outlets – Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

Hon. Member informed the Committee that by keeping all Sathosa outlets clean and systematic, it could make attractive to customers.

In this regard, the Chief Executive Officer was instructed by the Hon. Chairman to inform all the Regional Managers about keeping the outlets clean and tidy.

2.3 Poththapitiya Industrial Park in Kandy District - Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to expedite the commencement of the Poththapitiya Industrial Park in Kandy District.

The Hon. Chairman informed that after discussion with the Ministry of Finance regarding the supplementary estimate submitted for obtaining necessary funds, an answer would be sent within two weeks. The Hon. Chairman informed the Secretary to the Ministry that the report be submitted.

2.4 Risk of shortage of essential items - Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera

The Hon. Member inquired whether there would be a risk of shortage of essential items in the country due to the prevailing chaotic situation.

The Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority and the Chairman, Sathosa informed the Committee that any shortage of essential items had not been reported.

2.5 Injustice caused to a private investor when mineral sand was taken out from a wrecked ship – Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

The Hon. Member informed the Committee about an injustice caused to a private investor when recovery of the sand from a ship, wrecked due to terrorist attacks.

The Director (Public Enterprises) informed the Committee that the Attorney General's Department had also given a decision regarding the matter. The Hon. Chairman informed the Secretary to the Ministry to inquire into the matter.

2.6 Discussion on related to the Co-operative Societies in the Eastern Province - Hon. Seeniththamby Yosheswaran

The Hon. Member informed that the Co-operative Societies in the Eastern Province had deficiencies and they were not functioning properly, and requested the Hon. Chairman to give an opportunity to discuss such matters in Batticaloa. The Hon. Chairman agreed with the request.

2.7 Obtaining assistance to upgrade the livelihood of small holders living in the Eastern province - Hon. Seeniththamby Yosheswaran

The Hon. Member requested that assistance be given to upgrade the living standard of the 500 small holders living in the Eastern Province.

The Hon. Chairman agreed with the request and requested for more information.

2.8 Unused rice mills installed in Mullaitivu district by the UNDP project – Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that rice mills were established in the Mullaitivu District by the UNDP project when resettlement was done after the war and they had been given to co-operative societies but they were not informed due to non-availability of funds for the maintenance.

Further the Hon. Member informed that paddy cultivation was going on at large scale in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts in the East and the majority of the benefits that should be enjoyed by the farmers in Vanni district were being enjoyed by the people in the Southern province due to transport of the paddy harvest to the Southern province. The Hon. Member requested that a method should be formulated to re-activate the above rice mills and it was suitable to hand over to the private sector according to the procedure of procurement.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to take action in that regard.

2.9 Problems related to small holder societies established by NGOs in Mullaitivu district – Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Srikandarasa

The Hon. Member informed that small holder societies established by the NGOs in the Mullaitivu District were not functioning and women

members had faced with many problems regarding sale of finished items produced by them with raw materials from the area.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Chairman, Industrial Development Board to take appropriate action in consultation with the officers of Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya districts regarding the above matters.

2.10 Land belong to Salusala, Jawatte to the security forces - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Hon. Deputy Minister informed the Committee that the land which was being used by the Presidential Security Division, is due to be taken over by the Ministry of Defence.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the land belong to the State Trading Corporation in Rajagiriya area had also been obtained by the Special Task Force. The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to get permission informing the President's Secretary in writing and commence new projects in those properties.

The Hon. Deputy Minister instructed to inform the Divisional Secretary that they would start a public private partnership. The Hon. Deputy Minister informed the Committee that as the land in Rajagiriya belong to the State Trading Corporation, had been acquired by the Special Task Force action should also be taken to get it back. The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary of the Ministry to inform the Ministry of Defence regarding the matter.

2.11 The land belong to the National Institute of Business Management (NIBM) allocated for the construction of a Hotel School in Habaraduwa, Galle - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member requested to commence the construction of the hotel school in Habaraduwa, Galle. The Hon. Chairman informed to take action.

3. Adjournment

The Committee, at 4.40 p.m. adjourned till 20.06.2019 at 11.00 a.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development and
Vocational Training and Skills Development
Fourth Meeting – 20 June 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Chairman)

Hon. Karunaratna Paranawithana
Hon. K.K. Piyadasa
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheeswaran
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayake
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

1. Matters arising out of the minutes

1.1 Opening new Sathosa outlets

Instructions were given to the General Manager, Sathosa to provide a list of the seven Sathosa institutions which are to be opened during that month.

1.2 Summoning Provincial Co-operative Commissioners to Consultative Committee Meetings

The Chairman informed the Committee that all Provincial Co-operative Commissioners are present in the Committee Meeting.

1.3 Amendment of Consumer Affairs Authority Act

Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority Mr. L.N. Senaweera informed the Committee that action was being taken in that regard.

1.4 Establishment of an Engineering Institute of Imaduwa (Galle), Galle - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Deputy Minister informed that the Hon. Member would be informed after further discussion in this regard.

1.5 Poththapitiya Industrial Park in the Kandy District - Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

The Hon. Member inquired about the progress of the establishment of an Industrial Park in the Poththapitiya Division of the Yatinuwara Electorate in Kandy District.

Attention of the Committee was paid on the project report prepared for the industrial park and assessment report relevant to the acquisition of lands from Pussella Plantation Company. The Secretary to the Ministry informed that funds could be provided for the project.

1.6 Injustice caused to a private investor in rescuing the mineral sand from the wrecked ship - the Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that according to the instructions of the Attorney General's Department, the ship and mineral sand should be treated as two items and the sand belonged to the Mineral Sands Corporation. It was also informed the Committee that a decision would be taken as soon as possible.

1.7 Reactivation of non-operating rice mills in Mullaitivu district - Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

The Assistant Commissioner (Co-operative Development) in the Northern Province informed the Committee that the rice mills could be reactivated by joining with the Sri Lanka Rice Producers Cooperative Society Ltd. and obtaining membership according to a decision taken by the Board of Directors of the Co-operative Societies.

1.8 Solving the issues related to small industrial societies established by NGOs in Mullaitivu district- Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

The Hon. Member requested that arrangements be made to give a date to discuss the issue. The Hon. Chairman agreed to do accordingly.

1.9 Lands belong to Jawatte Salusala Institution and State Trading Corporation at Rajagiriya - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that the matter had been discussed with His Excellency the President and it was informed to hand over the lands to the Police Department.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that as it is a land belong to the Divisional Secretary, ownership could not be taken for the whole land. The Hon. Chairman further informed the Committee that it was expected to re-negotiate to obtain the land, owned by Salusala.

2. Any other business

2.1 Money deposited in Rural Bank Branches of Multi Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd., Hewagam Korale East and Kalutara district Co-operative Society Election - Hon. Vidura Wickramanayake

2.1.1 Money deposited in Rural Bank Branches of Multi Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd., Hewagam Korale East

It was informed that the Hon. Member had asked a question in Parliament in this regard and a complaint had been lodged with the Commission to Investigate Bribery or Corruption and the Criminal

Investigation Department. He further informed that the Board of Directors had been informed to solve the problem.

2.1.2 Kalutara district Co-operative Society Election

The Hon. Member inquired the conduct of Co-operative election in Kalutara district. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry that arrangements be made for a discussion with the relevant parties.

2.2 Establishment of Tamil Medium Vocational Training School in Nuwara Eliya District - The Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

The Hon. Member requested to initiate a new Tamil Medium Vocational Training School in Talawakele, Nuwara Eliya District.

2.3 Amendment of the Co-operative Act and other matters

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to make arrangements to appoint a separate staff to review the progress of amendment of the Co-operative Act, amendment of the Rural Banks Act, the National Co-operative Policy Framework and the preparation of a National Industrial Policy.

2.4 Shortcomings in the Technical College in the Mannar District and other matters - The Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

2.4.1 Shortcomings in the Technical College in the Mannar District

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to take action to complete the shortcomings in the Technical College in the Mannar District. It was informed that as there were many shortcomings the development work should be carried out by obtaining the provision of funds.

2.4.2 Misuse of Public Vehicles in the Mannar District

The Hon. Deputy Minister instructed to carry out an investigation into misuse of vehicles attached to the Manthai Salt Corporation as informed by the Hon. Member and take action to stop that.

2.5 Co-operative Societies in the Batticaloa District and other matters - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheeswaran

2.5.1 Co-operative Societies in Batticaloa District

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that permission had been requested to operate fuel stations by the Co-operative societies. The Hon. Member also informed that paddy has not been purchased in time by the Co-operative societies in the Eastern Province and pointed out about a shortage of furniture and computers in the multi-purpose co-operative societies in the Eastern Province.

The Hon. Member requested to grant provisions required to develop multi-purpose co-operative societies in Eravur area.

2.5.2 Opening of the Valachchenai Paper Factory

The Hon. Member requested to take action to open the Valachchenai Paper Factory and a suitable person be appointed instead of the present Chairman.

2.5.3 Opening of new Sathosa outlets.

A request was made to establish new Sathosa outlets in three places in the District.

2.6 Bogahagoda and Imaduwa Sathosa outlets- Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

2.6.1 Relocating Bogahagoda Sathosa

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that it was better to take the present land on lease from the owner and construct a building as it was the ideal place for business.

The Hon. Chairman informed that it would be relocated in another building due to the risky condition in the present building.

2.6.2 Construction of a Permanent Building for Imaduwa Sathosa

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the building in the Pradeshiya Sabha where the old police station had been located could be refurbished and obtained for Imaduwa Sathosa as it was being maintained in a rented building.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that it would be looked into and take necessary steps.

3. Adjournment

The Committee was adjourned till 25.07.2019.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education
First Meeting - 09 July, 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam (Chairman)
Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran- State Minister
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Piyasena Gamage
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Duleep Wijesekera
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe

1. Hon Members' Motions

1.1 Appointment of a Principal for Godakawela Rahula National School in Ratnapura District - Hon. T. Ranjith de Soysa

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a Principal mentioned by Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa and Hon. Hesha Withanage could be attached to the Godakawela Rahula National School on pending approval until a permanent principal is appointed.

1.2 Regulation of Private and International Schools and other matters- Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

1.2.1 Regulation of Private and International Schools

The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Education would be able to regulate Private and International Schools properly by the proposed Education Act by regularizing these schools on a common policy and the Cabinet approval would be obtained for it.

1.2.2 Establishment of Teacher Instructor Service

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi and Hon. Rohini Kumari Wijeratne expressed their views about Teachers' Instructor Service.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that Cabinet approval has been granted for the establishment of Teacher Instructor Service and it could be established after receiving the approval of the National Salaries and Cadre Commission, the Director General of Establishment and the Public Service Commission.

1.2.3 The Sports Programme launched combinedly by the Ministries of Sports and Education in 2013

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that this programme, for which provisions were allocated and approved, has not been implemented properly.

The Committee was informed that preparation of DVD disks and teacher guidelines could be finished within this year according to the plan and teachers can be trained in 2020.

1.2.4 Computer Software containing teachers' information

The Committee was informed that data entering of the introduction computer software containing teachers' information which inquired by the Hon. Member, has been completed.

1.2.5 New National Schools

Referring to the queries raised by the Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, the Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi and the Hon. Nihal Galappaththi, the Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that there exist 361 national schools and the Cabinet approval has been obtained to open about 1000 national schools on geographical basis, number of students and covering all Advanced Level subjects.

1.2.6 Smart Class Rooms

The Hon. Member inquired about present progress of the introduction of this programme and about introducing visual programs for all subject streams.

The Committee was informed that CD and DVD are used for Advanced Level and Ordinary Level syllabus.

1.3 Building Issues of D S Senanayake National School in Ampara – Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake

The Committee was informed that dilapidated and hazardous school building would be repaired.

1.4 Receiving an Agriculture teacher for Advanced Level classes in Royal College, Colombo- Hon. Dulip Wijesekara

The Hon. Member requested that an agriculture teacher be attached for Advanced Level classes in this school.

1.5 Shortage of teachers in the National School, Medirigiriya in the Polonnaruwa District – Hon. Anura Sydney Jayaratne

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that an action will be taken to fill teacher vacancies in the National Schools with 4000 new teachers who are to be passed out from the Educational Colleges.

1.6 Shortage of English teachers- Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that although there is a shortage of English teachers in Educational Zone in Elpitiya, there is an excess in Galle Educational Zone because a proper procedure is not followed in directing teachers to the provisional schools who are attaching to the Provincial Councils.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Secretary to the Ministry that all relevant educational officers to be summoned for the next Ministerial Consultative Committee meetings in order to resolve these types of issues.

1.7 Shortage of teachers Matale District- Hon. Mrs. Rohini Kumari Wijeratne

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that according to the request done by the member to fill about 172 teacher vacancies at national and provincial schools in Matale, Laggala and Wilgamuwa educational zones, all vacancies could be filled in a very short period.

1.8 Teacher Staff quarters in Wilgamuwa Educational Zone- Hon. Mrs. Rohini Kumari Wijeratne

As an answer to the request made by the Hon. Member to construct teacher staff quarters in the Wilgamuwa educational zone, the Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that 300 of such quarters in rural area have been made under the programme.

1.9 Recruitment of voluntary teachers in the Eastern province to the Teaching service – Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe

As an answer to the request made by the Hon. Member to confirm the service of voluntary teachers in the Eastern Province, the Committee was informed that 731 appointments had been given to those who passed the examination and appointments could be given to the rest of the applicants by reviewing the appeals received.

1.10 Making Valaichenai Hindu College and Sengaladi Central College as National Schools and other matters – Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

1.10.1 Making Valaichenai Hindu College and Sengaladi Central College as National Schools

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there is no single Tamil Medium National School in Kalkudah area in Batticaloa District. The Hon. Member requested the Committee to take immediate action to upgrade Valaichenai Hindu College and Sengaladi Central College as National Schools as they have fulfilled all the requirements for upgrading.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that Cabinet approval had been granted to establish nearly 1000 New National Schools. The Committee was also informed that the approval of the Governor had been received to upgrade several schools in the Eastern Province to national schools.

1.10.2 Solution for Teachers Shortage in the Kalkudah and Batticaloa Western Educational Zones

The Hon. Member requested that teachers be provided for the schools which have vacancies according to the instructions of the Zonal Director of Education. He also requested to provide teachers to other schools by balancing the excess of teachers in the Pattiruppu Zone schools in Batticaloa.

The Hon. Member further informed that the Maduramkulam and Kattumuri schools are also in shortage of primary teachers.

1.10.3 Shortcomings in schools in the Batticaloa District

The Hon. Member informed that there are shortages of furniture, sufficient buildings and primary teachers in Batticaloa District.

1.10.4 Shortcomings in Navalkadu – Namagal School

The Hon. Member requested to provide furniture for new building in Navalkadu – Namagal Vidyalaya in order to open it.

1.10.5 Shortcomings in schools under the Provincial Ministry of Education

The Hon. Member informed that there are shortcomings of minor staff and guards in the Provincial schools. He also requested that, as there is a shortage of teachers to teach religion those appointments be given.

1.11 Increasing the number of educational zones – Hon. Imran Maharroof

As an answer to the Hon. Member the Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that Cabinet approval has been granted to increase the number of educational zones and action is being taken to abolish zonal educational offices and increase educational zones up to 200.

1.12 Appointment of a Principal for Samanthurai National School - Hon. S.M. Mohamed Ismail

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to appoint a Principal to the Samanthurai National School.

The Hon. Chairman instructed that a Principal be appointed temporarily subject on pending approval.

1.13 Appointing a Principal to the Neluwa National School in Galle District - Hon. Piyasena Gamage

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary of Education of the Southern Provincial Council to appoint the Principal suggested by the Hon. Member on pending approval.

1.14 Establishment of a Teacher Reserve for National Schools - The Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

The Chairman informed the Committee that Cabinet approval had been obtained to establish a Teacher Reserve in order take prompt action about temporary vacancies occurred due to leave, retirement and maternity leave.

1.15 Recruitment of Teachers' Assistants in the Uva and Central Provinces and other matters - Hon. Mylwaganam Thilakarajah

1.15.1 Recruitment of Teachers' Assistants in the Uva and Central Provinces

Mr. K.G.Wijesiri informed the Committee that Teachers' Assistants who have obtained degrees and completed teachers' training should be absorbed into the Teaching Service and for this purpose consent on Circulars, Cabinet Approval and Provincial Council have been obtained.

Hon. Wijeyakala Maheshwaran, State Minister of Education, informed the Committee that discussions are being held with the Ministry of Finance.

1.15.2 Appointment of teachers in Hatton Education Zone - Nuwara Eliya District as In-Service Advisors and Resource Persons

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that some teachers in the Hatton Education Zone have been appointed as in-service advisors and resource persons creating issues in school administration.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Additional Secretary to conduct an immediate inquiry on these appointments and call for a report from the Provincial Office to be submitted to the next Ministerial Consultative Committee.

1.16 Issues on Project Assistants of the Non-formal Education Unit - Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the Project Assistants of the Non-formal and Special Education Unit are graduates and that the lack of proper recruitment procedure and suitable salary scale is an issue.

The Committee was informed that the Salary and Cadre Commission proposed NM 6 initial scale for 198 project assistants and there is no agreement to it.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to prepare a Cabinet Memorandum and submit it for approval.

1.17 Issues of recruiting to the Educational Administrative Service - Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathne

The Hon. Member informed that appointments be given to 25 persons who has not been recruited after an examination held in 2012 to the Sri Lanka Educational Administrative Service and obtained a court order.

The Committee was informed that on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, 25 persons would be appointed and notification would be gazetted for 501 recruitments.

1.18 Recruitment of Development Officers to the Teaching service – Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekera

The Hon. Member requested to recruit the remaining graduates to the teaching service who obtained minimum marks and had been recruited as Development Officers in 2005.

The Commissioner of Examinations informed the Committee that 80% of the candidates who passed the examination were recruited to the Teaching Service and the remaining persons had scored minimum marks.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to summon the relevant external parties including the Officials of the Ministry of Finance and Planning Officers for the next Committee Meeting to discuss on matters that could not be decided at this Meeting today.

2. The Committee, at 3.55 p.m. adjourned till 26.07.2019 at 10.00 a.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Ports & Shipping and
Southern Development
Second Meeting - 10 July, 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Sagala Ratnayake (Chairman)

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga

Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa

Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage

Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera

Hon. Mohamadu Nazeer

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. P. Harrison

Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

Hon. E. Sarawanapawan

Hon. (Dr) Sivamohan

1. Matters arising out of the minutes

1.1 Present Progress of the Galle Port Development Project - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

On the directions of the Committee, the report prepared on the cement storage at the Galle Port was submitted.

1.2 Release of land for the Aukana Buddha Statue proposed to be constructed near the Japanese Peace Pagoda at Rumassala - Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage

It was informed the Committee that the land could not be released for any other purpose as it has been designated as a sanctuary.

1.3 Appointments of Sri Lanka Ports Authority employees who have passed the examination for recruitment as Management Assistants - Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

It was informed the Committee that although the competitive examination for the recruitment of Junior Management Assistants had been completed, the appointments could not be granted as per the subsequent circulars and arrangements would be made to give appointments to 150 person after obtaining approval for the cadre.

1.4 Appointments for Temporary and Casual Employees – Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage

It was informed the Committee that all eligible employees had been confirmed.

1.5 Reconstruction of Mullaitivu District Lighthouse which was completely destroyed during the war - Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the allocation for this work has not been made in this year but it would be expected to complete the work in the following year.

1.6 Starting up a Vessel Service from Talaimannar to India - Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the commencement of Vessel service from Talaimannar to Rameshwaram, India had been delayed due to the delay in the works of the Rameshwaram in India. The Hon. Chairman also informed the Committee that Cabinet

approval had already been granted to commence a vessel service from Colombo to Tuticorin. The Hon. Chairman, further, informed the Committee that the arrangements for commencement of Vessel service from Kankesanthurai to Karikalan is currently being underway.

1.7 Development of Galle and Matara Districts and Kotawila Town and Mirissa Tourism Zone by Southern Development Authority - Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that as the proceedings of the Southern Fort Act is to be introduced had been suspended and as these matters would not be brought under the Southern Development Interim Board, the matter could be discussed at the District Development Committee.

2. Presentation done by the Computer on ‘Gin – Nilwala’ River Diversion Project

Officers of Irrigation Department and officers in charge of the Gin - Nilwala Project explained the Committee about the proposed project issues and proposals and the future plans.

3. Any other business:

3.1 Present status of income of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority – Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera

It was informed the Committee that as mentioned by the Hon. Member, revenue of the Ports Authority had not decreased compared to last year and the revenue had increased from 10% to 12%.

3.2 Reinstate of Mr. Ranatunga who was dismissed on various charges - Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there had been information that a person named Ranatunga, who had been dismissed from the service several times, was reinstated.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the person has been acquitted from all charges and action has been taken to recruit him on contract basis for a period of six months until a person is appointed to the post.

3.3 Publishing a Newspaper article for Recruiting Employees of Jaya Container Terminal Ltd. - Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that newspaper advertisements had been published for the recruitment of employees under the name of Jaya Container Terminal Ltd and he further requested to explain whether such recruitments are done for the same private institution or to the Ports Authority.

The Chairman, Jaya Container Terminal Ltd. informed the Committee that newspaper advertisements have been published to recruit for the vacancies and that these recruitments are done solely to fill vacancies in the company.

4. Adjournment

The Committee, at 4.00 p.m. was adjourned till 17.09.2019 at 2.30 p.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development
And Vocational Training and Skills Development
Fifth Meeting – 11 July 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Chairman)
Hon. Karunarathna Paranavithana
Hon. A.D. Premadasa
Hon. K.K. Piyadasa
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Palitha Range Bandara
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran,
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake,
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

1. Business of the day

1.1 Report of the Committee appointed by the Ceylon Industrial Development Board to investigate the supply of raw materials to industrialists, report on the allegations leveled against Lanka Sathosa, report on Co-operative Wholesale Establishment

building and its security and report of an investigation into alleged irregularities at the National Design Center

The above reports had been submitted to the Committee.

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara and Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah inquired about the matter.

The Hon. Chairman suggested to study the report further and arrangements could be made to summon a special meeting to discuss in that regard.

2. Any other business:

2.1 Expediting the opening of the Poththapitiya Industrial Park in the Kandy District - The Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Member to make the arrangements for the event of laying foundation stone on 13.07.2017 at 2.30 p.m. later.

2.2 Shortages of fuel in filling stations belong to co-operative societies in Batticaloa district and other matters – Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

2.2.1 Shortages of fuel in filling stations belong to co-operative societies in Batticaloa district

The Hon. Member requested that assistance be given to finish the roofs of the filling stations belong to the Co-operative societies.

2.2.2 Permission to issue fuel by the Co-operative societies in Batticaloa district

The Hon. Member requested to grant permission to the Co-operative societies to distribute fuel and to distribute petrol and diesel by the Co-operative societies to which permission had been given earlier only to distribute kerosene oil.

2.2.3 Modernizing the rice mills belong to Co-operative societies in Eravur North and South - Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to grant the financial provisions to modernize two rice mills belong to the Co-operative societies in Eravur North and South.

2.2.4 Addressing the requirements of co-operative societies in Batticaloa district and the Livestock Co-operative societies attached to them – Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

The Hon. Member requested that computers and software be given for Co-operative societies in Batticaloa district and the Livestock Co-operative societies attached to them.

2.2.5 Improvement of textile industry co-operative societies

The Hon. Member requested that necessary power looms and sewing machines be provided to improve the textile industry co-operative Societies in Batticaloa district.

2.2.6 Furniture and loud speakers needed for the community hall belong to the Koralai Pattu Co-operative Society

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to provide furniture and loudspeakers to the community hall belong to the Koralai Pattu Co-operative Society.

2.2.7 Greenland for the Livestock Co-operative Societies at Illuppadichenai, Kommaturai and Manmunai West - Hon. Seeniththamby Yogeswaran

The Hon. Member pointed out that Livestock Co-operative Societies of Iluppajchenai, Kommathurai and Manmunai West did not have the required grass lands and requested that action be taken to provide them in Batticaloa district by a gazette notification.

Further, the Hon. Member informed the Committee that milk production activities were being carried out by the Manmunai West Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society but refrigeration facilities and necessary machinery are not available and requested that such requirements be fulfilled.

2.2.8 Building for the Eastern Women's Development Co-operative Society

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to provide a land to construct a permanent building for the Eastern Women's Development Co-operative Society.

The Hon. Member, also, requested the Committee to provide necessary vehicle facilities to transport the items produced by the women engaging in the textile industry in the Batticaloa District.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to send letters to the Co-operative Societies which were in need of funds as funds could be provided through the SMILE III Loan Scheme to develop the Co-operative Societies in the Province.

2.2.9 Opening Valachchenai Paper Factory

The Hon. Member requested the Committee to open the Valachchenai Paper Factory early.

3. Adjournment

The Committee at 03.30 p.m. was adjourned till 25.07.2019 at 11.00 a.m.

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine First Meeting - 12 July 2019

Committee Members present

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne (Chairman)
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. (Dr.) S. M. Mohamed Ismail

1. Motions of the Hon. Members:-

The Hon. Chairman informed that the reports of the Secretary to the Ministry regarding the following motions had been referred to the Hon. Buddhika Pathirana.

- 1.1** Requested for Standardization of Drinking Water Production Institutions made by the Secretary of All Island Drinking Water Producers' Organization – (Motion No. 19) – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
- 1.2** Request for a Transfer from Mrs. S.A. Gunawardene a resident of Maramba, Akuressa to get a transfer – (Motion No. 24) - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

- 1.3** Request by Mrs. P.K.R. Wijekanthi, a resident of Thiriwaneketiya, Ratnapura to Incorporate the Family Health Services Midwives who are qualified and serving in the plantation sector to the Government – (Motion No. 25) – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
- 1.4** Getting a Job Opportunity – Request of Mr. N.D. Irosh Lakmal, a resident of “Sameera”, Pategama South, Kottegoda. (Motion No. 77) – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

2. Business of the Day

2.1 Discussion on Deniyaya hospital

The Committee was informed that the project proposal for the development of Deniyaya Base Hospital was approved by the National Planning Department and the Cabinet of Ministers, and technical evaluation and negotiations are to be held in the near future.

Hon. Sagala Ratnayake, also expressed his views to the Committee about this project. The Hon. Member inquired about the contribution of the Central Consultancy Bureau of Engineering Works with the contractor and the Ministry on future activities.

The Hon. Chairman informed that Bureau is conducting consultation only.

2.2 Discussion on Laggala hospital

The Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijeratne inquired about upgrading Laggala hospital to a base hospital.

The Committee was informed that all necessary works including making plans are being done.

2.3 Discussion on Kalutara hospital

The Committee was informed that six projects are currently being implemented in the Kalutara Hospital. It was further informed that procurement process is being processed four more projects. It was, also informed that the four projects have been approved by the Cabinet and allocations for them will be received in 2020 and 2021.

3. Any other business

3.1 Constructions in the ayurvedic hospital, Wedagama, Dompe and obtaining a CT scanner to Wathupitiwela hospital – Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

3.1.1 Constructions in the ayurvedic hospital, Wedagama, Dompe

It was informed the Committee that, as, the estimate included in the Cabinet Memorandum submitted in this regard is very high, it is

necessary to submit it for approval of the National Planning Department

3.1.2 Obtaining a CT scanner for Wathupitiwala hospital

The Deputy Director General (Biomedical Engineering Services) informed the Committee that five scanners would be imported and one of them would be provided to the Wathupitiwala Hospital.

3.2 Construction work on Karapitiya Maternity Hospital, Vacancy of Director of Karapitiya Hospital and construction works of Elpitiya and Balapitiya hospitals - The Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

3.2.1 Construction work on Karapitiya Maternity Hospital

The Committee was informed that the construction work is nearing completion and it is necessary to take over a land for the access road to the hospital. The Hon. Member, also, informed the Committee that excessive 2 million Euros would be needed to import additional machines.

The Hon. Chairman informed the committee that these are submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

3.2.2 Vacancy of Director in Karapitiya Teaching Hospital

The Hon. Member informed that there is a vacancy at the Karapitiya Hospital and requested that attention be paid in that regard.

3.2.3 Non-completion of renal unit of Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya

The Committee was informed that, although, about 86% of the Renal Unit had been completed, the rest of the work could not be completed due to an issue of settlement of bills.

It is, also, informed that the installation of the equipment at the Rehabilitation Unit has been stopped as bills of the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CEB) are pending.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to make a settlement to the Central Bureau of Engineering Services.

3.2.4 Construction work of Elpitiya and Balapitiya Hospitals

The Southern Provincial Director of Health Services informed the Committee that the approval of the National Planning Department had been received and a Cabinet Paper is to be submitted accordingly.

3.3 Issues related to Medical Facilities in Kilinochchi District – Hon. S. Sritharan

3.3.1 Vacancies in medical sector in Kilinochchi District

The Hon. Member informed that a large number of vacancies of doctors, nurses and family health officers exist in hospitals in the Kilinochchi District and requested to fill them.

3.3.2 Construction work of the second phase of Kilinochchi Hospital

The Hon. Member inquired about although, the foundation stone for the second phase of the Kilinochchi Hospital had been laid about five months ago construction work has not been done yet.

3.4 Equipment for the Kidney Prevention Unit at Hettipola Hospital - The Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijeratne

The Hon. Member informed about equipment required for the Kidney Prevention Unit at Wilgamuwa - Hettipola Hospital.

The Director of the Matale Regional Health Services informed the Committee that clinic is installed there and not a Kidney Prevention Unit. However, he further informed that once the Laggala hospital was converted into a base hospital, such a unit could be established there.

Hon. Chairman instructed to work accordingly.

3.5 Shortages of Medical facilities in Mullaitivu District and requirement for a Blood Bank for Mallavi Hospital - Hon. Shanthi Sriskandarasa

3.5.1 Shortages of doctors and nurses in Mullaitivu District

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that people face a lot of inconveniences due to shortage of doctors and nurses in the Mullaitivu District. The Hon. Member, also, informed that staff quarters and transport facilities for staff in hospitals in this district are very poor.

The Hon. Member informed about the need of a ward complex in hospitals in Mullaitivu district.

The Committee was informed that necessary steps would be taken address the issues.

3.5.2 Requirement of a blood bank center for Mallavi Hospital

The Hon. Member informed requirement of a blood bank center for Mallavi hospital.

The Deputy Director General (Medical Services 02) informed the Director of Health Services in Mullaitivu to take necessary steps to provide blood storage facilities. He further stated that he could focus on establishing a blood bank.

3.6 Transport of patients among hospitals through the ‘Suwa Seriya’ Ambulance Service and quarters for consultants at the District Hospital, Vavuniya – Hon. (Dr) S. Sivamohan

3.6.1 Transport of patients among hospitals through the ‘Suwa Seriya’ Ambulance Service

The Committee was informed that, although the ‘Suwa Seriya’ Health Ambulance Service transports patients from residences to hospitals, it does not transport patients among hospitals.

3.6.2 Shortage of Official Quarters for Consultants at Vavuniya District Hospital

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the consultants of the Vavuniya District Hospital do not report to this Hospital as they do not have quarters.

He, also, requested the Hon. Chairman to pay attention to the Cabinet Paper which is to be presented in that regard.

3.7 Issues pertaining to Medical Services in Batticaloa District - The Hon. Seenitambi Yogeswaran

3.7.1 Labourer Vacancies in Batticaloa Teaching hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that appointments could be made at district level, considering the list of names submitted by the Hon. Member.

3.7.2 Requirement of a building for Accident Service Unit of Valachchena hospital

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that lack of a building for the emergency unit of Valachchena hospital. The Hon. Chairman instructed to construct a building for Accident Service Unit of Valachchena hospital.

3.7.3 Establishment of ‘Osusala’ pharmacies in Batticaloa, Valachchena, Eravur and Kalavanchikudi areas.

The Hon. Member requested establishing “Osusala” pharmacies in Batticaloa, Valachchenai, Eravur and Kalavanchikudi.

The Chairman of the State Pharmaceutical Corporation informed the Committee that a pharmacy could be established in Batticaloa area within the following month and that the opening of pharmacies in

other areas would be looked into. The Hon. Chairman instructed to take necessary action in that regard.

3.8 Waste Management of the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital - The Hon. Sayyid Ali Zaheer Moulana

The Committee was informed that Batticaloa Teaching Hospital has a yard and machines to process waste management, but one of them is always broken-down. It was, further informed that due to public resistance, the other machine could not, also, be operated.

The Committee was informed that as there is a large amount of clinical waste at present, 30 perches of land has been found to bury the garbage in consultation with the relevant authorities and the World Health Organization.

3.9 Shortage of Anesthesiologists at District Hospital of Hambantota and Intensive Care Unit of Tangalle Base Hospital - The Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

3.9.1 Shortage of Anesthesiologists at District Hospital of Hambantota

The Committee was requested to solve the shortage of anesthesiologists at the District Hospital in Hambantota. The Hon. Chairman instructed to pay attention to this.

3.9.2 Intensive Care Unit of Tangalle Base Hospital

The Hon. Member requested to accelerate the renovation works of the Intensive Care Unit of Tangalle Base Hospital which has been damaged.

The Committee was informed that the contractor has been agreed to complete construction of a temporary Intensive Care Unit within 2 months.

3.9.3 Receiving a Linear Accelerator

The Hon. Member instructed to be careful about quality of the linear accelerator machine when importing for the treatment of cancer patients. The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the machines which are supposed to be imported are with modern technology.

3.10 Hardships faced by Tuberculosis Control Assistants and Foreign Funded Projects - Hon. (Dr.) Thusitha Wijemanne

3.10.1 Difficulties faced by Tuberculosis Control Assistants

The Hon. Member inquired about the Tuberculosis Assistants have not been given the opportunity to perform microscopic duties at some

centers recently. Since the situation is similar in Deraniyagala, the Hon. Chairman instructed to pay attention to this.

3.10.2 Foreign Funded Projects

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the Government has adequately allocated funds from foreign aid projects for Primary Health Care Service.

3.10.3 Requirement of a ‘Osusala’ pharmacy for Karawanella area

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Chairman of the State Pharmaceutical Corporation to pay attention on this matter.

3.11 R. Premadasa Hospital, Maligawatta – Hon. Mujibar Rahuman

The Deputy Director General (Supplies) informed the Committee that the request for the allocation of Rs. 2000 m for the construction of the nine-storyed building of the hospital has not been received.

3.12 Mortuary and Drug Store in Batticaloa hospital - Hon. S. Vialendiran

The Committee was informed that, since, the mortuary of the Batticaloa Hospital is very old, construction of a new building had been started and the ground floor had been completed now. It was further informed that for remaining two floors would require a funding of Rs. 105 million to renovate.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to provide Rs. 50 million for the construction of one floor.

The Hon. Chairman requested the Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana to mediate construction of new building for pharmaceutical stores, which is presently operated in an old building.

3.13 Spreading Dengue Menace

The Committee was informed that the dengue epidemic has been spreaded in the months of June and July, It is further informed that the spread of dengue in the semi-urban and rural areas of the Kalutara District is increasing at an alarming rate than before. However, it is also informed that the number of deaths has been significantly decreased during this year.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to appoint Dr. Hasitha Tissera as the National Coordinator for Dengue Epidemic, and the appointment letter be issued.

The Hon. Chairman also instructed Dr. (Mrs.) T.L.C. Somatunga, Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) to monitor the spread

of dengue on a weekly basis and take necessary steps to prevent the spreading.

3.14 The Current Status of Kotala Himbutu - The Hon. (Prof) Asu Marasinghe

The Committee was informed that a source of supplying 'Kotala Himbutu' had not been revealed, the Department of Wildlife has not approved of exporting them

The Hon. Chairman informed about the possibility of cultivating this plant in partnership with the Government and the private sector could be considered.

4. Adjournment

The Committee, at 5.20 p.m. was adjourned till 22.08.2019 at 2.30 p.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development
and Vocational Training and Skills Development
Sixth meeting - 25 July, 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Chairman)

Hon. Karunarathna Paranavithana

Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

Non - Committee Members present

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena

Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama

Hon. Nimal Lanza

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran

1. Matters arising out of the Minutes

1.1 Opening of new Sathosa outlets

The Chairman, Sathosa informed that 06 outlets had been opened in June and another 17 are to be opened with the following two weeks.

1.2 Making arrangements to sell liquor through Sathosa – Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

The Hon. Member informed that by selling liquor through Sathosa, irregularities could be minimized.

1.3 Amending the Consumer Affairs Authority Act

The Director (Legal and Empowering) informed that the Legal Draftsmen Department had informed the final draft was due to be submitted in the following week.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that arrangements be made to submit the Act to the Parliament before 15th September, 2019.

1.4 Starting a branch of Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) at Imaduwa, Galle

The Secretary to the Ministry stated that this report had been sent to the Department of National Policies and Planning.

1.5 Pothupitiya Industrial Park in the Kandy District - The Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that a draft Cabinet Memorandum had been prepared. Mr. Lal Priyantha, Director, Industrial Development Board stated that preliminary activities of acquisition had been finalized. The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General, Industrial Development Board to expedite the work co-ordinating with the Hon. Member.

1.6 Injustice caused to a private investor when mineral sand was taken out from a wrecked ship – Hon. Susantha Punchinilame

Mr. Chirapala, Additional Secretary informed that according to the report of the Committee appointed in this regard, it had been decided to pay the full amount incurred by the Company.

1.7 Reactivating the non-operational rice mills and solutions for issues of the small industrial societies formed by the NGOs in Mullaitivu district – Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarajah

It was decided to discuss the matter further at a future meeting.

1.8 Lands belong to Jawatte Salusala and State Trading Corporation at Rajagiriya - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

The Secretary to the Ministry stated that action had been taken in this regard.

2. Motions of the Hon. Members

2.1 Irregularities of MPCs Ltd, Hewagama Korale East (Motion No. 143) – Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena

It was decided to discuss the matter further at a future meeting.

2.2 Establishment of a New Vocational Training Center in a land belong to the Land Reforms Commission in Akmeemana DS Division in Akmeemana Electorate (Motion No. 144) - Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

The Hon. Chairman instructed to establish a new vocational training centre in a land block belong to the Sathosa, situated at Rahula Road, Matara.

2.3 Provision of self-employment kits for craftsmen and jewellery manufacturers. (Motion No. 146) - Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

The Hon. Chairman directed the Chairman, National Design Centre to inform the Hon. Member to send the place that needed self-employment kits.

2.4 Guaranteed price by Laksala for products associated with the tourism industry. (Motion No. 147) - Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

The Hon. Chairman directed the CEO, Laksala to look into the matter and take immediate action.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to take immediate action to obtain the reports related to these motions and send them to the Hon. Members who submit them.

3. Any other business:

3.1 Submission of Annual Reports by Public Corporations, Boards & etc.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Committee to make timely submission of Annual Reports of the State Entrepreneurship Institutions on the instructions of the Hon. Speaker.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Committee to submit Annual Reports up to 2017 within three weeks.

The Hon. Chairman further informed the Committee to take action to submit the annual reports of 2018 by 30th September, this year.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry that action be taken to call explanations from the Chairman and relevant officials of the NAITA regarding non – participation at the Ministerial Consultative Committee Meetings.

3.2 Submission of 5 year Cooperate Plans

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the 5 year co-operate plans properly, will be submitted by all the institutions under the ministry.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that such plans are prepared for 5 forthcoming years since 2019 and they would be submitted by 31st October.

3.3 Expediting the Opening of Embilipitiya paper mill

The Secretary to the Ministry instructed the Chairman of the Embilipitiya paper factory to expedite this matter.

3.4 Discussion about activities of Paranthan Chemicals, delay of ships and reducing the documentation charges and about the land occupied by Shipping Corporation with Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Ministerial matters of activities of Paranthan Chemicals, delay of ships and reducing the documentation charges and discussion about the land occupied by Shipping Corporation with Sri Lanka Ports Authority were discussed and it was decided to consider the matters further at Ministerial level.

3.5 Two cinema halls in Lanka Sathosa building, Kilinochchi by the Film Corporation.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to discuss the matter with the agreement of two parties.

The Hon. Chairman further instructed that while opening the Cinema hall, action be taken to open a mega stall, food stall, children's park and a Laksala stall.

4. Adjournment

The Committee at 1.05 p.m. was adjourned till 23.08.2019 at 9.00 a.m.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industry & Commerce,
Resettlement of Protracted Displaced Persons and Co-operative
Development and
Vocational Training and Skills Development
Seventh Meeting-23rd August, 2019**

Committee Members present

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen(Chairman)

Hon. Buddhika Pathirana

Hon. Karunaratna Paranavithana

Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

1. Confirmation of the minutes :-

The Committee decided that the paragraph 4.6 of the minutes should be amended as follows.

“4.6 Injustice caused to a private investor when mineral sands was taken out from the wrecked ship

- i. Taking action to calculate the fair cost incurred to take out the stock of Ilmenite from the wrecked ship by a committee comprised of officers with skills and knowledge about the market value for that and charge all the liabilities to be paid to Lanka Mineral Sands Ltd from the Asha Lanka Ltd and obtain the opinion from the Attorney General with regard to these payments.
- ii. Removal of all debris of the wrecked ship remaining in the sea bed by the Asha Lanka Ltd. before the above payments are made.

Accordingly, Director General of Merchant Shipping and Director General of Public Enterprise Department have been informed on 23/07/2019 to send the nomination of the suitable officers for this duty.”

The minutes of the sixth meeting held on 25.07.2019 were confirmed subject to the above amendments.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

2.1 Opening of new Sathosa outlets.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Sathosa informed the Committee that arrangements would be made to open 15 new outlets within the following 2 weeks and another 15 would be opened in September.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the officials that payment of rent for buildings should be only from the month of opening of the Sathosa outlet. He also instructed to open all the new outlets, expected to be opened, before October 15, 2019.

2.2 Amending the Consumer Affairs Authority Act

The Committee was informed that arrangements would be made to present the Bill in Parliament before September 15, 2019.

2.3 Starting a new IET institute at Imaduwa, Galle – Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

It was informed the Committee that the approval of the Department of National Policy and Planning had been received, so the work could be continued.

2.4 Proposed Poththapitiya Industrial Park in the Kandy District - The Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that arrangement would be made to submit the draft Cabinet Memorandum after acquisition of the land.

2.5 Reactivation of defunct rice mills in Mullaitivu district- Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa

The Committee was informed that the rice mills could be modified after obtaining the membership of the Co-operative Association.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Co-operative Commissioner to submit a report in that regard.

2.6 Issues of smallholders societies formed by the NGOs in Mullaitivu District - Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarajah

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Regional Development Director of the Industrial Development Board to submit a report in that regard.

2.7 Expediting the opening of Embilipitiya Paper Mill

It was informed the Committee that the report of the Committee, appointed in that regard had been received. The Hon. Chairman instructed that the Valachchenai Paper Factory be started and a portion of the land to be given to the Tourism Development Board on the advice of the Hon. Prime Minister.

2.8 Discussion with Sri Lanka Ports Authority on the functioning of Paranthan Chemicals Institute, delay of shipping and reduction of its documentation charges and land in which shipping corporation is located

The Hon. Chairman instructed that the work of the Paranthan Chemicals Institute be completed within a month. The Hon. Chairman instructed to take a decision after a discussion with the Secretary to the High Commission of India regarding the delay in shipping and the reduction of its documentation charges.

2.9 Taking over two cinema halls in Lanka Sathosa building, Kilinochchi by the Film Corporation.

The Chairman instructed to call for bids following accepted procurement process take steps to call for open procurement bids within two weeks and stated that a decision could be taken on the possibility of giving the cinema halls to the National Film Corporation. The Hon. Chairman also instructed to take immediate action to lease the land of Lak Sathosa and Laksala on York Street for 10 or 15 years.

3. Motions of the Hon. Members :-

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the report of the Secretary to the Ministry regarding the following motions had been submitted to the Hon. Members.

- 3.1** Notice on irregularities taken place in Multi Purpose Co-operative Society in Hewagam Koralaya East (Motion No. 143) - Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
- 3.2** Establishment of a New Vocational Training Center in a land belonging to the Land Reforms Commission in Akmeemana, Divisional Secretariat in Akmeemana Electorate (Proposal No. 144) - Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

4. Any other business:-

4.1 Explosives for metal industry and other matters- The Hon. K.K. Piyadasa

4.1.1 Obtaining explosives for metal industries without delay

The Hon. Member requested to provide a mechanism for the obtaining explosives without delay for the purpose of obtaining metal for road development and other development activities.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to make a request for the approval of the Ministry of Defence.

4.1.2 Obtaining funds for “Nanwamu Lanka” programme without delay

The Hon. Member requested for a mechanism to obtain the provisions allocated under the “Nanwamu Lanka” program without delay.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to inform all District Secretaries that Cabinet approval had been received for purchasing of goods from the State Trading Corporation without following the procurement process subject to a maximum of 50 million Rupees.

4.1.3 Obtaining sewing machines to start small businesses

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action would be taken to distribute sewing machines to those who maintain small businesses successfully and also to provide new machines to those who required. The Hon. Chairman stated that as arrangements had been made to provide one sewing machine per person who had undergone training at the Ministry and instructed that sewing machines be purchased and distributed as appropriately.

4.2 Establishment of a Tamil Medium Vocational Training Institute centering Talawakele, Nuwara Eliya - Hon. M. Thilakarajah

The Hon. Member requested for setting up a Tamil Medium Vocational Training Institute centering Talawakele town.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to initiate vocational training courses for the rehabilitated LTTE members in the Vanni district as they have faced the problem of unemployment. He also instructed the Vice President of the National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority to initiate Soft Skills Development programs for employees of public sector undertakings such as Lak Sathosa where public relations are high.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Hon. Chairman that requests had been made to obtain the abandoned Sathosa building for the University College at the University of Ruhuna due to the lack of space.

5. Adjournment

The Committee, at 10.45 a.m. was adjourned till 19.09.2019 at 09.30 a.m.
