



First Session of the Ninth Parliament of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Parliamentary Series No. 71

Second Report of the Ministerial Consultative
Committees
(December - 2021)

Presented by

Hon. Ajith Rajapaksa
Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

on 20th June 2023

Staff of the Ministerial Consultative Committee Office

- Mr. Sudath Perera, Assistant Director (Administration) – Secretary to the Committee
- Mr. Shantha Fernando, Principal Officer
- Mrs. Chandima Subasinghe, Deputy Principal Officer
- Mrs. Shyama Alwis, Deputy Principal Officer
- Mrs. Oshila Weerakoon, Deputy Principal Officer
- Ms. Kosala Priyadarshani, Assistant Principal Officer
- Mr. Namal Fernando, Assistant Principal Officer
- Ms. Isuri Sarathchandra, Parliamentary Officer
- Mrs. Rukmani Devi, Senior Translator
- Mrs. Hathurika Priyadarshani, Stenographer

Secretaries to the Ministries

- Ms. K.D. Olga – Ministry of Energy
- Mr. Anuradha Wijekoon – Ministry of Youth & Sports
- Dr. S. H. Munasinghe – Ministry of Health
- Mr. W. A. Chulananda – Ministry of Industries
- General Daya Rathnayake – Ministry of Industries
- Mr. M. P. D. U. K. Mapa Pathirana – Ministry of Labour
- Ms. M. Badrani Jayawardena – Ministry of Trade
- Mr. Raveendra Hewawitharana – Ministry of Plantation
- Mr. N. B. M. Ranathunga – Ministry of Transport
- Mr. Sirinimal Perera – Ministry of Urban Development & Housing
- Mr. R.A.K. Ranawaka – Ministry of Lands
- Mr. J. J. Rathnasiri – Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government
- General (Retd.) Kamal Gunaratne – Ministry of Defence
- Ms. R.M. I. Rathnayaka – Ministry of Fisheries
- Prof. K. Kapila C.K. Perera – Ministry of Education
- Mr. Jayantha de Silva – Ministry of Technology
- Mr. M. M. P.K. Mayadunne – Ministry of Justice

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 Energy	25.11.2020
02.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports	26.11.2020
03.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health	28.11.2020
04.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries	03.12.2020
05.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour	04.12.2020
06.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade	10.03.2021
07.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation	23.03.2021
08.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport	23.03.2021
09.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development & Housing	24.03.2021
10.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Lands	24.03.2021
11.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government	07.04.2021
12.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence	08.04.2021
13.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries	05.08.2021
14.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education	10.09.2021

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.	Select Committee of Parliament to consider the Government business presented to Parliament by the public institutions that do not come under the purview of Ministries	05.10.2021
02.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labour	09.11.2021
03.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Lands	09.11.2021
04.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Security	10.11.2021
05.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries	16.11.2021
06.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation	22.11.2021
07.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth & Sports	23.11.2021
08.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development & Housing	24.11.2021
09.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education	24.11.2021
10.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Technology	24.11.2021
11.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade	25.11.2021
12.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health	27.11.2021
13.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government	02.12.2021
14.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy	03.12.2021
15.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport	03.12.2021
16.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries	06.12.2021
17.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence	07.12.2021
18.	Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice	08.12.2021

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Energy
First Meeting – 25 November 2020**

Committee Members present

Hon. Udaya Gammanpila (Chair)
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Non – Committee Members present

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Niroschan Perera
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

1. Motions submitted by Hon. Members

1.1 Motions Submitted by Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

**1.1.1 Confirmation of employees who have completed 180 days at
Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Company.**

General Manager (Human Resources) of the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Company informed the Committee that confirmation of employees who have completed 180 days has been suspended as a circular has been issued suspending all recruitments and that these appointments could be made as soon as the approval of the Treasury is received.

The Hon. Chairman stated that the necessary actions would be taken, and that the results of those measures would be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

**1.1.2 Confirmation of few Management Assistants and a Driver at
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation**

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the necessary actions would be taken and action so taken would be informed to next Committee Meeting.

1.1.3 Developing Kankasanthurai for petroleum storing

Hon. Member informed the Committee that the landing could be done directly at Kankasanthurai as per the plan prepared regarding this.

It was further informed that a land required for an industrial estate of the Ministry of Industries has been acquired outside the Cabinet decision in this regard.

The Hon. Chiarmman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to review the relevant documents and submit a cabinet paper based on the cabinet sub committee report referred by Hon. Chandima Weerakkdoy.

1.1.4 Developing Kolonnawa oil tankers

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that six out of the nine oil tanks to be constructed after removing old buildings which has been currently underway. It was further informed that work has also commenced on the newly constructed tanks.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that the Computer Information System (SAP) associated with these tanks should be designed so that critical information can be accessed at any time.

Hon. Member also inquired about an importance of the tracking system for vehicles.

1.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

1.2.1 Use of Trains for transportation of petroleum

The Hon. Member proposed to the Committee to consider the use of train for the transportation of petroleum around major cities by train to reduce the traffic congestion caused by the use of more bowsers for the transportation of petroleum in recent.

The Hon. Chair informed the committee that transportation of petroleum by bowsers will increase traffic congestion, environmental pollution and cost.

The Hon. Chair also informed that, there should be changes in the Railway Department such as the purchase of new locomotives with more capacity to increase the transportation by trains.

1.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura

1.3.1 Closing down filling station at 10 p.m. – Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura

Hon. Member suggested that there are many difficulties in getting fuel when traveling from Ratnapura to Colombo along the Ingiriya road, and it is advisable to keep at least one filling station open for a certain period of time.

The Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation informed that the filling stations in certain areas which are required to be open 24 hours a day would be closed in this manner as per the agreement.

The Hon. Chairman requested to provide details of the filling stations which were previously allowed to keep closed. It was stated that an inquiry should be held into the filling stations being kept open within these hours and if they are not open 24 hours a day, there should be 24 hour petrol stations at certain places on the main roads.

1.4 Motions Submitted by Hon. Niroshan Perera

1.4.1 Lack of fuel in filling stations

Hon. Member suggested that a Stock Management System be introduced as at times declared non availability of fuel in the filling stations.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a regulation should be issued regarding the minimum stock level to be maintained, the tank capacity at each filling station should be considered and the minimum stock level should be ordered in order to provide continuous service.

Hon. Member suggested that it would be appropriate to use some software for this purpose for which the Hon. Chair agreed.

The Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation stated that there is an agreement on the minimum stock levels and that the amount of fuel at the petrol station should be reported to the Head Office by 7 a.m.

He stated that there would be no cash or fuel issues because the mechanism of distributing fuel had been adjusted in accordance with the previous cash deposit and the filling station owners had been given a credit period of 30 days. He also stated that the situation would be reconsidered if there is an issue.

1.5 Motions Presented by Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

1.5.1 Seeking alternate energy resources

Hon. Member stated about the use of alternative energy sources as the Petroleum Corporation has become a loss making institution.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed that a study would be conducted on the production of biogas as an alternative energy source and the mixing of ethanol in automotive fuels.

Hon. Member inquired on the possibility of preparing biofuels domestically.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a proposal has been submitted to the Treasury for the production of a single unit for the production of biofuels domestically and that the units so produced in next year are expected to be delivered to households.

1.5.2 Managing loans on fuel

Hon. Member inquired as to how the loan of around Rs. 550 billion is being managed.

The Hon. Chiarmman explained the plans that are expected to be followed for the management of huge loans.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that attention would be paid to check presence of oil and gas in our country as a long term solution to this problem and that excavations in the Mannar Basin have revealed that oil and gas are naturally present.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that persons with foreign expertise who have worked in foreign countries have been recruited for the Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat and the policies regarding oil and gas have been formulated and gazetted with the approval of the Cabinet.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that a new Act for Stability of investment to be introduced and the relevant auctions would be planned later.

Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda inquired on the revenue opportunities available to our country.

The Hon. Chiarmman briefed the Committee at length on each of the steps taken by the Government to obtain revenue in the discovery of oil.

Hon. Member inquired as to whether oil explorations have been started in Sri Lanka.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that explorations would be planned in such a manner that no abandonment would take place.

Hon. Member inquired whether the company which had previously carried out oil explorations had obtained US \$ 10.5 million from Sri Lanka and had not provided the findings of the explorations to Sri Lanka.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that said information was incorrect and that the company had made payments to Sri Lanka and all the data is available in Sri Lanka.

1.6 Motions Submitted by Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

1.6.1 Bio gas production in Mannar area

Hon. Member informed the Committee about a place in Mannar area which produces biogas from the home toilet for household needs.

The Hon. Chiarmman requested that this person be introduced to the Ministry and informed that several private biogas generators have already been submitted to the Ministry and was hopeful to consider this invention too moving towards a more successful creation.

1.6.2 Filling stations closed down in Covid 19 affected areas

Hon. Member inquired whether any concessions have been given to the owners of filling stations in the areas kept closed due to the Covid 19.

The Chair of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation informed the Committee that action has been taken to provide fuel under a 3 day loan basis and under a 50% bank guarantee.

1.6.3 Changing the name of a filling station

Hon. Member informed the Committee that the name of a filling station in Vavuniya had not yet been changed even though it has been purchased by another person and that all of the documents required to change its name has been submitted to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation year ago.

The Hon. Chiarmman directed Hon. Member to submit a written request for inquiring into this matter.

1.7 Motions Submitted by Hon. Gunatilaka Rajapaksa

1.7.1 Possibility to get back the filling stations given to IOC to local businessmen

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that they have 204 filling stations and that these filling stations cannot be taken back as per the 20 year agreement but the regulatory power is vested in the Hon. Minister.

The Hon. Chiarmman informed the Committee that the Government of Sri Lanka currently owns 92% of the market and the IOC market has shrunk to the level of 8%.

2. The Committee at 3.15 p.m. adjourned *sine die*.

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth and Sports First Meeting- 26 November 2020

Committee Members Present

Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage (State Minister) (Chair)
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse

Non-Committee Members present

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Sivagnanam Shriharan
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Lalith Ellawala
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Marjan Faleel

1. Motions submitted by Hon. Members

1.1. Motions Submitted by Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda

1.1.1 Providing an allowance to sports coaches in schools

Hon. Member requested to provide certain relief to the sports coaches in schools who received daily payments as they do not receive any allowance as a result of the prevailing Covid pandemic.

Hon. Member proposed the Committee to form a group of instructors covering each school and to pay attention to their matters.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that the sports instructors come under the purview of the Ministry of Education.

1.1.2 Knowledge based development of sports instructors

Hon. Member requested the Committee to restart the Sports Science diploma course conducted on sports in the faculty of medicine of the University of Peradeniya to educate the sports instructors and to upgrade the course up to the degree level.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that the discussions are underway to convert the Sports Institute into a university and that degrees related to sports education are awarded in three national universities.

1.1.3 Proposal regarding the construction of the stadium in the Dharmaraja College, Kandy

Hon. Member informed the Committee that it is important to establish a sports pavilion when the stadium of the Dharmaraja College, Kandy is constructed.

1.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. Lalith Ellawala

1.2.1 Matters related to the Bandaragama stadium

Hon. Member informed the Committee that converting the 400 meter running track which was the unique track available in the Kalutara district into a

cricket stadium is a serious injustice to the children of the area. Similarly, it was pointed out that a jogging track could also have been constructed here.

The Director General of the Department of Sports Development informed the Committee that this cricket pitch has been established in this stadium with a running track for 400 meters, with facilities for other sports as well, based on a request made by the Sri Lanka Cricket.

1.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. Jayantha samaraweera

1.3.1 Issue related to the Panadura stadium

Hon. Member informed the Committee that a significant extent of the Panadura stadium which has an extent of around nine acres has been leased out for other business activities. Hon. Member proposed the Committee to take measures to abolish the lease agreement and to develop the stadium as an alternative stadium for the Sugathadasa stadium.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that the District Secretary has been informed of the consent of the Ministry to intervene with pertinence to this matter.

The Secretary to the State Ministry further informed that the future work related to the annulment of the agreement can be initiated having discussed this issue with the Urban Development Authority, after receiving the agreement of the district coordinating committee in this regard.

1.4 Motions Submitted by Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

1.4.1 Issues related to the stadiums in the Polonnaruwa area

Hon. Member informed the Committee regarding the deterioration of the 2.5 million rupee cafeteria located at the Polonnaruwa National Stadium that was not being used.

Hon. Member also informed the importance of a program to develop stadiums in the Polonnaruwa suburbs, which falls under the purview of the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority and the Irrigation Department.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that the Hon. Minister had instructed to fulfill the requirements of these stadiums and to convert them into well equipped stadiums.

1.5 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sudath Manjula

1.5.1 Developing the Ruwanwella Public stadium

Hon. Member requested that a synthetic track and a swimming pool be provided to the Ruwanwella public stadium in the Sabaragamuwa province. Further, the Hon. Member requested that the required basic facilities be provided too.

Also, the Hon. Member requested to attach a suitable officer for the existing vacancy of the Sports Development Officer.

1.5.2 Developing the Ruwanwella Rajasinghe Central College as a sports school

Hon. Member requested the Committee to develop the Ruwanwella Rajasinghe Central College which has hostel facilities into a sports school.

1.5.3 Project implemented at the village level for youth entrepreneurs.

Hon. Member proposed the Committee that it is more appropriate to appoint a person who has engaged in sports to the Q Shop project which is to be implemented by the Ministry of Trade on behalf of rural level young entrepreneurs.

1.6 Motions Submitted by Hon. Waruna Liyanage

1.6.1 Developing the Rathnapura stadium

Hon. Member informed the Committee that a synthetic track has not been established in the stadium coming under the Rathnapura Provincial Council although sports tracks have been prepared for certain sports. Hon. Member further informed that the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Sports Meet cannot be held due to this reason.

The Director General informed that the stadium is utilized for sports back after the suspension of the activities resulted by a landslide. He further informed that the construction work of the swimming pool would be completed and given for use expeditiously. The Director General further informed that this can be given under a memorandum of understanding if given according to the demand.

The Director General informed that the National Building and Research Institute has been vested with the task of lifting a wall in the end where the earth has slipped.

1.6.2 Proposal regarding the sports instructors.

Hon. Member requested the Committee to implement programmes to regulate the service of the sports instructors as it is observed that training is not provided during their entire service period.

Hon. Milan Jayathilaka informed the Committee that school children face many inconveniences due to recruiting persons who are not connected to sports as sports instructors.

Hon. Member informed the Committee that the said sports instructors have been recruited in conformity with certain criteria and that they possess national or provincial level aptitudes.

1.7 Motions Submitted by Hon. Milan Jayathilake

1.7.1 Developing the school stadiums in the Gampaha district

Hon. Member requested that synthetic tracks be provided to the schools in the Gampaha district.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that it is expected to implement a separate program for Gampaha district and that the matters related to the development of Gampaha district are being discussed at the moment.

It was further informed that action is being taken to develop one stadium to each divisional secretariat division.

1.7.2 Proposed new sports schools

Hon. Member inquired about the sports schools planned to be implemented newly.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that the selection of sports schools is done in integration with the Ministry of Education and that approximately 50 million has been allocated for the said schools for this year.

1.7.3 Issues related to transferring the Youth corps premises of Nadunwala in Gampaha district to Raknalanka company

Hon. Member suggested that there is information about an attempt to transfer this premises where youth get trained to Rakna Lanka Company and proposed that it would be appropriate to furnish an alternative location for the said company.

Hon. Sudath Manjula informed the Committee that a closed down school in the Dehiowita, Kanangama area has been converted into a youth corps center but no productive task has been accomplished yet.

The Chairman of the National Youth Services Council informed the Committee that the Youth Corpses are not administered by the National Youth Services Council.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the Committee would be informed of this matter after having inquired about it.

1.7.4 Inquiries on the implementation of the Suwatha Mantheeru - Health tracks program

Hon. Member requested the Committee to raise the awareness about the way in which the Suwatha Mantheeru program is implemented.

The Hon. Chairman informed the committee that the Hon. Members would be enlightened in this regard in future

1.8 Motions Submitted by Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

1.8.1 Directing the rural youth towards sports

Hon. Member requested the Committee to provide the equipment needed for volleyball in view of encouraging the rural youth to engage in sports.

1.8.2 Establishing a school with sports facilities for a Divisional Secretariat.

Hon. Member requested that at least one sports school be developed in each Divisional Secretariat Division.

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed the Committee that the national and competitive schools have become sports schools and that arrangements have been made to start a new classroom for grade 8, consisting of students who engage in sports.

Hon. Waruna Liyanage informed the Committee that the sports related involvement of the students who enter popular schools is doubtful.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that school admissions to grade eight through incorrect procedures should be prevented and that this opportunity should exclusively be given for students who engage in sports.

1.9 Motions Submitted by Hon.Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

1.9.1 Paying attention to the health condition of children

Hon. Member suggested the Committee that sports events like the 10,000 meters running event are no more conducted due to the weaknesses in the children's health and proposed that proper attention should be paid towards the health conditions of the children.

1.9.2 Identifying students who are talented in sports like Karate

Hon. Member informed the Committee that it would be appropriate to prepare a programme for Karate, having identified the children who are skilled in sports like Karate.

1.9.3 Constructing a boundary wall around the Youth corps centre in Wathupitiwala, Aththanagalle.

Hon. Member stated that the residents of the area are vehemently against using the Youth Corps center in Wathupitiwala as a quarantine center and informed the Committee to consider constructing a boundary wall around it.

1.9.4 Developing two national schools in Gampaha

Hon. Member requested to develop the two national schools of Weyangoda Bandaranayake Vidyalaya and the Horagolla Sanghabodhi Vidyalaya as these schools possess less facilities for sports.

The Hon. Chairman informed to submit a written proposal with regard to this matter.

1.9.5 Providing a playground for the use of garment factory staff staying in the area.

Hon. Member proposed the Committee that if the large playground belonging to the Mathalana Junior School can be granted for a certain payment to the garment factory staff for whom accommodation has been provided in this area enabling them to engage in sports, it would be useful for the maintenance of the school as well.

1.9.6 Development of the Wathupitiwala stadium

Hon. Member requested to expedite the development activities of the Wathupitiwala stadium.

The Director of Sports Development informed the Committee that the construction work was being monitored and that the contractors had agreed to complete the swimming pool, stadium, and pavilion within a month. It was also announced that the indoor stadium would take three months to finish.

The Director of Sports Development informed that the transport difficulties could be sorted out by using the bus service proposed by the Hon. Minister for the school children to come to the stadium.

1.9.7 Introducing a certain programme for the youth in youth clubs.

Hon. Member suggested the Committee that it is important to introduce a specific program for youth in youth clubs.

1.9.8 Collapse in the society resulted by the failures in marriages of youth

Hon. Member proposed the Committee that a certain measures should be adopted to avoid the social catastrophe resulted by the failure of marriages among youth.

1.9.9 Uplifting the traditional industries

Hon. Member proposed the Committee to introduce new technology to the traditional craftsmen and to provide them with credit facilities.

Hon. State Minister informed to submit a proposal in this regard.

1.10 Motions Submitted by Hon. Lalith Ellawala

1.10.1 Drug addiction of the youth in the area

Hon. Member informed the Committee that a large number of drug addicts have been identified in the Bandaragama area and that it is suggested to construct a playground as a solution to this issue.

The Hon. Chairman informed the committee to submit a proposal related to this matter.

2. The Committee adjourned at 1.00 p.m. *sine die*.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Health
First Meeting – 28 November 2020**

Committee Members present

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi (Chair)
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawaranda
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakse

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. M .U. M. Ali Sabry
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. D. B. Herath
Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Sivagnanam Srithran
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara

Hon. Ajith Rajapaksa
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Marjan Faleel

1. Motions submitted by Hon. Members

1.1 Motions Submitted by Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura

1.1.1 Refusing to admit a patient to the hospital by the resident doctor of Ayagama hospital

The Hon. Minister requested that action be taken to provide the services of another doctor to the hospital at the request of the people of this area.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Minister to submit a written request regarding this matter.

1.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. Madhura Withanage

1.2.1 The conduct of Mr. Indika Jagoda, Director of Regional Health Services, Colombo District

The Director General of Health Services informed the Committee that a preliminary inquiry would be conducted in this regard.

1.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksa

1.3.1 Taking action to acquire the 22-acre land belonging to the Kandy General Hospital

Hon. Member requested that action be taken to reclaim possession of the Kandy General Hospital's 22 acres of land, which are currently occupied by residents of the area.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary steps would be taken.

1.3.2 Rapid increase in the number of corona infected persons in Harispattuwa, Akurana, and Bulugodatenna areas in Kandy

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to increase the number of PCR tests carried out in that area.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that immediate action would be taken in this regard.

1.4 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana

1.4.1 Importance of following proper health guidelines to protect against the prevailing COVID pandemic

While thanking all health and other employees, Hon. Member emphasized the significance of effective public engagement in preventing the spread of the pandemic and requested that an all-party committee be appointed to discuss the related matters.

The Hon. Chairman stated that this requirement can be met through the Consultative Committee of the Ministry.

1.5 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

1.5.1 The need to engage an employee of the Catering Department of Parliament to serve/offer food in the Parliament canteen - Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

As it is a timely need, the Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary of the Ministerial Consultative Committee Office to inform about this matter to the Secretary General of the Parliament.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) to pay further attention to this matter.

1.6 Motions Submitted by Hon. Jagath Kumara

1.6.1 Need to relocate the quarantine center that is established in a densely populated village

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that steps would be taken to formulate an appropriate methodology regarding this matter.

1.7 Motions Submitted by Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

1.7.1 Obtaining a new ambulance for Minuwangoda hospital

The Hon. Minister requested that a new ambulance be provided to Minuwangoda Hospital.

1.7.2 Upgrading Gampaha hospital as a national hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that in terms of the circular that has been issued by the Treasury, the hospitals belonging to the Provincial Councils cannot be taken over by the Central Government.

1.8 Motions Submitted by Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

1.8.1 Establishment of a mechanism at village level to control the spread of COVID -19

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that this situation can be monitored by forming committees at divisional level.

1.9 Motions Submitted by Hon. Madhura Withanage

1.9.1 The need to regulate controlling of COVID-19 in coordination with local authorities

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that these activities should be regulated in coordination with the local government bodies.

1.9.2 Filling the Public Health Inspectors vacancies

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary steps will be taken in that regard.

1.10 Motions Submitted by Hon. Vidura Wickramanayake

1.10.1 The need to convene meetings of the Divisional COVID-19 Committees

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action will be taken to make the Divisional COVID-19 Committee meeting compulsory.

1.11 Motions Submitted by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

1.11.1 Practical issues that arise due to the involvement of several sectors in the quarantine process at the village level

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that problems have arisen in communication in the quarantine process in rural areas due to the

involvement of several sectors, namely Sri Lanka Police, the Divisional Secretary, the Medical Officers of Health (MOH), and the Public Health Inspectors (PHIs).

1.12 Motions Submitted by Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

1.12.1 Renovation of the OPD and the accident ward of District Base Hospital, Mannar

The Hon. Member requested that a new building be provided for the OPD and the accident ward of the Mannar District Base Hospital, and he also requested that a CT scanner be provided to that hospital.

1.12.2 Request to appoint a Junior Medical Officer to the Settikulam Base Hospital in the Vavuniya District

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) to pay attention to this matter and to take necessary action.

1.13 Motions Submitted by Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

1.13.1 Increasing the number of PCR tests carried out for the people in Colombo North and Colombo Central areas

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that steps will be taken to increase the number of PCR tests.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that, in addition to that, action would also be taken to carry out Rapid Antigen Tests for the residents in the flats in those areas.

The Deputy Epidemiologist informed the Committee that approximately 11,000 PCR tests are performed everyday throughout the country, the most of which are performed in isolated areas around Colombo, and Rapid Antigen Tests are also performed in such locations.

1.13.2 Preparing a methodology to expedite the issuing of PCR test reports of the elderly persons in the Colombo suburbs who die during this period.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that a methodology has been prepared for this and that a small laboratory has been planned to construct to conduct PCR tests on the dead bodies of Muslims.

1.14 Motions Submitted by Hon. B.Y.G. Rathnasekera

1.14.1 Problematic situation due to overflowing of the sewage systems at Dambadeniya Quarantine Center, and at Narammala and Ambanpola hospitals

The Hon. Member requested that immediate action be taken in this regard.

1.15 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

1.15.1 Suwaseriya Ambulance Service - Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva

The Hon. Member stated that funds have been allocated for 2021 for the construction of 48 centres under a substantive network for Suvaseriya Ambulance Service, and requested that that the construction work be expedited.

1.16 Motions Submitted by Hon. S. Sritharan

1.16.1 Obtaining facilities for the hospitals located in the islands

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the hospitals located on the Neduthivu, Analathivu, Nainativu and Eluvativu islands in the North have had a shortage of permanent doctors, nurses and other staff for a long time, and that there are no boats to be used as ambulances.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary steps will be taken to attach Medical Officers to those hospitals.

1.16.2 Establishment of an Emergency Treatment Unit for the Killinochchi District Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to provide an Emergency Treatment Unit to the Killinochchi Hospital.

1.16.3 Issues of the drivers attached to health sector in the Northern Province

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to recruit these drivers to the permanent health service.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that appropriate steps would be taken in consultation with the Governor of the Northern Province.

1.17 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Dr.) Samanpriya Herath

1.17.1 Obtaining necessary equipment for the corona patients' ward at Kuliapitiya Teaching Hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary steps would be taken immediately regarding this matter.

1.18 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapaksa

1.18.1 Using the lorries of the Regional District Hospital for transporting the Thripasha that has been allocated for the Ampara District

The Additional Secretary (Public Health Services) informed the Committee that an inquiry would be held into this matter and necessary action will be taken.

1.18.2 Alleged financial loss that has been caused due to the production of medicines locally under the "New Medicine for the New Country" programme

The Hon. Member requested for an explanation in this regard.

The Chairman of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation informed the Committee that the local pharmaceutical production had resulted in a profit rather than a loss.

1.19 Motions Submitted by Hon. Madhura Vithanage

1.19.1 Action that has been taken against Harcourts Pharma Company for importing expired medicines from India

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the State Ministry to follow the relevant procedure in this regard, and to submit a report to the next meeting of the Consultative Committee.

The Director General of Health Services informed the Committee that a comprehensive report on the investigation regarding the Pharmace Company would be submitted to the next meeting of the Consultative Committee.

1.20 Motions Submitted by Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

1.20.1 The need for a publicity campaign through media to stop the spread of disinformation regarding local production of medicines

The Chairman of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation informed the Committee that necessary steps would be taken regarding this matter.

1.21 Motions Submitted by Hon. Vidura Wickramanayake

1.21.1 Taking steps to open the Horana Osusala of which the construction work has been completed at present

The General Manager of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation informed the Committee that a request has been submitted for obtaining a building of the Urban Development Authority, and that action will be taken to open this Osusala as soon as the building has been received.

1.21.2 Expediting the construction work of Raigama hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee attention will be paid to this matter, and prompt action will be taken in that regard.

1.21.3 Obtaining Financial Provisions for purchasing a PCR machine for Kalutara Hospital

The Hon. Member stated that Bodyline Company has expressed its willingness to donate a portion of the funds required for purchasing a PCR machine for the Kalutara Hospital, and inquired about the possibility of providing the balance amount of funds from the Ministry of Health.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the necessary provisions could be provided.

1.22 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Major) Sudharshana Denipitiya

1.22.1 Upgrading the Bandarawela Hospital as a Base Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that necessary steps be taken to upgrade the Bandarawela Hospital as a Base Hospital.

The Hon. Member further requested that facilities for the ENT Unit of the hospital – a CT scanner and a digital X-ray machine be provided to the Hospital. He also requested that steps be taken to upgrade the laboratory and to take further action regarding the blood bank.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that all possible steps would be taken to fill the vacancies in the medical staff of the said Hospital, and to provide the necessary equipment and facilities to the hospital as requested by the Hon. Member.

1.23 Motions Submitted by Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera

1.23.1 Obtaining PCR laboratories for Matara and Hambantota Hospitals

The Hon. Minister requested that action be taken to provide PCR laboratories to the hospitals.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the Ministry intends to provide a PCR laboratory to the Mattala Airport.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that attention would be paid to this matter.

1.23.2 Obtaining the services of retired Public Health Inspectors

The Hon. Member stated that if steps are taken to recruit retired Public Health Inspectors, they would be paid by the Ministry of Fisheries and their services would be available at Fisheries Harbors and the Peliyagoda Fish Market.

1.23.3 Obtaining Permission to Open the Fort and Pettah wholesale markets

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to open the wholesale markets and to give necessary permissions to release food stocks.

1.24 Motions Submitted by Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna

1.24.1 Hygienic condition of the imported food inspection area of the Customs Department

The Hon. Minister informed the Committee that attention should be paid to the hygienic condition of the imported food inspection area of the Sri Lanka Customs.

1.24.2 Establishing coordination between ministries to check the quality of imported food

The Hon. Minister informed the Committee that, as importation of substandard food commonly happens, the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry

of Health should monitor it in close coordination and necessary action should be taken in that regard.

1.24.3 Expediting the matters relating to the amendment of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act

The Hon. Minister informed the Committee that the process of amending the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act should be expedited and that the Regulation of Cosmetics Act should be amended accordingly.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the State Ministry to take steps to complete the activities relating to the amendment of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act by the inclusion of the provisions of the Regulation of Cosmetics Act within one month and to submit it to Parliament for approval.

1.24.4 Taking action to appreciate the service of the public servants who have been serving continuously over the period of curfew due to the Corona pandemic

The Hon. Minister informed the Committee that action should be taken to identify the public officers and to appreciate their service.

1.24.5 Providing clinical medicines to villagers through the dispensers working at rural dispensaries.

The Hon. Minister requested that the service of the dispensers working at rural medical centers be obtained and steps be taken to provide the monthly clinical medicines to the villagers through those centers.

1.25 Motions Submitted by Hon. M. Udayakumar

1.25.1 Shortage of equipment at Puttalam General Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that attention be paid to the shortage of staff and the equipment at the Puttalam General Hospital.

1.25.2 Shortage of doctors

The Hon. Member stated that there is a shortage of doctors at the government dispensaries in Karthiv and Vannathiv, and requested that action be taken to fill those vacancies.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the newly recruited doctors will be attached to that area and stated that she would visit the hospital in the future.

1.26 Motions Submitted by Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

1.26.1 Obtaining a PCR Machine for Nagoda Hospital, Kalutara

The Hon. Member stated that a part of the provisions required for purchasing a PCR machine for the General Hospital, Kalutara has already been received, and enquired whether it is possible to provide the remaining amount by the Ministry.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that the additional amount required could be provided.

1.26.2 Obtaining a Scanner for Nagoda General Hospital, Kalutara

The Hon. Member stated that the existing CT scanner has become defunct, and requested that action be taken to provide to this Hospital a new scanner that will be brought for the Colombo National Hospital.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action will be taken in this regard.

1.26.3 Non-implementation of the project to upgrade the Panadura Hospital into a new hospital

The Hon. Minister inquired about this matter.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that it is not possible to take action in this regard as the foreign funded projects have been stopped at present.

The Hon. Chairman also directed the Secretary to the Ministry to submit a full report regarding this matter to the next meeting of the Committee.

1.26.4 The need to amend the Food Act

The Hon. Member emphasized the need to amend the Food Act to check the quality of food and beverages.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary action will be taken in this regard.

1.27 Motions Submitted by Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

1.27.1 Obtaining a PCR Machine for Kandy General Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to provide a PCR machine to the Kandy General Hospital.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that arrangements are being made to provide to that hospital a Robotic Arm, which has been an essential piece of equipment to the hospital.

1.27.2 Upgrading the Kadugannawa District Hospital as a General Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that the Kadugannawa District Hospital be upgraded as a general hospital.

1.27.3 Taking action to fill the vacancies of doctors and nurses in Kandy General Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that, since there are a large number of vacancies at this hospital for doctors and nurses, action be taken to fill those vacancies.

1.28 Motions Submitted by Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

1.28.1 Obtaining a PCR Machine for Polonnaruwa General Hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action will be taken to provide a PCR machine to this hospital.

1.28.2 Taking action to fill the vacancies at the Polonnaruwa General Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to fill the vacancies in the staff of this Hospital.

1.28.3 Upgrading the Medirigiriya Hospital as a general hospital

The Hon. Member requested that this hospital be upgraded as a general hospital.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action will be taken promptly to fill the vacancies and to fulfil the other requirements of the Medirigiriya Hospital.

1.28.4 Taking steps to open the Kidney Hospital, of which the construction works have been completed, as soon as possible

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that it is expected to open this hospital soon.

1.28.5 Completing the construction work of the Stroke Unit, ENT Unit, Emergency Treatment Unit, which are under construction, as early as possible

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action will be taken to provide the necessary provisions for this purpose.

1.28.6 Commencing the operations of Medirigiriya, Hingurakgoda and Bakamuna Dialysis Units

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that, although buildings have been constructed for the dialysis units, they are not yet operational.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Director General of Health Services to expedite the opening of these units.

1.29 Motions Submitted by Hon. S. M. M. Musharraf

1.29.1 Taking action to take over the Pottuvil Hospital in Ampara by the Line Ministry

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to take over the Pottuvil Hospital, which is being run with limited resources, to the Line Ministry.

The Hon. Member also requested that action be taken to provide the necessary medical equipment to this hospital.

1.29.2 Requirement of a Rajya Osusala branch for Pottuvil, Ampara

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to establish a branch of Rajya Osusala in this area.

1.30 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sudath Manjula

1.30.1 A retired doctor in Anguruwella, Kegalle getting infected with COVID-19

Hon. Member informed that this doctor had treated 400-500 patients in four days without wearing a mask, and that it has been confirmed that he and his

wife have contracted COVID, and therefore, requested that action be taken to direct all their contacts to self-quarantine.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Deputy Epidemiologist to take steps to place all the persons concerned under home quarantine and to refer them for PCR tests.

Hon. Madhura Withanage informed the Committee that it would be appropriate to take legal action under the Quarantine Act.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action will be taken to carry out an inquiry into this matter after this doctor has recovered.

1.30.2 Filling the shortages of Karawanella Base Hospital and converting it to a District hospital

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to provide the necessary equipment including filling of vacancies, an eye care unit, ENT unit and a Cardiac Unit.

1.31 Motions Submitted by Hon. M. Nandasena

1.31.1 Taking action to provide necessary facilities to Medawachchiya Base Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that since even the basic facilities required for the Medawachchiya, Kebithigollewa and Padaviya Base Hospitals have not been provided, action be taken to provide the necessary facilities at least to the Medawachchiya Base Hospital.

1.32 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Navananda

1.32.1 Converting Embilipitiya General Hospital into a Base Hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a circular has been issued by the Treasury stating that Hospitals belonging to Provincial Councils cannot be taken over by the Central Government.

1.32.2 Shortage of medicines at Embilipitiya Hospital

The Hon. Member requested that as there is a shortage of several essential life saving drugs in this hospital, action be taken to supply them.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the State Ministry to conduct an inquiry into this and to submit a report.

1.32.3 Shortage of equipment used for surgery

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that there is a shortage of such equipment and no procurement has been made for that.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the State Ministry to conduct an inquiry into this and to submit a report.

1.32.4 Delay in giving appointments to intern medical officers

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the giving appointments to intern medical officers has been delayed by about 03 years.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Deputy Director General (Medical Services) to expedite the process.

1.32.5 Providing necessary facilities to Moneragala hospital

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that Moneragala Hospital does not have wards for the mentally ill patients and for cancer patients.

1.32.6 Acquisition of 22 acres of land belonging to the hospital by external parties

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that this extent of land should be acquired for the hospital for its development activities.

1.32.7 Non-completion of the construction work of the kidney unit of Wellawaya Hospital and lack of a sewerage system for the Hospital

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary action will be taken in this regard.

1.33 Motions Submitted by Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

1.33.1 Filling the shortages at Galgamuwa General Hospital

The Hon. Minister requested that necessary steps be taken to make this hospital an active hospital by filling the vacancies and filling other shortages at the hospital.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Director General of Health Services to pay attention to these matters and to submit a report in this regard.

2. Actions to be taken with regard to doctors in rural areas

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that necessary steps should be taken get the doctors serving in rural areas to sign an agreement to ensure that they return to the service after going for further education and training.

3. The Committee was adjourned at 03.03 p.m. until *sine die*.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Industries
First Meeting – 03 December 2020**

Committee Members Present

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa (Chair)
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara (State Minister)
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte (State Minister)
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera (State Minister)
Hon. U.K. Sumith Udukumbura

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. Angajan Ramanadan
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Nawarathna
Hon. Shanakkiyan Rajapuththiran Rasamanikkam
Hon. Thawaraja Kalai Arasan

1. Discussion on Ministry Affairs

1.1 Motions Submitted by Hon. Asanka Nawarathna

1.1.1 Developing clay industry villages in Kurunegala District

Hon. Member requested to take swift action to develop this industry in order to uplift the living standards of clay producers in the Kurunegala district who undergo hardships in marketing their products.

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister informed that approval has been given to industrialists who had been registered with the National Crafts Council to transport 3 clay cubes at discussions held under chairmanship of Hon. Minister.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the necessary steps will be taken to register those industrialists in the National Crafts Council.

1.1.2 Starting new industries at regional level

Hon. Member inquired about further details on actions taken by the Ministry regarding new industry proposals as informed by it sent to MPPs.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that it was expected to get proposals from MPP on new industrial projects to be initiated based on raw materials, natural resources and other factors available in their own areas.

Hon. Chairman also informed that action to be taken to provide training and technological assistance to industrialists through Industrial Development Board and National Entrepreneur Development Authority.

1.1.3 Industrial Estates of Heraliyawala and Dangaspitiya in Kurunegala District

Hon. Member informed that some entrepreneurs who had obtained lands from these industrial estates had not started their businesses.

Hon. Chairman informed that he is expected to hold discussion with Governor of the Province on the issue.

1.1.4 Restarting factories of Ceramic Corporation in Bingiriya and Weuda in Kurunegala District

Hon. Member requested the Committee to re-start factories of Ceramic Corporation in said areas.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that study is being conducted to recommence Bingiriya factory.

The Hon. Chairman further informed that decision to be taken on restarting Weuda factory by discussing with the Chairmen concerned.

1.1.5 Utilizing tiles manufactured by Ceramic Corporation for government housing schemes

Hon. Member requested the Committee to utilize tiles manufactured at Ampara, Mahiyangana factories for government housing programs.

Hon. Chairman informed that said tiles are already in use for government sponsored projects.

1.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. Shanakkiyan Rajapuththiran Rasamanikkam

1.2.1 Creating market for handloom products in Batticloa district

Hon. Member requested the Committee to create a market for handlooms as there are number of handloom factories.

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister informed that action would be taken to assist to the industry by getting down details of such products through Directors of Provincial councils.

1.2.2 Starting a factory in Mandur area in Porothivupattu DS division in Batticloa district

Hon. Member informed that there was a famous tile factory in the areas before few decades ago and suggested to start a factory utilizing clay, natural resource in the area strengthening rural economy.

1.2.3 Starting any other factory based on natural resources in the area where Walachchena Paper mill is located

Hon. Member requested the Committee to take action to start a factory using natural resources in the area.

Hon. Chairman informed that the Board approval only has been granted to start the variety of industries in related with paper industry with in the zone of Walachchena Paper Mill.

1.2.4 Starting Industries using the sand in the area

Hon. Member requested the Committee to establish production factories using sand which exist as a natural resource in the area by contacting other Ministries too.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the Ministry of Environment can intervene in this matter.

1.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

1.3.1 Mining of sand belt in Kirinda area in Hambantota district

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that mining of said sand belt had been carried out by a private company, for which people in the area had agitated.

The Hon. Chairman stated that Director Board decision to be taken for transferring said sand dune to Lanka Mineral Sands Limited with Cabinet approval.

1.3.2 Land belongs to Textiles Department located in Thissamaharama city in Hambantota district

Hon. Member requested the Committee to use the said land for government purpose as it is used by a private institute.

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister directed Hon. Member to take up this matter at District Development Committee meeting.

1.3.3 Jewellery villages in Beligalla area, in Hambantota district

Hon. Member brought to attention of the Committee on providing facilities to jewellery manufactures in 4 GN divisions in Hambantota through the Ministry.

Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister informed that a 1 million loan with low interest is provided to craftsmen who are registered with Ministry.

Hon. Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister directed Hon. Member to coordinate with Ministry and refer the craftsmen thereto.

1.3.4 Pottery industry in Hambantota district

Hon. Member proposed on the ability of producing items for export market through introducing new technology and equipments to the people engaged in pottery industry in the Hambantota district.

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister informed the Committee that this could be intervened under the future program of allocating new technology and new tools.

Hon. State Minister directed Secretary of State Ministry to collect details of issues raised by Hon. Member and to coordinate accordingly.

1.4. Motions Submitted by Hon. Ashoka Priyantha

1.4.1. Utilizing land and building of Handloom Department in Nattandiya city

Hon. Member requested the Committee to utilize the said land and building in Nattandiya town for suitable project.

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister informed that this matter to be discussed with Provincial Director of Textiles.

Hon. Chairman informed that this land and building could be used for suitable purpose on agreement of Provincial Council too.

1.5 Motions Submitted by Hon. Angajan Ramanadan

1.5.1 Paranthan Chemical factory

Hon. Member inquired the Committee regarding the future program of the government on developing Paranthan chemical factory.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that plans have been prepared to make this place comprising with 217 acres as an industrial estate with chemical based factories with the support of private sector too.

1.5.2 Elephantpass saltern in Jaffna district

Hon. Member inquired the Committee regarding the future program for developing Elephantpass saltern.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that Cabinet approval has been obtained to run this institute with Manthai Salt Company as National Salt Company and also to develop it.

1.5.3 Kankasanthurai Cement Factory in Jaffna district

The Hon. Member inquired the Committee regarding the government's long-term plans for the Kankasanthurai Cement Factory.

The Hon. Chairman inquired the Committee that a number of new suggestions have been received for initiating production with the private sector, and that the best suggestion would be put into practice within the coming year.

1.5.4 Water scarcity and sanitary issues in Achchuveli Industrial Development Zone in Jaffna district

Hon. Member requested the Committee to resolve water scarcity and sanitary issues in Achchuveli Industrial estate.

Hon. Chairman informed that action to be taken under the second stage by discussing with Industrial Development Board.

1.5.5 Providing solaces to electricity usage of factories in Achchuveli Industrial Estate

Hon. Member requested the Committee that the 50% electricity waiver being enjoyed by industrialists in Achchuveli Industrial Estate be extended.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the allocations have not made for this in the current Budget.

1.5.6 Paper manufacturing factory in Achchuveli Industrial Estate

Hon. Member informed about issues confronted by Nobel Paper Factory which produce recyclable paper in Achchuveli Industrial Estate with another importing paper company.

Hon. Chairman requested Hon. Member to refer industrialist concerned to the Ministry to discuss about issues.

1.5.7 Starting a Drug manufacturing factory in Achchuveli Industrial Estate, Jaffna

The Hon. Member requested that a water problem be resolved in the Industrial Estate in order for a new drug manufacturing facility to be established.

Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that Hon. State Minister and Hon. Minister on Water Supply to be discussed on the matter.

1.6 Motions Submitted by Hon. U.K. Sumith Udukumbura

1.6.1 Textiles Weaving Mills in Hiriya electorate

Hon. Member requested to take suitable action to run weaving mills in the Hiriya electorate and to initiate alternatives to uplift economy of people in the area.

1.6.2 Clay industry in Hiriya electorate

Hon. Member requested to provide facilities and solaces after starting a special project for rural people who are engaged in clay based products.

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, State Minister agreed to make a field visit in the future and to resolve issues raised by the Hon. Minister.

2. The Committee at 3.00 p.m. adjourned *sine die*.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Labor Affairs
First meeting – 04th of December 2020**

Committee Members present

Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva (Chair)
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Non-Committee Members present

Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. A. Aravind Kumar
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

1. Motions Submitted by Hon. Members

1.1 Motions Submitted by Hon. Hesha Withanage

1.1.1 Increasing the daily wage of estate workers upto Rs.1000/-

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that it has been proposed to hold discussions with the Trade Unions and the Employers' Federation after the budget is passed, either to stipulate the salaries of estate workers or pay under an out-grow system according to the existing collective agreement based on the understanding that the salaries should be paid in relation to the production.

Hon. Vadivel Suresh informed the Committee that issues are faced when taking legal action regarding salaries since certain divisional estate companies abandon their estates from time to time and due to leasing out estates to other parties.

1.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. Vadivel Suresh

1.2.1 Rights of estate workers not being protected and providing Rs.1000/- to estate workers

It was informed that after the government owned estates were leased out to divisional plantation companies which were functional from year 1992, certain companies had abandoned estates from time to time and ownership of aforesaid estates had been transferred to other companies through interim lease agreements. It was pointed out therefore rights of estate workers are not protected and on certain occasions their human rights are violated as well.

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the companies are in a position pay Rs.1000/- daily wage in a context where the government has developed the infrastructure facilities, minimizing that burden and related expenses for them.

1.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara

1.3.1 Motions regarding agreements reached with estate management by the Government

The Hon. Chairman suggested that a collective discussion should be held with the Ministries of Labor, Plantation Industries and the Treasury to look into the violation of original agreements reached with the estate management by the government.

1.3.2 Recruitments, appointments, transfers and promotions made at semi-government institutions

Hon. Member suggested that measures should be taken to prevent recruitments, promotions and transfers made at semi-government institutions such as Sri Lanka Transport Board under the political influence or due to political reasons.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to hold a discussion with the treasury in this regard.

1.3.3 The programme to investigate the alleged fraud and corruption taken place at the Foreign Employment Bureau

Chairman of Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau informed that an internal committee had been appointed to look into the malpractices taken place at the Foreign Employment Bureau and its first report has been handed over to the Hon. State Minister. It was also informed that the second part will be handed over in due course.

1.3.4 The commissions paid by Foreign Employment Agencies to the Foreign Employment Bureau when sending employees to foreign employment opportunities

The Additional General Manager of the Foreign Employment Bureau, provided the Committee with information about the procedures used to collect fees from foreign employment agencies, fees charged to individuals traveling abroad, fees charged to individuals traveling abroad through a foreign employment agency, and fees collected by the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau on various occasions.

At a discussion held with foreign employment agencies it was revealed that by sending house maids to Middle East countries the agents receive a sum of Rs.1,000,000/- for each house maid and the Hon. Chair inquired whether there is a mechanism that ensure house maids receive anything in return.

The Hon. Chairman further informed that he is closely monitoring the integrity of the bureau officials and special attention has been drawn on deploying the army to carry out airport duties due to lapses.

1.4 Motions Submitted by Hon. Madhura Withanage

1.4.1 Preparing a mechanism to investigate the malpractices taking place due to privatization of state properties and to focus attention on complaints lodged by laborers

The Hon. Member requested to focus special attention in this regard.

1.4.2 Assigning graduates recruited recently to the public service to look into the well-being of the estate community

The Hon. Member requested to draw special attention regarding these matters.

1.5 Motions submitted by Hon. (Dr.) V. Radhakrishnan

1.5.1 Changing the estate culture

The Hon. Member pointed out the need of bringing estate community under the direct purview of public servants namely Grama Niladhari Officers as similar to other parts of the country in order to prevent unnecessary interventions of estate superintendents into the matters of the estate community.

1.5.2 Regarding the Labor Offices at Nuwara Eliya and Hatton

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Commissioner of Labor to relocate the Nuwara Eliya Labor Office at a suitable location.

The Hon. Chairman informed the work at Labor Office in Hatton will be completed by April.

1.6 Motions Submitted by Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

1.6.1 Bringing back migrant workers registered with Foreign Employment Bureau due to Covid -19

The Hon. Chairman stated that 16,000 of the 46,000 migrant workers who had been waiting to return to Sri Lanka had already been brought back, despite difficulties encountered during quarantine, PCR testing, and air travel restrictions. Furthermore, it was stated that all of the remaining employees would return within the upcoming months.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau further informed that priority would be given for returnees with special and urgent requirement.

1.6.2 Service rendered by Morawaka Labor Office for the benefit of Deniyaya Estate workers

The Hon. Member informed the Committee the service rendered by the labor office in this area is unsatisfactory and pointed out it is located in a private premises and it has no officer who can speak Tamil.

The Commissioner of Labor was instructed to give priority when allocating funds for year 2021 to construct a new building for the aforesaid labor office and to give a transfer to a Tamil speaking Labor Commissioner to the aforementioned office.

2. The Committee at 3.00 p.m. adjourned *sine die*.

Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade Second Meeting- 10 March 2021

Committee Members Present

Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana (Chair)
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna (State Minister)
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Nalin Fernando

Non-Committee Members present

Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Amara Keerthi Athukorala
Hon. Anupa Pasqual

1. The Hon. Chairman emphasized the necessity of maintaining the Ministerial Consultative Committee method more productive and effective and a presentation was conducted by Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilaka, the Assistant Secretary General of The Parliament on how to implement the productivity and efficiency.

The Hon. Chairman stated that that an Expert Committee had been appointed to make National Trade Policies as it's a prevailing necessity since a long period of time and looking forward to present a report regarding the activities conducted by that committee up to now.

The Hon. Chairman further stated that an Expert Committee was appointed to study about the Cooperative Movement.

The Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, the State Minister and Hon. Rohana Disanayaka also stated their ideas regarding the above mentioned matter.

2. Considering the Annual Reports

After consideration, the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Trade agreed to the following annual reports referred by Parliament to the Committee and it was decided that the Report of the Committee regarding the annual reports be presented to Parliament on 26th March 2021 by Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Chairman of the Committee.

- 2.1 Annual Report of the Consumer Affairs Authority for the year 2017
- 2.2 Annual Report of the Lanka Sathosa for the year 2016
- 2.3 Annual Report of the Lanka Sathosa for the year 2017
- 2.4 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd for the year 2017-2018
- 2.5 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for the year 2018
- 2.6 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board for the year 2019
- 2.7 Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahapola higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2018

- 2.8** Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund for the year 2019
- 2.9** Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2015
- 2.10** Annual Report and Accounts of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment for the year 2016

3. Matters arising out of the minutes of the meeting held on 01.12.2020

- 3.1 Releasing Co-operative Training Centre in Northern Province- Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan** (4.6.2 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

This matter was considered by the Committee.

- 3.2 Director post issue in Wennappuwa Co-operative Society - Hon. Niroshan Perera** (4.7 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

This matter was considered by the Committee.

- 3.3 Restructuring Ruwanwella Co-operative Society - Hon. Sudath Manjula** (4.8 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

This matter was considered by the Committee.

- 3.3 Developing Hingurakgoda Marketing Complex and Rice Mill - Hon. Amarkeerthi Athukorale** (4.9 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

This matter was considered by the Committee.

4. Discussions on the Ministerial Matters

4.1 Motions Submitted by Hon. Rohana Disanayaka

4.1.1 Closing the Sathosa outlet in Matale Aluvihare area

The Chairman of Sathosa informed that the above mentioned outlet will not be closed and that it will be establish in Ukuwela area.

The Hon. Chairman informed that numerous steps were taken to make Lanka Sathosa a profitable institute which became at a loss because of the financial irregularities and a forensic audit is being conducted at thye moment regarding Lanka Sathosa.

The Hon. Chairman stated that the measures have been taken to stop the financial irregularities and as the first step the stores and branches of Lanka Sathosa have being computerized.

4.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. Nalin Fernando

4.2.1 Selecting buildings for Lanka Sathosa Outlets

The Hon. Member descriptively explained regarding the matters that should be considered when establishing Lanka Sathosa Outlets.

The Hon. Member stated that the Sathosa outlet network needed to be changed to suit the present time and that the huge outlets needed to be started instead of the small outlets.

The Hon. Chairman stated that the lands which are not being used by the government institutions could be used to construct buildings for Lanka Sathosa Outlets.

The Hon. Chairman further stated that it is expected to improve the Lanka Sathosa Outlets in major cities with a low cost according to a new concept named “Mega Sathosa”.

4.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

4.3.1 Sathosa Outlet in Bakamuna Town, Polonnaruwa

The Hon. Member informed that as the building where Sathosa Outlet is established in Bakamuna Town in Polonnaruwa has been asked to vacant by the owner of the building, currently unused building which is owned by the Coperative Department could be used to establish the aforesaid outlet.

The Hon. Member requested to reopen the Sathosa outlet in Kaduruwela town in a suitable place as it had to be closed because it was established in an unsuitable place.

The Hon. Member futhuer requested to provide a branch of Sri Lanka Export Development Board in Polonnaruwa district.

5. The Committee at 3.00 p.m. adjourned *sine die*.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation
Second Meeting- 23 March 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana (Chair)
Hon. Arundika Fernando (State Minister)
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura (State Minister)
Hon. Kanaka Herath (State Minister)
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

Non-Committee Members Present

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Manjula Dissanayake

1. Consideration of the Annual Reports

After consideration, the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Plantation agreed to the following annual reports referred by Parliament to the Committee and it was decided that the Report of the Committee regarding

the annual reports be presented to Parliament by Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Chairman of the Committee:

- 1.1** Annual Report of the Chilaw Plantation Company Limited for the year 2017
- 1.2** Annual Report of the Coconut Development Board for the year 2018
- 1.3** Annual Report National Institute of Plantation Management for the year 2018
- 1.4** Annual Report of the Kurunegala Plantation Company for the year 2018
- 1.5** Annual Report of the Coconut Research Board for the year 2018
- 1.6** Annual Report of the Coconut Cultivation Board for the year 2018
- 1.7** Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka for the year 2018

2. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

2.1. Regularising the Law with regard to Fragmentation of Coconut Estates and Felling of Rubber Trees on Rubber Estates – Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa

The Hon. Rajapaksa proposed that the kithul tree (jaggery palm - *Caryota urens*) and palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) be included in the Food Act in addition to the coconut palm.

The Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe also stated that fragmentation of coconut estates has become a problem in the Matara District as well and requested that the activity concerned be stopped at least by a Gazette Notification till the amendment of the Act.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the amendments brought to the Tea, Rubber and Coconut Estates (Control of Fragmentation) Act No. 2 of 1958 requiring the permission of the Tea, Rubber and Coconut Estates Fragmentation Control Board for fragmenting lands in excess of 1 hectare has already been referred to the Hon. Attorney General and action would be taken to publish in the Gazette upon receipt of the Cabinet Approval.

The Hon. Chairman informed that arrangements were being made to include coconut palms in the Felling of Trees Act.

Hon. Rohana Dissanayake proposed that action be taken in this regard to vest the responsibility in one single body authority as local authorities make various subordinate legislations and regulations regarding fragmentation of lands.

2.2. Good-Side Estate - Establishment of an Export Processing Village in the Medadumbara Area – Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

It was informed that the reply regarding the matter had been sent to Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara.

2.3. Repossession of Lands Belonging to the Natha Devale in Kandy from the Pussellawa Plantation Company – Hon. Wasantha Yapa Bandara

The Hon. Chairman informed that the relevant reply had already been sent to Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara and that a lawsuit was pending between the government and the plantation company concerned.

2.4. Gal Oya Plantation (Private) Company's Private Sector Investment and Dividends and Non-Receipt of Money Accruable to the Government – Hon. Madhura Withanage

Hon. Madhura Withanage gave a lengthy representation regarding the Gal Oya Plantation (Private) Company's private sector investment, non-receipt of money accruable to the government and the irregular conduct by the company.

Hon. Chairman informed that a thorough follow-up would be carried out regarding the measures and regularizing that need to be taken regarding the organization with the intervention by the Ministry and assured that action would be taken through the state Ministry to obtain the dividend due towards the government for the government's contribution and to maintain the institution in a formal way.

Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura proposed that an audit should be conducted regarding the investment by the Gal Oya Plantation (Private) Company in the private sector while the Hon. Hector Appuhamy opined that it would be more appropriate to refer the matter to the attention of the Committee on Public Enterprises.

3. Consideration of Written Motions

3.1 Request that a Portion of 02 Acres be Made Available for Public Purposes in the Weerapokuna Area in the Bingiriya Divisional Secretariat Division within Kurunegala District from the Land Called Kinyama Estate Belonging to Chilaw Plantation Company – Hon. Shantha Bandara (Motion No. 95)

The Hon. Chairman informed that the report in reply to the proposal had been sent to the Hon. Shantha Bandara.

4. Other Matters

4.1. Motions Submitted by Hon. Shantha Bandara

4.1.1 Regarding the Expediting of the Process of Removing the Life - Threatening Trees

The Hon. Member stressed that it would be appropriate to introduce a courses of action to expedite the removal of dangerous trees as removal of dangerous trees would take about six months since according to the legal provisions prevailing in the country.

The Hon. Chairman informed that action would be taken to amend the legal provisions to enable removal of menacing trees by obtaining the permission of the grama niladhari division.

4.2 Motions Submitted by Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi

4.2.1 Obtaining a Portion of Land from the Handali Estate for Creating a Botanical Garden

Hon. Member inquired about the request made for obtaining 100 acres from the Hendali Estate situated by the Deniyaya Road within the Rakwana constituency.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Member that an intervention on the part of the Ministry would be possible after the expression of consent by the plantation company concerned and directed the Director of the Plantation Management Supervision Division to give a reply to Hon. Member in this regard in due course.

4.3 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sampath Athukorala

4.3.1 Regarding Obtaining a Portion of Land from the Elpitiya Plantation Company

The Hon. Member stated that a resolution had been adopted at the Galle District Development Committee to obtain 400 acres of land from the Elpitiya Plantation Company to be granted to persons who are dispossessed of their lands due to River Gin Control Project and requested that the matter concerned be coordinated.

4.3.2 Regarding Difficulties Faced by people Living on Lands Belonging to Plantation Companies

Hon. Member pointed out that people who had been living in lands belonging to the Elpitiya Plantation Company and the Watawala Plantation Company before the estates concerned were vested in the plantation companies are facing numerous difficulties in conducting their day-to-day affairs.

The Hon. Chairman informed that action could be taken to grant the inhabitants ownership of lands regarding which the plantation companies would express their willingness to part with.

4.3.3 Regarding Methodology for Purchasing Surplus Ginger Harvest

The Hon. Member requested that a methodology be put in place for purchasing as a ginger harvest of nearly 8,000 kilogrammes has been yielded in three Divisional Secretariat Divisions including the Neluwa Divisional Secretariat Division.

4.4 Motions Submitted by Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

4.4.1 Regarding Acquisition of Under-Utilized Lands Belonging to Plantation Companies to the Government

The Hon. Member informed that the effort to obtain a portion of land 5 acres in extent had taken 20 years from the plantation company for the town development plan of Pitabeddara in Matara District and still it had yielded no solution.

The Hon. Member requested that the matter be coordinated at Ministry level.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the Ministry had no legal power to interfere with the lease agreements with the plantation companies concerned and therefore a new Act was being drafted to empower the Ministry.

4.4.2 Problems of Tea Smallholders in Matara District and Galle District

The Hon. Member informed that the subsidy given to tea smallholders to recultivate tea in Matara and Galle Districts is not sufficient and requested that assistance be given to tea smallholders until the next season of picking buds.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that a decision had been made to increase the subsidy given to tea smallholders upto rs. 7.5 lakhs per hectare for re-cultivation and a Cabinet Paper had been presented proposing to grant an allowance of rs. 5,000 per month for half an acre for 24 months.

The Hon. Member requested that the allowance be increased to 10,000 rupees per half acre instead of 5000 rupees.

4.5 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sisira Jayakody

4.5.1 Request for Support for Cultivation of Indigenous Medicinal Herbs

It was requested that action be taken to cultivate indigenous herbs for the purpose of creating a revival in the export sector at a time that a vast demand has emerged in the world for indigenous medicinal drugs in our country.

4.6 Motions Submitted by Hon. Samanpriya Herath

4.6.1 Obtaining a Land for Construction of a Faculty of Engineering at the North-Western University

Hon. Member pointed out that a land of 12 acres in extent had been necessitated for Establishing the Faculty of Engineering of the North-Western University situated in Kuliyapitiya area and requested that a parcel of land of such extent be made available from a land belonging to the Kurunegala Plantation Company.

The Chairperson of the Kurunegala Plantation Company informed that the land concerned had already been given to the Ministry of Defence for establishing a warehouse for gunpowder.

4.7 Motions Submitted by Hon. Kapila Athukorala

4.7.1 Regarding Plots of Land Given to Workers Employed at the Kantale Sugar Factory

The Hon. Member brought to the notice of the Committee that although it had been decided to give a plot of land each to workers residing in the official quarters of the Kantale Sugar Factory, from the area according to a Cabinet Decision, it had not happened thus far.

4.7.2 Resumption of Operations of Kantale Sugar Factory

The Hon. Member enquired about the timeframe expected for resuming the Kantale Sugar Factory and the obstacles against the re-operation of the factory.

The Hon. State Minister informed that the factory concerned had been leased out to a private company named M.G. Sugar under a lease agreement and a compensation had to be paid to the firm at the arbitration.

4.7.3 Request made to provide land which cannot be cultivated with sugarcane be made available for paddy cultivation

The Hon. Member requested that around 300–400 acres of land on which sugarcane could not be cultivated out of the cultivable land of Kantale Sugar Factory be made available to people of the area for paddy cultivation.

The Hon. State Minister informed that paddy cultivation would not be permitted on the lands concerned according to the agreement reached with M G Sugar in the year 2016 and it would be possible to resolve the issue by arriving at a consensus with the company within the year.

4.7.4 Coconut Sapling Distribution Programme Conducted within the Trincomalee District

The Hon. Member pointed out that the Coconut Cultivation Board had conducted several coconut sapling distribution programmes within the Trincomalee District. But Hon. Member, being the Chairman of the District Development Committee, had not been informed of it.

Hon. Member also informed that the committee should pay the attention as such programmes should be conducted following a proper methodology.

4.8 Motions Submitted by Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe

4.8.1 Obtaining Coconut Saplings

The Hon. Member stated that giving coconut saplings during the present period would not be practical as rains would not be received in the Polonnaruwa District at that time of year.

Hon. Member also enquired about the possibility of making available coconut saplings adequate for 10,000 families in the following September.

4.8.2 Making Available a Place to Keep Coconut Saplings of the Coconut Development Board

The Hon. Member stated that as the Coconut Development Board did not have a place for keeping coconut saplings in the Polonnaruwa District and offered to allot a land for the purpose.

Hon. Member also enquired if financial provisions necessary for improving the location could be granted.

4.8.3 Regarding Commencement of a Project to Grow Export Agricultural Crops

The Hon. Member requested that more focus be given to crops such as turmeric, ginger and pepper for uplifting export agriculture and enquired about the possibility to start a project for it in September.

4.9 Motions Submitted by Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa

4.9.1 Regarding Making Permanent Daily-Wage Earners at Welikadamulla Plant Nursery

The Hon. Member stated that there were about 40–50 workers getting paid on daily basis (on check roll basis) employed at Welikadamulla Plant Nursery in Gampaha and requested that action be taken to make their service permanent.

4.9.2 Regarding Need for a Field Officer for Tea in Aththanagalla Area

The Hon. Member requested that the service of a tea field officer be made available for tea cultivation in Aththanagalla, Urapola and Ruwanwella areas.

The Hon. Chairman directed the officials of the Tea Smallholders Development Authority to deploy one of the officers newly recruited to the Tea Smallholders Development Authority to cover the area concerned.

4.9.3 Request for Training Necessary for Cinnamon Cultivation

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to provide training for cinnamon cultivation as persons knowledgeable in creating the market and for thrashing cinnamon are rare in Aththanagalla area although cinnamon cultivation is conducted successfully in the area.

4.9.4 Regarding the Scarcity of Hybrid Coconut Saplings at Coconut Sapling Nurseries

The Hon. Member directed the attention of the Committee towards providing hybrid coconut saplings as coconut saplings were not available in adequate numbers at Kirindiwela and Gampaha coconut sapling nurseries.

4.10 Motions Submitted by Hon. Hector Appuhamy

4.10.1 Regarding Amalgamation of Three Institutions Associated with Coconut Cultivation

The Hon. Member enquired whether the government had reached a decision to establish a single institution in place of the Coconut Research Institute, the Coconut Development Board and the Coconut Cultivation Board.

The Hon. Chairman informed that it would be convenient for the operation of the activities of the three institutions concerned under a single administrative mechanism as they performed many different but related tasks pertaining to coconut cultivation.

4.10.2 Regarding Research Institutions Existing under Ministry

The Hon. Member enquired about the policy decision made by the government regarding the research institutions for coconuts, tea, rubber, sugarcane and palmyrah functioning under the Ministry of Plantation.

The Hon. Arundika Fernando, State Minister, informed the Committee that the government had made a policy decision to bring all research institutes pertaining to coconuts, tea, rubber, Sugarcane and palmyrah to University status due to scientists and researchers leaving such institutions.

4.11 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sivagnanam Sritharan

4.11.1 Regarding Assistance Necessary to Grow Coconuts and Dates in Nedunthivu Island in Jaffna

The Hon. Member requested that a project be formulated to grow new varieties of dates which bear fruits in five years, coconuts and palmyrah in the Nedunthivu Island in the Jaffna District and that the Hon. Chairman to visit the area.

The Hon. Chairman informed that assistance necessary for growing coconuts and palmyrah in and enquired the Hon. Sritharan whether a solution could be found for the problem existing in obtaining seeds and saplings for date palm cultivation.

The Hon. Member informed that date saplings could be brought down from India and in the Eastern Province, fruits were already being harvested following a successful cultivation.

The Chairman of the Coconut Research Institute and the Chairman of the Palmyrah Development Authority were directed to provide a report on a methodology for securing date saplings when they came to the next meeting.

4.11.2 Regarding Elections to Be Conducted Pertaining to Cooperative Societies Associated with Palmyrah Productions

The Hon. Member informed of the political interference in implementing cooperative societies relating to palmyrah products in Kilinochchi and requested that attention be paid to hold office-bearer elections in order to establish those societies afresh.

The Hon. Arundika Fernando, State Minister stated that palmyrah toddy distilleries are operated by cooperative societies associated with palmyrah and since some power has been vested in the Palmyrah Development Authority with regard to holding of elections for cooperative societies by the Constitution itself, elections would be held with the intervention of the Authority.

In addition, the State Minister said that action would be taken to give all the assistance necessary for developing palmyrah related products and the toddy industry.

4.11.3 Regarding the Land Acquired for Coconut Cultivation in Palai Area

The Hon. Member stated that a group of people are settled on a fertile coconut estate belonging to the Coconut Cultivation Board in Palai area in the Jaffna District and as part of the land opposite belonging to the Land Reform Commission could be obtained for distribution among those people by negotiating with the Commission through the Ministry, enquired whether the support necessary in this regard could be given.

The Hon. Member proposed that the real situation could be ascertained by meeting the owners of lands, discussing with them regarding the acquisition of the lands and perusing the documents pertaining to their land titles.

4.12 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sudarshana Denipitiya

4.12.1 Saving Water Catchment Areas

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that a course of action would be essential to save the water catchment areas in the Districts of Badulla and Nuwara Eliya, which are associated with tea estates.

4.12.2 Difficulty in Obtaining Lands Belonging to Plantation Companies in Developing Roads

The Hon. Member requested the Ministry to give the necessary assistance for the acquisition of land belonging to plantation companies for road carpeting as it is long process to obtaining the approval from the plantation companies.

The Hon. Chairman informed that if a list of roads and a list of plantation companies that the approval required could be provided, the matter could be resolved at ministerial level.

4.12.3 Granting Uncultivated Lands of Plantation Companies to Tea Smallholder Societies

The Hon. Member requested that uncultivated lands belonging to plantation companies be given to tea smallholder societies and permission be given to conduct agricultural activities in them.

The Hon. Chairman informed that it is expected to introduce a new Act for the re-acquisition of under-utilized lands of plantation companies and vest such lands in the government.

4.12.4 Housing Projects in Badulla District

The Hon. Member stated that approval has been received for the construction of flats in establishing housing schemes in Badulla District and that method would enable to save a lot of land area.

4.13 Motions Submitted by Hon. Sudath Manjula

4.13.1 Regarding Palm Oil Cultivation in Kegalle Area

The Hon. Member enquired whether the government had stopped oil palm cultivation on principle, although Malwatta and the Kelani Valley Plantation Companies had started oil palm cultivation in estates in Kegalle and Ruwanwella areas.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that according to the court decision, instructions had been given to stop cutting down the existing palm trees and planting new saplings and the government was in a clear policy stance to put an end to oil palm cultivation.

4.13.2 Obtaining a Plot of Land Belonging to Moraliya Plantation Company

The Hon. Member made a request for necessary support since the Ruwanwella Coordination Committee has requested an extent of 40 hectares

from lands belonging to the Moraliya Plantation Company for the urban development programme, the village expansion programme and the expansion of the Ruwanwella Technical College.

The Hon. Chairman informed that lands could be acquired without the consent of the plantation companies through the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Urban Development for town development as well as village expansion and pointed out that the necessary extent might be acquired through such means.

4.14 Motions Submitted by Hon. Rohana Dissanayake

4.14.1 Degradation of Quality of Lands Given to Plantation Companies

The Hon. Member informed that when comparing the quality of the lands at the time those were given to plantation companies in the Matale District and at present, the quality had gone down.

Hon. Member further informed that the areas that should have been conserved as water catchment areas were heading towards destruction due to negligence.

4.14.2 Felling of Trees in Mountainous Regions

The Hon. Member pointed out that as the cutting down of trees in conserved areas directed the forest lands that should be protected had been turning into waste lands.

Hon. Member further stated that these forests should be saved by planting 10 saplings for every tree felled.

4.14.3 Regarding Promotion of Kithul-Based Products and Black Pepper Cultivation

The Hon. Member stated that the jaggery palm (Kithul tree) could be termed versatile and associated with jaggery palms and hence should be promoted as an export crop.

4.14.4 Income Generated from Tourist Attractions Belonging to Plantation Companies

The Hon. Member pointed out that plantation companies in Central Province make earnings through tourist attractions located on their plantations and requested that a methodology be adopted to give part of such income to local authorities.

4.14.5 Obtaining Lands for Three New Police Stations

The Member made a request that parcels of lands be made available from uncultivated waste lands belonging to plantation companies for police stations as approval has been received to establish three new police stations.

4.15 Motions Submitted by Hon. Charles Nirmalanadan

4.15.1 Establishing a Toddy Collection Centre in Mannar

The Hon. Member requested that attention be focused on establishing a toddy collection centre in Mannar area as surplus of the toddy produced in Vavuniya, Mannar and Mulaitivu areas has to be discarded due to lack of a market for it.

Hon. Arundika Fernando, State Minister, informed that there had been a long-standing request for a distillery and a toddy collection centre in the Vanni District and the Mannar District, which had been referred to the Palmyrah Development Authority, and action would be taken to provide it in future.

4.16 Motions Submitted by Hon. Arundika Fernando

4.16.1 Proposal that a Percentage of Revenue from Cess be Used for Advancement of Coconut Cultivation

The State Minister proposed that some percentage of the revenue from the cess from coconut industry be used towards the development of coconut cultivation.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to take action to refer this proposal to the Ministry of Finance.

4.17 Motions Submitted by Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

4.17.1 Regarding Leasing out of Goodside Estate by the National Plantation Corporation to a Private Party

The Hon. Member enquired about the Goodside Estate located in Medamahanuwara within the Kandy District being given on lease by the National Plantation Corporation to a private party.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that the National Plantation Corporation did not intend to lease out the Estate concerned to a third party again.

4.17.2 Regarding Payment of Gratuities, Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund Money Payable by the Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation

The Hon. Member stated that there were around 400 families within the Goodside Estate and that gratuities and Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund money of workers who had served in this Estate had not been paid for a number of years and requested that the outstanding amounts be paid.

The Hon. Chairman informed that action would be taken to pay the outstanding payments methodically in due course.

4.17.3 Regarding Housing Problems of People Living in the Goodside Estate

The Hon. Member enquired about the problem associated with housing facilities of people living in this estate.

The Hon. Chairman directed Ministry officials to make a request from the Ministry of Plantation to the Ministry of Estate Infrastructure for starting a housing project in this estate as well under the Indian Credit Line.

4.17.4 Regarding Purchase of Vanilla Harvest

The Hon. Member stated that the whole of the vanilla harvest of the Kandy District used to be purchased by the Vanilla Growers' Association, who would in turn sell it to Elephant House, but in the present year the quantity of vanilla purchased by Elephant House was quite low, which left vanilla growers to face severe hardships.

4.17.5 Proposals for the Committee

The Hon. Member proposed that valuable time of Hon. Members of Parliament could be saved by giving opportunity to present questions and proposals according to sectors or institutions when giving Members of Parliament opportunity to make representations at the Committee.

5. At 01.30 p.m. the Committee was adjourned *sine die*.
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**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Transport
Second Meeting- 23 March 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. Gamini Lokuge (Chair)
Hon. Dilum Amunugama (State Minister)
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. Madura Vithanage

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. Rishard Bathiudeen
Hon. Chadima Weerakkody
Hon. Rohana Dissanayake
Hon. Fisal Cassim
Hon. H M M Haris
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendran
Hon. Sivagnanam Sritharan
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Kokila Gunawardena
Hon. Kulasingham Thileepan
Hon. H. Nanadasena
Hon. Asanka Nawarathne
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S M M Musharaff
Hon. Ali Sabri Rahim
Hon. Ajith Rajapaksha
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Thawarajah Kalai Arasan

1. Consideration of Orders and Annual Reports

- 1.1** (Chapter 203) which should be read in conjunction with Section 135 (4) of the Motor Traffic Act, prepared by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation under Section 237 of the said Act and published in the Extraordinary Gazette Notification bearing No. 2144/19, dated 09 October 2019.

- 1.2** Order made by the Minister of Transport Services Management under Section 237 of the Motor Vehicles Act, which should be read in conjunction with Section 143 of the Motor Vehicles Act (Authority 203) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2160/33 dated 30th January 2020

The Secretary to the Ministry explained in detail about the purpose of submitting these Orders.

- 1.3** The following Annual Reports were submitted to the Committee.

1.3.1 Annual Report and Accounts of the National Transport Commission for the year 2017

1.3.2 Annual Report and Accounts of the National Transport Commission for the year 2018

1.3.3 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board for the year 2016

1.3.4 Annual Report of the National Transport Medical Institute for the year 2017

The Committee approved presentation of the above Orders and Annual Reports to Parliament.

2. Other Matters

- 2.1 Providing required technical equipments to the police officers to detect offenses in respect of Electric Driving Licenses - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody**

The Hon. Minister inquired as to why, necessary action have not been taken to provide required electronic equipments to the Police Stations so far, to detect offenses, that could be committed when using them, even though electronic driving licenses had already been issued to the people.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Transport stated that steps would be taken to introduce a system with which it would be able to carry out the above tasks using QR codes and mobile phones, instead of providing other special equipment for this purpose.

2.2 Motions submitted by Hon. Madura Vithanage

2.2.1 Assigning an Officer from the Ministry of Transport to the Traffic Committees of Local Government Institutions.

The Hon. Member drew the attention of the Committee with regard to this matter.

2.2.2 Providing special training to the drivers attached to the government institutions in order to upgrade their quality of service and issuing special licenses.

The Hon. Member requested to provide special training to the drivers attached to the government Institutions to minimize the damage that would cause to the vehicles belong to the government institutions, due to their negligence and lack of knowledge.

The Hon. Member also requested to recruit driving instructors adequately for this purpose.

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody also expressed his views in this regard.

2.3 Recruitment of Driving Instructors to the Vocational Training Authority - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that it had not been allowed to recruit driving Instructors to the Authority.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, stated that that action would be taken to recruit driving instructors in the future after conducting relevant examinations.

2.4 Shortage of Drivers and Conductors in Balangoda Depot in Ratnapura District - Hon. Akila Ellawala

The Hon. Member requested to take action to fill the available vacancies for the posts of drivers and conductors in the Balangoda Depot.

Hon. Member also requested to take action to operate SLTB and private buses in Ratnapura District on a joint schedule.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister explained in detail about the future action to be taken in filling the vacancies and also about the actions expected to be followed after recruitment.

Hon. Shanikiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam also expressed his views in this regard.

2.5 Shortcomings of Batticaloa Private Bus Stand - Hon. Shanakkiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanikkam

The Hon. Member requested to attend to the shortcomings of the Batticaloa Private Bus Stand as the passengers have to face difficulties due to rain water and hot sun as this bus stand had been constructed without following a proper plan by the Urban Development Authority.

The Hon. Faisal Qasim and the Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi also expressed their views in this regard.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister instructed the officials of the Urban Development Authority to take required action to resolve the above matter, having considered it as a recommendation made by the Committee.

2.6 Obtaining transport Facilities for transportation of goods upto Beliatta Railway Station - Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

The Hon. Member stated that the facility for transporting goods by train is provided only up to the Matara Railway Station and requested to extend the same up to the Beliatta Railway Station.

2.7 Cease Political Victimization - The Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe

The Hon. Member stated that political victimization is still being taken place and requested to take actions to cease the same.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister instructed Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe to submit relevant data and information in respect of the above matter to take necessary actions accordingly.

2.8 Difficulties in obtaining transport facilities on rural roads in Gampaha District - Hon. Kokila Gunawardena

The Hon. Member apprised the Committee that only one depot is available for the electorates of Mirigama, Dompe and Attanagalla, where there are large number of rural roads.

The Hon. Member also stated that the bus services are also not properly operated at times of opening and closing hours of the schools.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama informed that steps would be taken to revise the traffic plan by summoning the Transport Committee of Gampaha District.

2.9 Repairing obsolete buses - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member inquired about this matter.

The Hon. State Minister, Hon. Dilum Amunugama stated that 600 new buses have been ordered to replace the obsolete buses as repairing them would of no use.

2.10 Road planned to construct near Ahangama Railway Station to access Ahangama Town - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Member inquired about the progress of the project for construction of the road near the Ahangama Railway Station, that was planned to access to Ahangama Town.

The former General Manager of Railways informed that a report has been called regarding the above project and steps would be taken to conduct a field inspection with the participation of the engineers of the Railway Department upon receipt of the said report.

2.11 Stopping express trains at Habaraduwa Railway Station - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

Hon. Member inquired about the above matter. Hon. Member requested to take necessary actions to stop the express train at Habaraduwa Railway Station again.

The former General Manager of Railways assured to look into this matter.

2.12 Providing Small Buses for Rural Roads - Hon. Akila Ellawala

The Hon. Member requested to provide mini buses (single door buses) for narrow roads in rural areas.

The Hon. Chairman informed that single door buses have already been ordered for those roads.

2.13 Taking action to upgrade infrastructure and welfare facilities of SLTB employees - Hon. Akila Ellawala

Hon. Member requested to provide necessary toilet facilities, dining facilities, accommodation etc. to the employees of SLTB.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister, informed that funds have already been allocated to renovate rest rooms and toilets at all depots and steps have also been taken to run a welfare shop at each depot.

2.14 Improper functioning of railway guard rooms at Omanthai, Talaimannar Pier, and Mankulam Railway Crossings - Hon. Selvarajah Kajendran

Hon. Member inquired about the above matter and requested to deploy capable persons as guards at aforesaid places.

The Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan and the Hon. Rishard Bathiudeen also expressed their views in this regard.

The Hon. Chairman informed that it has been accepted in principle that an automated gate or light bulb system should be introduced for railway crossings.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister further stated that actions would be taken to resolve this matter after having acquainted the Inspector General of Police (IGP) also, as the guards have been deployed at the checkpoints by the Police Department.

2.15 Booking Tickets online to travel to Mannar Railway Station - Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan

Hon. Member inquired about the above matter.

The officials of the Railway Department who were present were instructed to take action to resolve matters regarding booking train tickets online.

2.16 Minimizing Accidents - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

Hon. Member requested to move a motion in the parliament to appoint a Select Committee to make recommendations to formulate a system to minimize accidents.

Hon. Member also of the view that necessary steps should be taken to appoint a Transport Committee at national level to identify the places vulnerable to road accidents.

2.17 Providing tires for government vehicles - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

The Hon. Member requested to take actions to provide tires for government vehicles.

2.18 Motions submitted by Hon. Madhura Withanage

2.18.1 Obtaining Compensation for Motor Vehicle Accidents

The Hon. Member requested that Road Development Authority, Electricity Board, or the Telecom should formulate a mechanism to obtain compensation for traffic accidents caused by the faults associated with road poles, signs etc.

2.18.2. Pollution of railway line from Colombo - Dematagoda railway yard to Maradana

The Hon. Member requested to take action to clean the Colombo - Dematagoda railway line.

2.18.2 Providing technical knowledge to government drivers on new features in modern vehicles and obtaining a worthy service

Hon. Member requested that action be taken to liaise with Government Vehicle Agencies to impart expertise to government drivers.

The Hon. Chairman informed that a separate special license is expected to be issued to the drivers engaged in passenger transport.

2.18.3 Taking action to improve standards of passenger buses

The Hon. Member informed that drivers could be distracted by carrying out tasks such as darkening the glasses of the passenger buses, affixing televisions and stickers, playing music etc.

Hon. Member was of the view that approval of the Department of Motor Transport should be obtained for such works.

2.18.4 Conducting an audit to identify whether the roads are suitable for driving

The Hon. Member requested to conduct an audit to identify whether the roads are safely constructed for transportation of vehicles.

2.19 Closure of Ampara Digamadulla Samanthurai Sub Depot - Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Hon. H. M. M. Haris

The Hon. Member inquired about closure of Samanthurai sub - depot in Digamadulla Division in Ampara District.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister of Transport informed that the said sub depot had to be closed on the instructions of the Ministry of Finance, the

buses are parked at the bus depot and the office activities has been conducted by the main depot.

2.20 Motions submitted by Hon. Selvarajah Kajendran

2.20.1 Shortcomings of Depot of SL Transport Board in Northern Province

Hon. Member made a request to appoint a Chief Regional Manager on permanent basis to the Depot of SL Transport Board in Northern Province.

The Hon. Member stated that the office of Northern Provincial Regional Transport Board and the Kondaveli Depot are located in the same place and requested to grant relief to the officers who are politically victimized.

The Hon. Member stated that the activities of the Kondaveli Depot in the Northern Province is been carried out by the Mankulam Depot.

2.20.2 Confirmation of the employees recruited on contract basis

The Hon. Member requested to take action to confirm the employees who had been on contract basis for about 10 years.

2.20.3 Re-opening of Kondaveli Emission Testing Center

The Hon. Member requested to take action to restart operations of Kondaveli Emission Testing Center which was initially started around 2 years ago and closed at present.

2.20.4 Providing necessary facilities to the employees of Point Pedro Depot

The Hon. Member requested to provide necessary facilities to the employees of the Engineering Division of the Point Pedro Depot.

The Hon. State Minister informed that steps would be taken to confirm the employees who have more than 5 years of service on contract basis, and to upgrade depot facilities, accommodation and toilet facilities of the employees.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama also assured to look into the matters, associated to political victimization, if any.

The Hon. State Minister stated that necessary steps would be taken with regard to Mankulam office and the works relating to assembling busses of Medawachchiya workshop will be carried out by the private sector.

2.21 Irregularities occurred in the purchasing spare parts for vehicles - Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Member inquired about the above matter. Hon. Member further informed that the long distance buses have not been provided with spare wheels.

The Chairman of the Sri Lanka Transport Board informed that irregularities occur in the purchase of spare parts for buses are caused due to the use of out-dated methods and currently the necessary arrangements are being taken to purchase spare parts through computer softwares.

2.22 Motions submitted by Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa

2.22.1. Transport problems in Gampaha district

Hon. Member requested the Committee to take necessary action to resolve the problems faced by the passengers travelling in the busses of SLTB in Gampaha District.

The Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister requested to provide information with regard to the problems associated with transport facilities in Gampaha District to the District Transport Committee and action will be taken to meet the requirements once the ordered buses are received.

2.22.2 Difficulties at Daraluwa railway station in Attanagalla

The Hon. Member informed that there is propensity passengers would fall into the track at the Daraluwa railway station due to the tilting of the train.

The Hon. Member requested that steps be taken to avoid this inconvenience.

2.22.3. Parking near Hindeniya Railway Station (Paluwarige) Railway Station

The Hon. Member requested to set up a place for parking bicycles near Hindeniya Railway Station (Paluwari) Railway Station.

The Hon. State Minister directed the Committee to submit a motion in this regard.

2.23 Holding Public Fair of in Galgamuwa Railway Reserve - Hon. Asanka Navaratne

The Hon. Member requested to grant permission to hold the public school at the above place.

The Hon. Chairman instructed to submit a motion for the above matter.

2.24 Motions submitted by S. M. M. Mr. Musharraf

2.24.1 Conversion of Pottuvil bus stand into a major bus stand

Hon Member requested to covert the Pottuvil Bus Stand into a main bus stand.

Hon. Dilum Amunugama, State Minister, requested to submit a written request in this regard.

2.24.2 Pottuvil Colombo bus route

Hon. Member inquired regarding the Potuvil – Colombo busses running in the Akkareipattu road instead of Rotuvil road.

The Hon. State Minister instructed the officials to look into the above matter.

2.25 Motions submitted by Hon. Faisal Qasim

2.25.1 Recruitment of Bus Conductor

Interviews were conducted for the recruitment of bus conductors and training programs had also been conducted but the recruitments were not been conducted.

The Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister requested the Hon. Member to provide details about them.

2.25.2 Fixing a middle door for buses

The Hon. Member also requested that action be taken to fix a middle door for air conditioned long buses.

2.26 Motions submitted by Hon. Rohana Dissanayake

2.26.1 Payment of Compensation for 400 displaced families on the Dambulla-Kurunegala railway line

The Hon. Member requested that necessary arrangements be made to resolve the above matter.

The former General Manager of Railways informed that the required funds has already been approved to pay compensation to those persons.

2.26.2 Repairing the pitted area of the Matale Depot premises

A request was made to renovate the pitted area of the Matale depot premises.

The Hon. State Minister informed that the relevant officials have agreed to carry out the preparation of Depot 107 Snow Land in coordination with the Road Development Authority.

2.26.3 Provision of bus repair equipment

About 11 buses a month are being repaired at the Kaludewa depot and a request was made to provide repair equipments for spare parts for the buses at that location.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the relevant officers to take action to provide repair equipment.

2.26.4 Providing tire refilling machinery to Kaludewala depot

Hon. Member requested to provide Tire Re-build Plant to the Kaludewala Depot.

The Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister informed that action will be taken to provide new production machinery to Ampara and Kaludewa.

2.26.5 Matale Ukuwela Transport problems

The Hon. Member requested to appoint a representative from the Railway Department to Ukuwela Divisional Coordinating Committee.

The Hon. Chairman agreed in this regard.

2.26.6 Cease political Victimization

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to cease political victimization and to terminate the jobs of extra staff from the offices.

The Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister informed that steps are being taken to terminate the jobs of extra staff from the offices.

2.26.7 Incentives for employees

The Hon. Member requested that necessary steps be taken to grant incentives, promotions, and to increase income and service quality to encourage employees who work hard.

2.27 Proper usage of buses on rural roads - Hon. Sudath Manjula

The Hon. Sudath Manjula requested to pay attention that the buses are operated properly on the rural roads of Ruwanwella, Dehiowita, Yatiyantota and Bulathkohupitiya.

The Hon. State Minister assured that the transport needs of those areas will be fulfilled without further delay.

2.28 Polonnaruwa Depot - Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

The Hon. Member inquired whether the Polonnaruwa Depot could be removed from that location.

The Hon. Dilum Amunugama, the State Minister also informed that the relevant development activities could be carried out by maintaining the same place at present as it will cost a huge amount of money.

2.29 Motions submitted by Hon. Faizal Qasim

2.29.1 Bus stop for Nintavur Kattapparam school children

Hon. Member stated that a bus had been operated by Kalmunai Depot for Nintavur Kattapparam school children and it has now been a bus stopped.

The Hon. State Minister of State assured to take action to operate a bus from the said location.

2.29.2 Stopping school bus operated from Kalmunai to Kulawadi Road

The Hon. Member informed that the school bus traveling from Kalmunai to Kulawadi Road has also been stopped.

3. The Committee adjourned at 12.45 pm *sine die*.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Urban Development and Housing
Second Meeting- 24 March 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath (State Minister)
Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa (State Minister)
Hon. Mujibur Rahman

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Ishaq Rahuman
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Nazeer Ahamed
Hon. Jagath Kumara
Hon. Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Milan Jayatilake
Hon. Nimal Piyatissa
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. M. Musharraf
Hon. Ali Sabri Rahim
Hon. B. Y. G. Ratnasekera
Hon. Ajith Rajapaksa
Hon. Gunathilake Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. D. Weerasinghe
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

1. Consideration of Annual Reports

After considering the following Annual Reports submitted to the Committee by the Parliament, the Committee agreed to the Annual Reports and it was decided to submit the Report of the Committee to the Parliament on 23rd April 2021 by the Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse, Chairman of the Committee.

- 1.1** Annual Report of the National Housing Development Authority for the year 2016
- 1.2** Annual Report of the Construction Industry Development Authority for the year 2016

2. Issues arising from the meeting schedule held on 24.11.2020

2.1 Improving the welfare and living conditions of the people living in urban settlements - Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara

The Director General of the Urban Settlement Development Authority, Mr. V.U.B. Udaya Nanayakkara informed the Committee that an action plan from 2020 – 2025 has been made and the necessary approval has been taken regarding the matter.

2.2 Motions submitted by Hon. Madura Vithanage

2.2.1 Introduction of online system for local government bodies

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that this online system was introduced to the Kotte Municipal Council according to the instructions received to introduce the online system for local government bodies.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority also informed that this would be introduced to the Gampaha and Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabhas as a pilot project.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority further informed that it is expected to carry out the activities of all local government bodies online in the future.

2.2.2 Weaknesses in the design approval process

The Hon. Member informed regarding the non-systematic and inefficient implementation of the plan approval process by the Local Government Institutions.

The Hon. Member requested that these activities be streamlined using new technology to minimize the involvement of the public in these processes.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that the process of approving the plans submitted to the Urban Development Authority has been completed within a period of 14-21 days.

2.2.3 Preparation of applications according to a standard format

The Hon. Member informed that the applications related to the process of approving the plans introduced by every Local Government Institution should be prepared in a simple standard format.

2.2.4 Having to refer to various government institutions to approve a plan

Hon. Member further stated that it is very inconvenient for investors to have to resort to several government institutions to get a plan approved.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority (UDA) informed that investors do not need to go to various offices as per the procedure to be followed in future.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority further stated that after submitting an application to the Urban Development Authority, the Urban Development Authority itself will forward the application through an online system to the required institutions and take appropriate action.

2.2.5 Position obtained by Sri Lanka in the Doing Business Index

The Hon. Member informed that Sri Lanka is not satisfied with its position in the Doing Business Index and this situation will have an impact on attracting investors.

The Hon. Member requested the Local Government Institutions to be informed about this.

He further said that the Urban Development Authority (UDA) has also decided to take action on buildings less than 9000 square feet as only buildings exceeding 9000 square feet will be considered in calculating the Doing Business Index.

2.2.6 Development of a methodology for the public to obtain information

The Hon. Member requested that a formal system be set up to provide information to the public on the process of approving plans in local government bodies when required.

2.2.7 Transferring the powers of the Urban Development Authority to the Local Government Institutions

The Hon. Milan Jayatilleke and the Hon. Kumarasiri Ratnayake informed that the non-transfer of powers of the Urban Development Authority to the Local Government Institutions at present has had a major impact on the activities of the people in the rural areas.

2.2.8 Illegal constructions carried out in urban areas

The Hon. Member informed that a large number of unauthorized constructions are taking place in urban areas and there are no regulations in this regard.

The Hon. Member requested that the Police Department be contacted under the Urban Development Authority to establish a unit that is constantly functioning to lodge such complaints.

2.2.9 Introducing a government policy on issues in plan approval process

Hon. Member informed that since the officers of the Urban Development Authority who are involved in the process of approving the plans change from time to time, they would give contradictory recommendations on the same matter.

Hon. Member further informed that it is necessary to formulate a government policy to take action on a matter.

2.3 Non-practicality of Engineers and Architects in Designing Buildings - Hon. Madura Vithanage

The Hon. State Minister (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa informed that this issue will be resolved as new guidelines for building design are to be gazetted in the future.

Hon. Member informed that it is necessary to register architects and engineers under the Urban Development Authority.

As these officers are currently registered under the Construction Industry Development Authority, a copy can be given to the Urban Development Authority and the Local Government Institutions.

The Chairman of the Construction Industry Development Authority informed that necessary steps could be taken in this regard.

2.4 Mirigama Town Planning - Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardena

The Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister informed that discussions were held with the Hon. Kokila Gunawardena regarding the town plan of Mirigama and this will be implemented in the future.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Hon. Members to refer the Urban Development Plans to the Urban Development Authority for implementation.

2.5 Strategic Development Project for Jaffna District - Hon. Angajan Ramanathan

The Hon. Chairman informed that this project is currently being implemented expeditiously.

2.6 Commencement of a housing project with the approval of the Urban Development Authority irrespective of the Local Government Institution - Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa

The Director General of the Urban Settlement Development Authority informed that even though the people have settled in the housing project which was approved in 2012-2013, this project was not completed.

The Hon. Chairman informed that its responsibility should be accepted by the Urban Development Authority as the approval had been given initially granted by the Urban Development Authority and directed the Authority to take follow-up actions by coordinating with the local authorities.

2.7 Establishing a Park in Meegahakotuwa, Kuliyaipitiya – Hon. Samanpriya Herath

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that there is no plan to establish a park as mentioned here.

2.8 Providing Infrastructure facilities for Housing Projects Started in the Galgamuwa Constituency – Hon. Asanka Nawarathna

The Hon. Chairman informed that necessary provisions be given from rural schemes in operation at present because infrastructure had not been provided for houses commenced in the recent past.

3. Motions submitted by Hon. Members

3.1 Request by Mr. M.S. Nanayakkara Residing at Rosewood, Buona Vista, Unawatuna to Obtain Approval for developing the Land – Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 05)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the report of this motion has been sent to the Hon. Member.

Hon. Member informed that the person making the request referred to above is a traditional settlor in the area and when he had made the request for developing the land, it had been turned down stating that the area was a sensitive one.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority explained about the activities and affairs permitted in the area concerned.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority further informed that approval could not be given for carrying out activities that caused an environmental destruction in the Roomassala area and that projects proposed would be subjected to scrutiny before granting approval.

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister, informed Hon. Member to prepare and present the proposal pertaining to the Project accurately.

Hon. Member informed that although the area had been declared a sensitive zone by Gazette Notification, government lands in the area had not been included in the sensitive area. Hon. Member insisted that the project must be implemented.

3.2 Motions Presented to the Members of Parliament to whom Counter-Proposal Reports were Applicable

3.2.1 Request made by Mr. Palitha Liyanage Residing at the address Hulandawa Watta, Akuressa that Roofing Sheets be Given for his House - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Proposal No. 27)

3.2.2 Request made by Hon. Rauff Hakeem pertaining to the Granting of a Parcel of Land 52.18 perches in extent from the lands numbered 7388 and 7015 belonging to the Urban Development Authority located on the St. Sebastian Street, Colombo 12 to the WP/CMB/ Al Hiqma College - Hon. Rauff Hakeem (Proposal No. 33)

3.2.3 Request Made by Hon. Rauff Hakeem that deeds be granted to home owners who have been residing for over 30 years in the Mohideen Watta Housing Scheme situated within the Galle Four Gravets - Hon. Rauff Hakeem (Proposal No. 34)

4. Other Matters

4.1 Motions submitted by Hon. K.P.S. Kumarasiri

4.1.1 Nochchiyagama Town Development Plan

Hon. Member requested that, as preparing the town development plan for Nochchiyagama town had been commenced, action be taken to provide the amenities, viz. bus station, public toilet and jogging paths.

4.1.2 Application for Housing Loans

Hon. Member informed that there had been a delay in granting loans to people who had applied for housing loans residing in his District.

4.1.3 Depriving of the Opportunity to Vend within the Area Close to the Samadhi Statue in Anuradhapura

Hon. Member informed the Committee that, although approval from all the stakeholders had been received, the chief incumbent priest had expressed his objections regarding the opportunity given to people to be engaged in vending in the area close to the Samadhi Statue in Anuradhapura.

The Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister, directed the Director General of the Urban Development Authority to meet the chief incumbent of the temple with the Chairman of the Urban Development Authority and discuss the matter.

4.2 Motions submitted by Hon. Milan Jayathilaka

4.2.1 Kirindiwela Town Development Plan

Hon. Member inquired about the construction of a place for self-employed persons to vend behind the Pradeshiya Sabha building in front of the Kirindiwela Bus Station and developing the playground which is situated in that same place. Hon. Jayathilaka also asked about the restoration of the Kimbulwilawatta Tank.

4.2.2 Handing over the Kirindiwela Bus Station

Hon. Member requested that action be taken to hand over the Kirindiwela Bus Station to the Sri Lanka Transport Board.

4.3 Motions submitted by Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

4.3.1 Ahangama Town Development Plan

Hon. Member stated that an alternative road (by-pass) is necessary around the town centre to address the traffic congestion and other problems existing in the Ahangama town and requested that steps be taken to overcome them.

4.3.2 Imaduwa Town Development Plan

Hon. Member requested that the proposed Town Development Plan for the Imaduwa town be finalised.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that the funds have been allocated to provide the infrastructural facilities with regards to the Imaduwa Town Development Plan

4.3.3 Bogahagoda Town Development Plan

Hon. Member requested to take care on preventing the intervention done by other parties in preparing and implementing the Bogahagoda Town Development Plan.

4.3.4 Elpitiya Town Development Plan

Hon. Member requested that a presentation be made regarding the implementation of the Elpitiya Town Development Plan at the next Ministerial Consultative Committee meeting.

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister informed that implementation of town development plans had not occurred in a proper manner in the previous period and implementation of projects under the plans concerned would be carried out according to a priority order at present.

4.4 Motions submitted by Hon. Jagath Kumara

4.4.1 Minimizing traffic Congestion Existing in the Kaduwela and Battaramulla Towns

Hon. Member requested that necessary steps be taken towards implementing a courses of action to minimize traffic congestion associated with Kaduwela and Battaramulla towns.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that construction of elevated roads had been commenced as a remedy for this problem.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority also informed that town development plans had already been prepared for Malabe, Kaduwela, Athurugiriya and Battaramulla towns.

4.4.2 Water Clogging in the Playground in Padukka Town

Hon. Member informed that water pooling in the playground that had been constructed in the Padukka town and governed by the Urban Development Authority would not drain off.

At the same time, Hon. Jagath Kumara requested that, as the Urban Development Authority had not handed it over to the Pradeshiya Sabha,

developments necessary to the playground be carried out and the playground be handed over to the Pradeshiya Sabha.

4.4.3 Providing Aid for Housing

The Hon. Member requested that a proper course of action be put in place to grant housing aid to low-income earners.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that aid could be provided for partly-completed houses in urban settings by allocating some provisions under the Urban Settlements Development Authority.

4.4.4 Providing a Playground for the Malabe Model Junior School

The Hon. Member requested that the Halbarawa Playground presently used by the Malabe Model Junior School be vested in that School.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that the land concerned, being a private land, could be obtained for the School by giving its owner some other land.

4.4.5 Notice to Remove the Buildings of the Kothalawala Buddhist Contemplation Centre

As notice had been issued to remove certain buildings of the Kothalawala Buddhist Contemplation Centre due to their not having been approved, the Hon. Jagath Kumara made a request to the effect that a solution be given to the problem.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that the problem could be resolved by getting the plans approved by the Kaduwela Municipal Council, the entity for approving the plans concerned.

The Hon. Member requested the Urban Development Authority to intervene and get the approval as the Kaduwela Municipal Council would not intervene in the matter.

The Hon. Member informed that after removing the part regarding which the court decision had been given for removal, the Urban Development Authority could give its approval for the remaining buildings.

4.5 Giving a Fruitful Service to People within the Colombo Municipal Council Limits – Hon. Yadamini Gunawardhana

The Hon. Member informed that one could not be satisfied about the efficiency of the services provided by the Colombo Municipal Council and that services provided were confined to a limited populace and a limited area.

The Hon. Member requested that organizations associated with the Urban Development Authority and the National Housing Development Authority such as Urban Settlements Development Authority, Urban Habitats Development Project and the Bureau that provided infrastructure to people etc should be re-activated.

Hon. Member also informed that statistics and data regarding the needs of the general public in the Colombo Municipal Council area could be furnished.

Hon. Member made a request that school and municipal playgrounds, recreational centres and rest areas at housing schemes etc be developed.

The Hon. Chairman requested the Hon. Yadamini Gunawardhana to provide the statistics and data concerned.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority presented a detailed description about the development activities and the results of the surveys recently carried out by the Urban Development Authority regarding the city of Colombo.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that the relocation activities were being carried out in a proper manner at present.

4.6 Motions submitted by Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem

4.6.1 Obtaining Houses for People of Puttalam District

The Hon. Member informed that no housing projects had been implemented thus far for people in the Puttalam District.

The Hon. Chairman informed that housing process functions with total transparency and in selecting grama niladhari divisions, houses are provided in respect of the ones not suitable for dwelling.

4.6.2 Norochcholai Economic Centre

As the facilities at the Norachcolai Economic Centre remained at a very low level, the Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem requested that the work pertaining to it be expedited.

4.7 Moronthuduwa Town Development Plan – Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera

The Hon. Member inquired about the implementation of the Moronthuduwa Town Development Plan. The Hon. Member requested that special attention be given towards the construction of the Bus Station.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority stated that it was underway.

The Hon. Chairman directed that a progress of the town development plans that had already commenced implementation be submitted to the next meeting of the Ministerial Consultative Committee.

4.8 Slave Island –Dilapidated Multi-Storeyed Housing Units Situated in Wekanda Area – Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Member informed that dwellers of the very old multi-storeyed housing complex of 21 flats belonging to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing situated at Wekanda area in Slave Island be evacuated and relocated to some other place as the complex was now in a state of dilapidation.

The Director General of the Urban Development Authority informed that as per the Cabinet Approval obtained in the year 2017 to grant those houses from the Henemulla area, those houses had been reserved for these people.

The Hon. Member further informed that the people residing in these houses are unwilling to settle in low rent income houses as they even have permanent deeds for their flats.

Hon. (Dr.) Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister, directed that the people concerned be informed to settle temporarily in the Henemulla area until the construction of the proposed new houses on the land in Slave Island on which the housing complex now stood.

4.9 Non-Completion of the Construction Work Commenced in Eravur – Hon. Nazir Ahmed

The Hon. Member informed that the construction work pertaining to the public market, the cultural centre and the library commenced in Eravur by

the Sri Lanka State Engineering Corporation had not been completed thus far.

4.10 Motions submitted by Hon. Amara Keerthi Athukorale

4.10.1 Preparing Jogging Tracks

Hon. Member enquired about implementation of the proposal to grant a jogging track for Giritale presented by him as per the proposals obtained from Chairpersons of District Coordination Committees for preparing jogging tracks.

4.10.2 Hingurakgoda and Bakamuna Town Development Plans

The Hon. Member informed that the Hingurakgoda and Bakamuna Town Development Plans had not been in progress.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the proposals pertaining to town development plans presented by Hon. Members would be implemented in due course.

4.10.3 Obtaining the Tourism Centre in Polonnaruwa for a Hotel School

The Hon. Member informed that the Polonnaruwa Tourism Centre, which had been constructed by the Urban Development Authority, was requested for establishing a Hotel School and requested that attention be paid to the matter.

4.10.4 Non-Receipt of Compensation to People Affected when Implementing the Kaduruwela Town Development Plan

The Hon. Member informed that action had not been taken to pay compensation to people affected by the Kaduruwela Town Development Plan in implementing it.

4.10.5 Polonnaruwa Administrative Complex Building

Hon. Member informed that attention be paid regarding the rent quoted for the building in which the Polonnaruwa Administrative Complex would be housed, as it represented a high value.

4.10.6 Multi-Storeyed Housing Complex Proposed to be Constructed in Hingurakgoda

Hon. Member informed that an Office of Superintendent of Police had been functioning in the land set aside for the multi-storeyed housing complex (tenement) proposed to be constructed in Hingurakgoda and the action had not been taken pertaining to handing over of the land for this purpose.

4.11 Motions submitted by Hon. Ishak Rahuman

4.11.1 Granting Toilet Facilities to People in the Kekirawa Tamil Village

The Hon. Member had informed that toilet facilities had not been available for people in the Tamil village located in Kekirawa and he thanked the relevant officers for taking action after being informed of it.

4.11.2 Deficiencies Existing in Houses in the Neelawi Village in Anuradhapura District

The Hon. Member informed that people in the Neelawi village in the Anuradhapura District lacked toilet facilities and many lapses existed in their houses as well.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Hon. Rahuman to hand over information pertaining to it to the officers of the Urban Development Authority. The Hon. Chairman also assured that the officers would focus their attention in this regard accordingly.

4.12 Motions submitted by Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

4.12.1 Non-Payment for Construction Work Carried out under the Deyata Kirula Programme

The Hon. Member made a request that, as making of payments for the construction work carried out by the State Engineering Corporation under the Deyata Kirula Programme in the year 2013 had been suspended during the past period, steps be taken to expedite payments.

4.12.2 Work on Construction of Buildings at Several Temples within the Dodamgaslanda Constituency

Although work had been commenced in several temples within the Dodamgaslanda Constituency for construction of buildings, it was not continuing.

The Hon. Chairman directed that this be referred to the Hon. Prime Minister as it had been informed that the Hon. Prime Minister would take a decision regarding these affairs.

4.13 Motions submitted by Hon. Sudath Manjula

4.13.1 “Kelanivalley Tourism Corridor” Project

The Hon. Member informed that the support of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing would be expected in implementing the “Kelanivalley Tourism Corridor” Project.

4.13.2 Relocation of the Police Station Situated in the Ruwanwella Town

The Hon. Member requested that the Police Station of the Ruwanwella town be relocated at some other place as it was housed in an old tourist inn.

The Hon. Member also requested that, having done so, action be taken to transform it to a place of attraction for tourists during urban development.

4.13.3 Kelanivalley Stadium Situated at Thalduwa in Ruwanwella

The Hon. Member informed that the Kelanivalley Stadium Situated at Thalduwa belonging to the Urban Development Authority was in a dilapidated state.

The Hon. Member also requested that the Gem Corporation, the Urban Development Authority and the local authorities should get together to focus attention on its administrative affairs as gems could be found buried in the site.

4.13.4 Housing Complex for the People with Middle Class income within the Dehiovita Divisional Secretariat Division

The Hon. Member requested that the Housing Complex Project for the people with Middle Class within the Dehiovita Divisional Secretariat Division be implemented expeditiously as a land had been allotted for its construction.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that the expectation would be to consult Hon. Member regarding the development activities of the Kegalle District in future.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the urban development work associated with the Ruwanwella town had been commenced by now and the follow-up activities would be carried out accordingly.

5. At 12.30 p.m., the Committee was adjourned *sine die*.
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**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Lands
Second Meeting- 24 March 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena (Chair)
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

Non- Committee Members Present

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Waruna Liyanage
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1.1 Plotting out Lands belonging to the Land Reform Commission on which People have Settled and Distributing the Plots to the Settlers – Hon. Milan Jayathilaka

Additional Secretary (Lands) informed the Committee that the Circular had already been issued.

1.2 Programme to Encourage Entrepreneurs at Village Level – Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi

The Director General of the Department of Land Use informed the Committee that the closing date for accepting applications has been extended.

Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayake also made a request that the District Development Committee and the Divisional Development Committee be informed when granting lands to entrepreneurs.

1.3 Charging of High Fees by the Land Reform Commission for Land Survey Activities – Hon. Mayadunne Chinthaka Amal

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that payments are made in accordance with the Circular issued by the Department of Survey and surveying activities are carried out by surveyors registered with the Land Reform Commission.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission further informed the Committee that he intended to formulate a methodology to collect money through the intermediacy of a Director stationed at District Offices or a field officer and the possibility of amending the Circular pertaining to fees charged for survey activities would be discussed with the Department of Survey.

1.4 Land Problems Prevailing in Hiniduma Area – Hon. Sampath Athukorala

The Commissioner General of Settlement of Titles informed the Committee that starting of new offices has become a problem due to staff shortages. The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to take prompt measures in this regard.

1.5 Awarding Deeds to 800 People in the Alakattukara Area in Mannar – Hon. K. Kader Masthan

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that action would be taken to open an office in Mannar.

The Hon. Chairman directed that action be taken to open the office quickly.

2. Other Matters

2.1 Motions submitted by Hon. Rohana Dissanayake

2.1.1 Expediting the Awarding of Deeds for Lands

Hon. Member informed the Committee that there are a large number of people who had not been provided with land deeds in his area.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Chairman of the Land Reform Commission to expedite the activities under the mobile programme styled “Land Commission to the Village”.

2.1.2 Developing the Ratwatte Estate Land

Hon. Member requested the Committee to ensure the land concerned, which is around 150 acres in extent, be put to productive use.

The Commissioner General of Lands informed the Committee that appropriate steps would be taken regarding the land in consultation with the Janatha Estate Development Board as the land belongs to that Board.

The Hon. Chairman directed that the land be acquired by giving written notice to the Janatha Estate Development Board and it be used for the village expansion programme.

2.1.3 Obtaining Two Lands for Establishing Police Stations in Ukuwela and Kandenuwara Areas in Matale

The Hon. Chairman directed the Commissioner General of Lands to take necessary steps in this regard.

2.2 Motions submitted by Hon. Waruna Prabhath Liyanage

2.2.1 Problems Relating to the Land Belonging to the Pelmadulla Police Station.

As the land allotted for the Police Station has been occupied without permission, the Hon. Liyanage requested that necessary measures be taken. The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that a complaint has been lodged with the Police Station against the person involved in this act.

The Hon. Chairman directed that legal action be taken against the person.

2.2.2 Misuse of Lands Acquired under Village Expansion Programme

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that these lands have been acquired illegally.

The Hon. Chairman directed that legal action be taken against the persons concerned as they had been engaged in forgery and other illegal acts.

2.2.3 Securing the Attendance of an Officer of the Land Reform Commission at the Meetings of the District Development Committee and the Divisional Development Committee

The Hon. Member pointed out the importance of engaging an officer at the meetings of these committees.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that a letter has been sent directing that steps to send the District Director or some other officer to these committee meetings.

2.3 Motions submitted by Hon. Charles Nirmalanadan

2.3.1 Obtaining the Service of an Accountant to the District Survey Office in Mannar

The Hon. Member requested that the service of an accountant be made available to the Office in Mannar.

The Additional Surveyor General (Central) informed the Committee that the service of an accountant has already been provided.

2.3.2 Getting Forest Lands Released

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to release forest lands.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Secretary to the Ministry to solve this problem through the involvement of the Department of Forest Conservation and Wild Life.

2.4 Mapping the Land of the Kilinochchi District – Hon. S. Sritharan

The Hon. Member requested that the Santhapuram village be linked to Kilinochchi as the people of Santhapuram have had to go to Mulativu town 40 kilometres away for getting administrative matters done instead of going to Mulativu Town only 4 kilometres away as the village has been brought under the Mulativu Administrative area in mapping of lands.

The Hon. Member also requested that the small area of land in Murukandi lying between the railway line and the A-9 route and the 6 km stretch of coast linking the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts be also brought under the Kilinochchi administrative area.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that it does not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Lands and said that a request should be made to the Delimitation Commission.

2.5 Motions submitted by Hon. S. M. M. Musharaff

2.5.1 Getting Lands Belonging to Land Reform Commission Situated in Oluvil Area

The Hon. Member requested that lands be released for a playground and a license be issued.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that prompt steps will be taken to release the lands.

2.5.2 Taking Action to Resolve Land Issues Prevailing in Potuvil Area

Hon. Member requested that action be taken to resolve land issues of the area.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Commissioner General of Lands to hold a meeting (land kachcheri) to resolve land issues.

2.6 Motions submitted by Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem

2.6.1 Granting Land Title to People Settled in Lands Belonging to Land Reform Commission Situated in Puttalam and Kalpitiya Areas

The Hon. Member requested that title to the lands be given to people residing in the lands concerned.

The Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan opined that it would not be suitable to give title factories yet another land if they have title to a land in Mannar area as well.

The Hon. Chairman and the Additional Surveyor General (Central Province) informed the Committee that these activities would be done soon as arrangements would be made to recruit officers and workers necessary for surveying.

The Hon. Chairman directed that a Circular be issued to Divisional Secretary and the Chairman of the Divisional Development Committee regarding this matter.

2.6.2 Awarding Deeds for Lands of Temples, Churches and Mosques

The Hon. Member requested that deeds be granted as there are no deeds for the lands.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that action would be taken to grant the deeds concerned and deeds would be granted in favor of the Working Committee of the Temple and the chief incumbent of temple.

The Hon. Chairman directed that arrangements be made to issue deeds in favor of the “Chief Incumbent”.

2.7 Motions submitted by Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa

2.7.1 Taking Action to Grant Government Lands to Landless People

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to distribute lands to the people who do not own a land as a considerable number of land are available.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Commissioner General of Lands to solve those problems by holding a land kachcheri meeting.

2.7.2 Giving Recognition to “Bimsaviya” Title Certificate

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the Committee at the Urban Development Authority does not accept the Bimsaviya deed when giving permits to construct houses.

The Commissioner General of Title Settlement informed the Committee that a Circular has been issued to the Urban Development Authority informing them to take steps necessary to give recognition to the Bimsaviya title certificate.

2.7.3 Giving a Road for People to Traverse through the Government Land in Alawala Area

The Hon. Member requested that action be taken to give a road through this land belonging to the Divisional Secretary.

The Hon. Chairman directed that an enquiry be conducted in this regard.

The Commissioner General of Lands requested that he be furnished with the necessary details.

2.8 Motions submitted by Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake

2.8.1 Road not being Marked During Bimsaviya Survey Activities

Hon. Member informed the Committee that the recipients of lands have been faced with many problems as roads had not been marked accurately during Bimsaviya survey activities in the Rideegama area in Dodamgasland.

The Hon. Chairman directed that Bimsaviya Survey issues be resolved with the intervention of the Divisional Secretary of the area and the Chairman of the Divisional Development Committee.

2.8.2 Delay in Granting Deeds for Lands Belonging to the Land Reform Commission within Ganewatta Divisional Secretariat Division

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that no deeds have been granted for the lands belonging to the Land Reform Commission distributed among people in Warawala Colony.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that action would be taken to grant deeds to the people concerned.

2.9 Motions submitted by Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Liyanage

2.9.1 Delay in Issuing Bimsaviya Title Certificates

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that, in spite of the conclusion of Bimsaviya survey activities within the Weligepola Divisional Secretariat Division, deeds had not been granted.

The Commissioner General of Title Settlements informed the Committee that if information necessary would be provided, the matter could be looked into and necessary steps taken.

2.9.2 Distributing among People the Land Belonging to Land Reform Commission Situated within the Godakawela Divisional Secretariat Division

The Hon. Chairman instructed that a written request be made as it could be distributed under the village expansion programme.

2.10 Motions submitted by Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksa

2.10.1 Obtaining a Vehicle for the District Office of the Land Reform Commission in the Kandy District

The Hon. Member made a request that a vehicle be provided.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that necessary steps would be taken to provide vehicles necessary to District Offices.

The Hon. Mayadunne Chinthaka Amal also requested that action be taken to provide vehicles according to some criteria according to the number of Divisional Secretariat Divisions.

2.10.2 Accelerating Land Surveying Activities

The Hon. Member requested that land surveying activities be expedited, be it through a mobile service.

The Additional Surveyor General (Central) informed the Committee that a pilot project has been implemented to fast track land surveying activities through authorized surveyors using new technology.

2.11 Using for a Development Purpose the Land in the Naththandiya Town Set Aside for the Glass Factory– Hon. Ashoka Priyantha

The Hon. Member requested that the whole of the land concerned be included in a development plan instead of dividing it.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Commissioner General of Lands to look into the matter and take necessary steps.

2.12 Motions submitted by Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayake

2.12.1 Granting New Deeds According to the Minimum Allotment Limit of Jayabhoomi and Swarnabhoomi Deeds

The Hon. Member requested that the old deeds be revoked and new ones issued as the minimum allotment limit of such lands has changed.

The Commissioner General of Lands informed the Committee that, as a problematic situation has arisen with regard to granting new deeds, deeds would be given after consultation with the Department of Survey.

2.12.2 Giving Recognition to Surveys Conducted by Licenced Surveyors

The Hon. Member requested that survey activities carried out by licenced surveyors be given recognition because at present they are not recognized by the Divisional Secretary.

Additional Surveyor General (Central) informed the Committee that survey of state lands is done under the supervision of the Department while no supervision takes place when surveying private lands.

The Commissioner General of Lands also informed that the surveys carried out by licenced surveyors would be accepted as long as there would be no problematic situation.

2.12.3 Illegal Encroachment of the Rubber-Cultivated Land Belonging to the Land Reform Commission in Monarakelewatta

The Hon. Member requested that arrangements be made to take necessary steps as illegal entry into and occupation of this land takes place.

The Chairman of the Land Reform Commission informed the Committee that arrangements would be made to take necessary steps in this regard.

2.13 Motions submitted by the Hon. Selvaraja Kajendran

2.13.1 Deeds not Being Given Despite Grant of Lands

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that although lands had been given to people in Vattakachchi, Iramanathapuram, Uruththirapuram, Akkarajan, Skandapuram and Kilinochchi areas within the Kilinochchi District, deeds had not been granted to them.

Hon. Member requested that deeds be given as they had not been able to transfer the lands to their children.

2.13.2 Granting Lands Situated in Palai to People from Other Areas

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that the lands in Palai area belonging to the Land Reform Commission were being given to parties from other Districts.

The Hon. Chairman assured the Committee that action would be taken to distribute Government lands and lands belonging to the Land Reform Commission to people from the respective District.

2.13.3 Granting Deeds for 2200 Acres Situated in the Western part of Mulativu District

The Hon. Member informed the Committee that deeds had not been granted in respect of 2200 acres situated within the western part of the Mulativu District and requested that action be taken to grant deeds.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that solutions would be given to land issues by holding land Kachcheris.

2.14 Motions submitted by Hon. Hon. Mayadunne Chinthaka Amal

2.14.1 Granting Suitable Lands to People in Kalpitiya Area

The Hon. Chairman directed that the Committee be informed of lands identified as suitable in the area, if any.

2.14.2 Adopting Some Methodology Regarding Grantees

The Hon. Member requested that some methodology be followed in this regard.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the relevant Bill is scheduled to be presented to Parliament and requested that necessary amendments be moved.

2.15 Problem Regarding Local Government Roads and Settlement Roads within the Ruwanwella Divisional Secretariat Division – Hon. Sudath Manjula

Hon. Member informed the Committee the obscurity of boundaries led to this problem and requested that surveying be carried out under the Bimsaviya Programme and the issues be resolved.

The Commissioner General of Title Settlement informed the Committee that the activities concerned would be delayed due to staff shortages.

The Hon. Chairman directed that the possibility of establishing a Bimsaviya Office in the area be explored.

2.16 Not Granting Deeds for Lands in the Thirukkovil Divisional Secretariat Area – Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan

Hon. Member informed the Committee that deeds have not been granted for lands in the area concerned.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Commissioner General of Lands to take necessary steps in this regard.

2.17 Motions submitted by Hon. K. Kader Masthan

2.17.1 Not Granting Deeds for the Government Land Distributed in Musali Divisional Secretariat Area

The Hon. Chairman called for necessary lists of names and directed the Commissioner General of Lands to take necessary steps.

2.17.2 Granting Deeds to People Settled on Lands of Land Reform Commission

Hon. Member requested that action be taken to grant deeds for lands situated in Periyakamam, Silvehera, Talaimjannar and Pesalai.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Committee that action would be taken to solve these problems by holding land kachcheris.

The Hon. Chairman directed the Chairman of the Land Reform Commission and the Commissioner General of Lands to visit the area, conduct an enquiry and take necessary steps.

2.17.3 Putting the Official Residence of the Settlement Officer in Okkampitiya Settlement to a Productive Purpose

Hon. Member requested that the official residence, which is in a state of dilapidation, be put to a productive purpose.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to open a “Bimsaviy” office in the mentioned official residence.

3. The Committee adjourned at 3.45 p.m. *sine die*

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Public Services,
Provincial Councils and Local Government
Second Meeting- 07 April 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon (Chairperson)
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe (State Minister)
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Sudath Manjula

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. D. B. Herath
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena

1. Consideration of Annual Reports

The following annual reports submitted to Parliament were considered and agreed upon by the Committee, where upon it was decided that the Hon. Janaka Bandara Thennakoon, Chairman of the committee should present the Report of the Committee regarding the Annual Reports to the Parliament.

1.1 Annual Report of Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance for the year 2017

2. Matters arising from the meeting schedule held on 23.11.2020

2.1 Vacancies in Local Government Institutions – Hon. Madhura Withanage (4.11.1 of minutes dated 23.11.2020)

Hon. Member informed that to take expeditious action to fill the vacancies in Administrative Service in the Local Government Institutes.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the appointments of Accountants and Engineering officers could be given within the next few weeks and the

Ministry is coordinating with the Department of Examinations to conduct the exams related to the next year appointments and for the other exams too.

2.2 Establishment of new Local Government Institutions and updating of existing Local Government Institutions - Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam (4.12.2 of minutes dated 23.11.2021)

Mr. S.D.A.B. Boralessa, the Secretary to the State Ministry informed that the Provincial Chief Secretaries were advised to decide and recommend the necessary areas after getting the approval from the Cabinet of Ministers.

2.3 Establishment of four new Pradeshiya Sabhas in the Northern Province – Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan (4.19.2 of minutes dated 23.11.2021)

The Secretary to the State Ministry informed that this proposal has already been sent for the recommendations of the Chief Secretary of the Northern Province and there is a delay due to the objections and political issues in Local Government Institutes.

Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that this was temporally on hold due to the prevailing pandemic situation as an additional financial provisions are needed to establish new Local Government Institutes.

3. Consideration of motions

3.1 Request made by Mrs. W. P. T. Abeygunawardena, a resident of "Chathuri", Sylvadelwatta, Kekanadurra regarding the situation caused by connecting a drain to her land (Hon. Buddhika Pathirana – Motion No.28)

Committee was informed that the reply report regarding this matter has been sent to the Hon. Member by the Ministry.

4. Other Matters – Discussions on Ministerial Affairs

4.1 Motions submitted by Hon. Ajith Rajapaksha

4.1.1 Confirmation of employees of Southern Provincial Council

Hon. Member informed that an issue was arose due to an objection of Ministry of Finance for nearly about 1000 employees who were recruited within the approved employee amount of Southern Provincial Council.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that the arrangements will be made in the future in this regards.

4.2 Motions submitted by Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka

4.2.2 On giving appointments to the Development Officers as Divisional Secretaries

Hon. Member requested that the Acting Development Officers to be confirmed as Divisional Secretaries in 09 Pradeshiya Sabhas of Monaragala district.

4.2.2 Request to provide a fire engine for Monaragala Pradeshiya Sabha

Hon. Member requested to provide a fire engine and other facilities for the fire brigade of Monaragala Pradeshiya Sabha.

4.2.3 Converting Monaragala and Katharagama into Municipal Councils

Hon. Member proposed to upgrade Monaragala and Katharagama Local Government Institutions into Municipal Councils.

Secretary to the Ministry informed the Committee that this has been temporally on hold due to the prevailing pandemic situation and the need of additional financial provisions to establish new Local Government Institutions.

4.3 Motions submitted by Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha

4.3.1 Regarding the termination of recruitments for the posts of driver and office assistant in Poojapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha

Hon. Member informed that the recruitment for the posts of driver and office assistant had been terminated and the applicants face injustice as the vacancies were filled from the people of 100,000 jobs program.

4.3.2 Converting Akurana into a Municipal Council

Hon. Member proposed to upgrade the Akurana Pradeshiya Sabha into a Municipal Council.

4.3.3 Request to conduct a delimitation again for Harispattuwa electorate

Hon. Member requested to conduct a delimitation again in the areas belong to Harispattuwa electorate as it consists of 03 Pradeshiya Sabhas and to nominate as a multiple seat or to divide into 03 electorates.

4.4 Motions submitted by Hon. Madhura Withanage

4.4.1 Regarding the Progress Review of Local Government Institutions

Hon. Member requested that a process to be formulated based on the Ministry to review the progress of Local Government Institutions monthly.

Secretary to the State Ministry emphasized that according to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, the oversight of Local Government Institutions has been entrusted to the Provincial Councils and discussions will be held on with the Provincial Councils to formulate a process to oversight the aforesaid institutions.

4.4.2 Regarding the introduction of an Online Platform for Local Government Institutions

It was informed that the functions like to charge assessment rates and getting the approvals for business by introducing an Online Platform for Local Government Institutions and the support of ICTA could be asked.

4.4.3 Regarding the correct delimitation of the land area of the capital Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte

Hon. Member noted the attention of the committee regarding the clear difference between the city boundary of the Capital Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte in the gazette which published naming the Capital of the country as Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte in 1985 and the gazette published by marking the Municipal Council of Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that a request had been made by the Hon. Speaker of the Parliament to take over the Parliament Complex under one Local Government Institute and no agreement could be reached regarding this matter.

Also he informed that the Secretary General of the Parliament was informed regarding this matter.

4.5 Motions submitted by Hon. Weerasumana Weerasingha

4.5.1 Obtaining a fire brigade unit for Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha

Hon. Member proposed to provide a fire brigade unit for Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha in Matara district.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that this necessity will be fulfilled by preparing a program regarding this matter.

4.6 Motions submitted by Hon. Sivagnanam Sritharan

4.6.1 Establishing new Local Government Institutions in the areas of Kilinochchi and Jaffna.

Hon. Member informed that the separation of Pradeshiya Sabhas, Municipal Councils and Urban Councils in Kilinochchi, Jaffna and other areas has not been done yet.

Hon. Member informed that Kilinochchi and Mulativu do not have Municipal Councils and Kilinochchi does not have a Pradeshiya Sabha.

Moreover, Hon. Member informed that Kandawalei, Ottisuttan and Marudankeni areas do not have a Pradeshiya Sabha and inquired about the progress of providing Local Government Institutions to the above mentioned areas.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that after having recommendations by the Chief Secretary of the Province after the discussions, the Hon. Members would be informed and the necessary actions would be taken.

4.7 Motions submitted by Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka

4.7.1 Regarding the problem of the employees of Mathale Urban Council

Hon. Member informed that the approved number of employees of Mathale Municipal Council is 516, 406 employees are currently engaging in work and requested to provide 258 employees in addition to the aforesaid amount.

4.7.2 Regarding the negligence of road maintenance by the Pradeshiya Sabhas

Hon. Member requested to repair the roads that have been narrowed as the roads of remote villages had not been maintained by the Pradeshiya Sabhas.

4.7.3 Regarding an island wide tree plantation program

Hon. Member proposed that hundred thousands of trees could be planted by issuing a Ministerial Circular to implement an island wide tree plantation program involving all the Local Government Institutions.

4.7.4 Lack of machinery in Local Government Institutions.

Hon. Member informed that the delay of road constructions, repairing and maintenance caused due to the lack of machinery in Local Government Institutions.

4.7.5 Regarding the decline of the quality of Local Government Institutions

Hon. Member informed that as the quality of the Local Government Institutions have been declined the officers who will be recruited need to be given a special training.

4.8 Motions submitted by Hon. Nazeer Ahamad

4.8.1 Regarding the Financial provisions allocated for Eastern Provincial Council

230 million have been approved under PSDG fund for Eastern province and Hon. Member requested to increase the above mentioned amount of financial provisions.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that this matter could be considered if there is a shortage after discussing it with the Provincial Chief Minister.

4.8.2 Regarding the inclusion of the employees recruited on casual basis on Eastern Provincial Council.

Hon. Member inquired about the possibility of including about 900 employees who were recruited on casual basis for the Eastern Provincial Council in 2015 to the 100,000 Jobs program.

4.8.3 Regarding the repairing of Local Government Institutions

Hon. Member requested to repair the remaining 15 Local Government Institutions as 30 from 45 Local Government Institutions have already been repaired in the Eastern Province.

4.8.4 Regarding the need of a JCB machine for burial

Hon. Member requested a JCB machine to the Pradeshiya Sabha where Ottamawadi area belongs as the above mentioned area was permissioned to bury the bodies of the people who died from Covid-19.

4.8.5 Obtaining the vehicles needed for Eravur Municipal Council

Hon. Member requested to provide a tractor and a backhoe machine for Eravur Municipal Council.

4.9 Regarding the placement of graduates recruited in 2019

Hon. Weerasumana Weerasingha requested to give the appointments to the graduates recruited in 2019 within the districts they live even though it's not a place closed to their residence as those graduates had been jobless for many years.

Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala inquired about the graduate vacancies within Polonnaruwa district.

Hon. H.M. Nandasena inquired about giving appointments to the graduates of Padaviya area in Anuradhapura district to Mulativu district.

Hon. D.B. Herath requested to give a working place considering the residing place of the graduates of Kurunegala and Kegalle districts as most of the appointments were given out of their residing district.

Hon. S.M.M. Musharof inquired about the number of graduates and number of vacancies in Ampara district. Hon. Members further pointed out that if any injustice happened when placing these graduates the government would face inconveniences.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that there is a difficulty in giving the appointments within the residing district when placing the graduates recruited in 2019.

Secretary to the Ministry informed the committee that the appointments will be made only to the vacant positions.

Secretary to the Ministry further informed that about 10000 appointments out of 14500 are ladies and there is more chance in giving the appointments to the residing area of the people who apply to work in Provincial Councils.

4.10 Motions submitted by Hon. Sudath Manjula

4.10.1 Legality of the gazette announcement on the roads belong to Local Government Institutions

Hon. Member informed that the issues arise when proving the legality of the gazette announcement in the court due to the absence of a boundary plan

issued by the Survey Department when gazetting the roads belong to Local Government Institutions.

Hon. Member informed that the primary cause of this issue is the lack of funding in Local Government Institutions, which was required to pay for Survey Department as the survey fees when measuring the roads.

Legal Officer to the State Ministry explained to the committee that the law relevant to this matter mentioned that only regarding the road must be gazetted and the way of gazetting had been stated in the sub laws composed by the Local Government Institutions.

Hon. Member inquired as whether it is possible to measure the roads of Kegalle electorate through the Bim Saviya program.

Hon. Chairman informed that if a request is made, the measuring could be conducted through Bim Saviya program.

4.10.2 People's displeasure with Local Government institutions

Since the public has expressed dissatisfaction with local government institutions, the Hon. Member requested that the local government service and expert service that are unique to local government institutions be restored.

4.10.3 The influence of Local Government Institutions on business

The Hon. Member inquired whether it is possible to implement a national program to identify business opportunities in those areas and provide them to young entrepreneurs through a collaboration between young entrepreneurs and State Ministry of Provincial Councils, and Local Government.

4.10.4 Multi-purpose building in Amithirigala area

Hon. Member made a request to build a multipurpose building with library amenities for the city of Amithirigala in the Ruwanwella Constituency with this year's financial allocation as the land has been donated for this purpose.

4.10.5 Taking over Galapitamada private market to Pradeshiya Sabha.

Hon. Member requested to provide necessary financial support to take over the Galapitamada private market to the Pradeshiya Sabha as the Pradeshiya Sabha does not have the necessary financial allocations.

4.11 Motions submitted by Hon. Samanpriya Herath

4.11.1 Summoning of Provincial Chief Secretaries

Hon. Member informed that a proposal was presented to convert the Kuliapitiya Urban Council into a Municipal Council and inquired regarding the progress of this matter.

Additional Secretary to the State Ministry, Mr. Prabhath Abeywardhana informed that the District Committee recommendation regarding the proposal to convert the Kuliapitiya Urban Council into a Municipal Council has not received yet.

4.12 Motions submitted by Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku

4.12.1 Obtaining the necessary vehicles to Pradeshiya Sabhas

Hon. Member requested to provide a JCBs, Motor Rovers, Tractors and a fire engine to the Pradeshiya Sabhas of Akuressa, Malimbada and Athuraliya near Akuressa.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that the State Ministry is preparing a list of vehicles necessary for all the Local Government Institutions to present it to the Minister of Transportation and this necessity will be fulfilled in near future.

4.12.2 Scarcity of Technical Officers in the Local Government Institutions

Hon. Member informed that there is a scarcity of Technical Officers to provide services in the Local Government Institutions.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the matter be considered as all the Local Government Institutions have this issue.

4.13 Motions submitted by Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasingha

4.13.1 Increasing the incomes of the Local Government Institution

Hon. Member requested to provide necessary actions to increase the incomes of the 02 Local Government Institutions in Yatiyantota electorate as they are having a low income.

4.13.2 Regarding the necessity of vehicles

Hon. Member requested to provide a JCBs and Bowsers to the Local Government Institutions in Yatiyantota electorate.

4.14 Motions submitted by Hon. Shanakkiyan Rajaputtiran Rasamanikkam

4.14.1 Request to appoint a new Municipal Commissioner to Batticaloa Urban Council

Hon. Member requested to appoint a new Municipal Commissioner to conduct the activities of the Urban Council co-operatly as there was an issue between the Municipal Commissioner and the Mayor of the Batticaloa Urban Council.

The Hon. Chairman informed that a decision will be taken after having a discussion with Governor regarding this matter.

4.15 Motions submitted by Hon. Selvaraja Kajendran

4.15.1 Having to pay for CEB for installing street lights

The Hon. Member informed that the Pradeshiya Sabha had to pay an amount of rs. 1500 – 2000 to install 01 street lamp in Jaffna district to the CEB and haven't received a solution even though the matter was discussed with the Hon. Minister of Transportation.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that there is no need to make aforesaid payment, but the approval should be taken from CEB to install street lamps and attention will be paid regarding this matter.

4.15.2 Prepare a Drainage plan within the Jaffna Municipal Council area

The Hon. Member requested to take necessary actions to prepare a main plan on drainage by considering the rainfall and the landscape of the Jaffna Municipal Council region as the drainage plan has not been prepared with the coordination of the Local Government Institutions.

4.15.3 Division of the Thenmarachchi Pradeshiya Sabha

The Hon. Member inquired about the progress of dividing the Thenmarachchi Pradeshiya Sabha of Jaffna district into 02 parts as this was decided in the Chawakachcheri Coordination Committee Meeting.

Secretary to the State Ministry informed that the proposals have been presented in the meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary and the actions be taken after receiving the recommendations.

5. The Committee adjourned at 11.55 a.m. *sine die*

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Defence
Second Meeting – 08th April 2021**

Committee Members Present

His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa (Chair)
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa (State Minister)
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa
Hon. Tiran Alles
Hon. (Major) Pradeep Undugoda

Non - Committee Members Present

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Hon. Arundika Fernando
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Siripala Gamalath
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. D. B. Herath
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa
Hon. John Seneviratne
Hon. Dilan Perera
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Shantha Bandara
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil

Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Naseer Ahamed
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmale Kumarasinghe
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Nalaka Bandara Kottegoda
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. Kins Nelson
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Nalin Fernando
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ajith Rajapakse
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. Samanpriya Herath
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe PC
Hon. Marjan Faleel
Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage

1. Confirmation of the Minutes

Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting on Defence held on 01.12.2020 were confirmed.

2. Consideration of Annual Reports

After considering the following Annual Reports submitted to the Committee by the Parliament, the Committee agreed to the Annual Reports and it was decided that the Report of the Committee should present it to the Parliament.

- 2.1.** Annual Report of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the year 2018
- 2.2.** Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the years 2016
- 2.3.** Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the years 2017
- 2.4.** Annual Report of the Ranaviru Seva Authority for the years 2018
- 2.5.** Annual Report and Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the years 2015
- 2.6.** Annual Report and Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the years 2016
- 2.7.** Annual Report and Financial Statements of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for the years 2017

3. Matters arising out of the minutes of the meeting held on 01.12.2020

3.1 Land acquisition in Mannar district for army camps – Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan (Item No. 4.10.1 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Army Commander informed that the Sri Lanka Army is in possession of 786 acres, out of which 400 acres are for the Commando Training School and the rest is allocated for the Brigadier's official residence where the area mentioned by the Hon. Member. The Army Commander further stated that any of those camps were not newly built, as well these camps should compulsorily remain within the same premises.

The Hon. Member informed that the fishing community in the area have been facing many difficulties as the land extent acquired by the Army had been increased for the past month where the Commando Training School is situated.

The Army Commander informed that although a group of officials from the Ministry of Defence had examined this area before, a group of officials from the Army might assign to attend this matter in the next week as per the request made by the Hon. Member.

The Hon. Chairman informed to take action accordingly.

3.2 Releasing land reserved for constructing a library in Kilinochchi city - Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan (Item No. 4.11 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that, the 571 brigade of the SL Army is in place on this problematic land out of which several land plots were released from in two occasions. Accordingly, he further stated that, those land plots have been released for Shivathondam Yogashram in 2015, then, for Kilinochchi College in 2018 and 73 perches for Karachchi Provincial Council in order to build a library.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that Karachchi Provincial Council owned a building on such land where the SL Army built and allotted for use as a library now has been rented out for various business activities. Despite of that, he informed that the requests are being made for a library again out of the lands utilizing from SL Army.

The Hon. Member informed that the land belongs to Karachchi Provincial Council where the library and the school were situated was acquired by SL Army after 2009. He further informed that, there have no land allotted for the said library out of those lands and only 112 perches are released from 3 acres belongs to the school.

Further, the Hon. Member informed that, there has no such building built by the SL Army as mentioned earlier or neither such a building has been rented out as stated by the Secretary to the Ministry. The Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan further informed that the library is currently being operated at a milk bar belongs to the Karachchi Provincial Council. The Hon. Member requested to release the said land back to the school as the required funds were also been received to build Kilinochchi public library.

Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren also expressed his views relating to the above matter.

The Army Commander informed that, according to the previous requests, several land plots were released from the land time-to-time where the camps have been situated and the camps have been established along with the current requirement.

The Hon. Chairman informed that it might better to allocate a separate land for the said library as moving those camps are quite hard, since establishing camps are considerably expensive process. Further he informed that, not to make such requests as the camps have been situated according to the current requirement.

3.3 Paying attention for architectural designing when constructing the buildings at police stations – Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Item No. 4.12.2 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Hon. Member made a request to consider the nature of nearby buildings when architectural design are being planned for establishing new police stations.

The Inspector General of Police stated that, the new police stations will be constructed along with new architectural designs.

3.4 Releasing a plot of land from the land located at Habaraduwa for an urban beach park - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Item No. 4.12.3 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Hon. Member made a request for a plot of land of one acre reserved for the police in the Habaraduwa area be released for the construction of an urban beach park except for the part used by the police.

3.5 Providing a mobile police station for Unawatuna area - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Item No. 4.12.5 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Hon. Member made a request to establish a tourism police station for Unawatuna area.

3.6 Establishment of police station in Hapugala - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Item No. 4.12.6 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Hon. Member made a request to establish a police station near Hapugala area where there is a high population.

The Inspector General of Police informed that, it has been decided to allot a police station for Hapugala under the project to establish 194 new police stations.

3.7 Boosa Race Course - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Item No. 4.12.7 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Hon. Member requested that the Boossa Race Course which is vested in the Ministry of Justice be given to Richmond College, Galle or Sacred Heart Convent Girls' College, Galle. The Hon. Member also informed that the consent of the Ministry of Justice has been received for the same.

3.8 Constructing auditorium in Galle - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Item No. 4.12.8 of minutes dated 01.12.2020)

The Hon. Member inquired about the submission of a detailed report on the “Mix Development Project” where construction of Galle Auditorium being occurred.

The Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs informed that the procurement activities related to this project are being carried out by the Ministry of Home Affairs while the construction work is being done by the Galle District Secretary.

4. Motions submitted by Hon. Members

4.1 Request made by Mr. K.B.C. Suranga residing at Uragehawela, Thibbotuwawa, Kahaduwa for pension granted for disabled War Heroes - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 3)

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that Mr. Suranga was injured while on duty and was later discharged from the Army due to not reporting for duty for a long time without being informed.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that situations like injuries, the allowances to be paid will be prepared when the Army Commander submits his conclusion based on the preliminary inquiries conducted by the Court as usual. He further stated that even though this war hero was requested to sign the report prepared based on his investigations he had not signed it. The Secretary to the Ministry informed that further action will be taken after this person signed the said report.

4.2 Appeal submitted by Mr. J.K. Imaduwa residing at No. 247/1, Uswatta, Meegoda, Wanchawala, Galle regarding dismissing him from Army on unreasonable grounds - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 4)

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that this officer had been removed from the Army Regular Brigade Authority on 30.09.2009 with the approval of His Excellency the President due to the disciplinary action taken against him while he was in service and could not be reinstated according to the existing policies.

4.3 Request made by Mr. B.H.W. Silva residing at “Sampath”, Pokunahena, Wewahamanduwa, Matara to obtain pension granted for disabled War Heroes until age of 60 years - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 123)

4.4 Request made by Mr. R.D. Wimalasena residing at No. 25, Second Lane, Devinuwara Rice Mill Road, Kiralawelkatuwa, Embilipitiya inquiring about granting of fixed allowance for soldiers who have become disabled (permanently disabled) due to non-terrorist attacks - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 128)

4.5 Request made by Mrs. Edirisinghe Laisina residing at Udarangawila, Kolawenigama, Deniyaya to obtain salary of her demised son served in Army - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 150)

The Hon. Chairman informed that the answer reports for the proposals made by the Hon. Buddhika Pathirana have been forwarded to the Hon. Member himself.

5. Any other matters

5.1 Motions submitted by Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

5.1.1 Following a formal methodology in granting promotions as Officer-in-Charge of Police Stations

The Hon. Member requested to follow a formal methodology and grant promotions according to a particular criteria as injustice had been caused to senior officials on granting promotions as Office-in-Charge at police stations during the past.

The Inspector General of Police informed that no formal procedure had been followed on granting promotions in past. The IGP further informed that the interviews had been held and promotions had been granted and the qualified officials had been assigned to required points by now and qualified officials would be appointed after conducting interviews again.

The Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, State Minister informed that attention should be paid on seniority and performance as well when granting promotions.

5.1.2 Increasing the number of police divisions

The Hon. Member informed that no proper actions are taken by the Police Department in certain cases of raids related to drug trafficking.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the reason for this is that at present one police division is unable to cover the area under its jurisdiction due to its large size. Therefore, the Hon. Chairman informed that the police divisions should be increased and additional police stations should be provided.

5.1.3 Rehabilitation of drug addicts

The Hon. Member suggested that in enforcing the law for children addicted to drugs, it would be appropriate to direct them to separate rehabilitation centers instead of keeping them in prisons.

The Hon. Member requested that attention be paid since a location had been identified to establish a Rehabilitation Centre for children in Galle District.

The Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Mr. Laknath Welagedara informed that security forces and the police are currently conducting raids on narcotics being smuggled into the country.

It was also informed that a teacher training program will be implemented to prevent drug abuse. Mr. Laknath Welagedara also informed that training of youth service officers had been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and training of religious officers has been initiated through the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

The Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board informed that the National Policy on Drugs has been formulated and will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

The Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board also announced that a rehabilitation center would be set up under the leadership of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence to accommodate about 1,000 detainees.

5.1.4 Establishment of a unit to investigate financial crimes

The Hon. Member informed that long time is spent to investigate complaints made by investors or businessmen regarding any financial crime. Therefore, the Hon. Member requested that a special unit be set up in the Criminal Investigation Department for this purpose.

5.2 Taking action regarding the transportation of narcotics into the country - Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe

The Hon. Member inquired about establishment of two Navy checkpoints at Maduganga Estuary and Weligama-Polathumodara Estuary where the smuggling of narcotics across the South Coast is commonly seen.

The Commander of Navy informed that steps would be taken to establish a permanent checkpoint after identifying a suitable place and at present mobile checkpoints are being setup in this area with the assistance of the police according to the intelligence information received.

The Hon. Member informed that information could be provided of two suitable places.

The Commander of Navy informed that accordingly he would take action to establish relevant checkpoints at those locations.

5.3 Motions submitted by Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal

5.3.1 Controlling drug trafficking

The Hon. Member requested to implement a programme to prevent drug trafficking as most of the drug trafficking through India is carried out through the islands in Kalpitiya area.

5.3.2 Accident occurred while being taken for quarantine

The Hon. Member informed about the incident of a woman seriously was injured because of an accident occurred while being taken for quarantine.

The Commander of Army informed that the Army involved with this matter and took necessary action to give treatments to the woman at this situation.

5.3.3 Maintaining confidentiality of information given to the police

The Hon. Member informed that it could be mostly seen that the school children had been addicted to drugs and when the police is informed about the perpetrators of this issue, this information is released to the relevant parties through the police.

The Inspector General of Police informed that a special unit had been established to investigate about leaking this information to outside through the police and therefore, the situation had been brought under control to some extent.

The Hon. Chairman inquired about implementing a methodology to collect information into a one point to maintain the confidentiality when taking this information.

The Inspector General of Police informed that a telephone number had been introduced for this purpose and accordingly the confidentiality of information would be maintained.

The Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, State Minister informed that when a complaint is made to a relevant party regarding a particular matter that party itself should take systematic action in that regard. The Hon. State Minister also informed that if not disciplinary action would be taken against them.

5.4 Providing relief to the dependents of deceased war heroes - Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte

The Hon. Member informed that the statement made by the government regarding the payment of pensions to the war heroes who died due to terrorist activities had led to a problematic situation as it had not been communicated properly to the people.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that the Cabinet approval is to be obtained for a Cabinet Memorandum to provide relief to the dependents of the deceased war heroes and action has been taken to inform the relevant parties in this regard.

5.5 Enforcement of the law against people engaged in small scale gem mining - Hon. Akila Ellawala

The Hon. Member informed that even all authorities, including the police, allow people who dig for gems around April as a tradition, all those involved in this affair as a practice near the Saman Devalaya in Ratnapura have been taken into police custody.

Hon. Gamini Waleboda informed that the general public engaged in the gem mining industry in the Ratnapura District are facing difficulties due to the action taken by the Police and the Security Forces based on a circular issued in this regard. The Hon. Member also informed that the government would also be discredited due to such acts.

Hon. Johnston Fernando also informed that actions should be taken without any hindrances for the persons who have been given approval for this industry hindrance.

Hon. Milan Jayatilleke also informed that the people who are engaged in the small scale gem mining industry in the vicinity of the Kelani River have also been put into trouble due to such actions.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the instructions had been given to enforce law against those who are engaged in illegal gem mining and sand mining on a large scale and not on a small scale. The Hon. Chairman informed that attention be paid on this as such incidents are taking place due to not giving proper instructions to the police stations.

The IGP informed that attention will be paid on this.

5.6 Releasing of school in Batticaloa District in the custody of the Army - Hon. Govindan Karunakaram

The Hon. Member informed that since the school located in the area of Chittandi between Valachchenai and Batticaloa is used for the Chittandi Army Camp the school is being held in an another place. The Hon. Member requested that the school be vacated for these students as there would be a flood situation in the area during the rainy season.

The Hon. Member informed that a land of 25 acres in Punnakuda had been allocated for this army camp two years ago.

Hon. Nazeer Ahamed informed that the land in Punnakuda area which was proposed to establish the Army Camp by Hon. Govindam Karunakaram is not suitable as that area is a tourist zone.

The Hon. Chairman instructed the Commander of Army to pay attention regarding this matter.

5.7 Motions submitted by Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa

5.7.1 Establishing a Police Station in Pannala – Kandanagedara Town

Hon. Member requested to establish a Police Station in Pannala – Kandanagedara Town in Kurunegala district instead of the Police Post.

The Hon. Chairman informed that this matter could be consider as it was proposed to establish 194 new police stations.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Members to corporate with the IGP to establish new Police Stations by reducing the size of the police divisions if the existing police divisions are vast.

Hon. Chamal Rajapakse, the State Minister informed the Hon. Members to present the proposals to IGP, if new police stations needed to be establish in their areas.

5.7.2 Scarcity of young Police Officers in Police Stations

Hon. Member requested attention to be paid on the matter of the scarcity of young police officers for the Pannala Police Station in Kurunegala district.

IGP informed that this matter could be considered as it is scheduled to recruit 10,000 police officers in this year.

5.8 Establishing a special unit to act in the Deforestation issues – Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara

The Hon. Member requested that a special unit such as the Quick Reaction Team be set up affiliated to the Presidential Secretariat to take action in this regard as allegations are being made that the present regime is engaging in deforestations.

Hon. Jayantha Weerasingha PC. Also informed that it's a good proposal.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the IGP has been instructed to enforce the law against all the people those who cause deforestation.

The Hon. Chairman also instructed the IGP to give proper instructions to the relevant parties on how to proceed in this regard.

5.9 Motions submitted by Hon. Faizal Cassim

5.9.1 Releasing a land in Nindavur belongs to the Pradeshiya Sabha in Ampara district

Hon. Member requested to release the land prior owned by the Pradeshiya Sabha and then given to an Army camp as the land is needed back to the Pradeshiya Sabha.

5.9.2 Prevalence of drug trafficking in Ampara district

Hon. Member requested attention to be paid on the matter as there is a prevalence of drug trafficking in Ampara district.

Hon. Member further requested attention to be paid on the matter that the supply of food to the Army personnel deployed for the construction work of the Ampara Paddy Marketing Board as it is being carried out by drug traffickers in the area.

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage informed that the Army personnel were deployed as per the request of the Commander of Army to repair the stores of the Paddy Marketing Board of Ampara district.

The Hon. Chairman informed Hon. Faizal Cassim that to present a written document including the parties that are connected with the drug trafficking in Ampara district and then the attention could be paid regarding this matter.

5.10 Motions submitted by Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen

5.10.1 Banning Islamic Religious books

Hon. Member informed that there is no obligation regarding the recommendation issued on banning several Islamic religious books by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe Easter Sunday attacks.

Hon. Member further informed that due to a circular issued by Sri Lanka Customs mentioning that all the Islamic religion related books brought to Sri Lanka by the tourists should be released only under the approval of the Defence Ministry, the tourists from Middle East countries who bring Islamic religious books face a huge inconvenience.

Therefor the Hon. Member informed that the attention need to be paid regarding this matter.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that the banning will be enact only if an extremist religious book is identified and moreover the attention is paid regarding some school text books where some extremist religious facts are included.

The Secretary to the Ministry further informed that the ban has not been issued for each and every Islamic Religious book brought to the country.

And also he further informed that the investigations regarding a religious book would be conducted by a board of expertise of that religion and therefore any injustice would not be occurred for the Islamic religion.

5.10.2 Mannar – Puttalam road being dilapidated

Hon. Member requested that the attention needed to be paid as some places in Mannar – Puttalam road is in dilapidated condition.

5.10.3 Controlling the smuggling of narcotics to the country across the Mannar coast

Hon. Member informed that the most of the narcotics smuggling takes place through Mannar coast and requested to control the smuggling of narcotics by implementing a joint program with police and security sectors in the area from Mullikulam to Thalaimannar.

5.11 Motions submitted by Hon. Diana Gamage

5.11.1 Dangerous driving of busses carrying people to quarantine centers

Hon. Member informed that a dangerous condition has been occurred due to the reckless driving of the bus drivers who transport people to the quarantine centers. And Hon. Member further informed that the Sri Lanka army will be discredited as the busses are driving with the name boards of “Sri Lanka Army”.

Hon. Member requested that an Army officer to be deployed on these busses to control the situation.

The Commander of Army informed that these buses are rented by the Army and usually another 02 vehicles are travelled from the front and back of the busses which take people to quarantine centers.

The Commander of Army informed that the attention will be paid regarding the matter mentioned by the Hon. Member.

5.11.2 Arresting the innocent people in an unfair way during drug raids

Hon. Member requested that the attention needed to be paid as in some cases drug raids are carried out and the police make unjustified arrests of certain innocent people.

5.12 Obtaining Lands for the Cultivation - Hon. Arundika Fernando

Hon. Arundika Fernando (State Minister of State Minister of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification) informed that there is a need for lands to further develop the plantation industry and requested the Ministry of Plantation to be informed about the extent of cultivable lands which are currently under the control of the Police and the Security Forces.

The Hon. State Minister further informed that if action is taken to provide cultivable lands, the Ministry of Plantations can make the necessary contribution and achieve the plantation industry to a very advanced level.

The Hon. Chairman informed that attention could be paid in this regard.

5.13 Release of Lands - Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren

Hon. Member informed that four out of the six acres of land belonging to the Point Pedro Post Office had been acquired by the Army and the remaining

two acres are not sufficient for the construction of a building and also requested aforesaid land be released completely.

Hon. Member further requested that action be taken to vacate the private land in the Eluththumaduwal area in the Chavakachcheri Divisional Secretariat which had been taken over by the Army.

The Army Commander informed that it is possible to check into whether a post office was operational at the Point Pedro Army Camp before 1987.

The Army Commander further stated that the Mirisuvil camp could not be evacuated and if it was a private land, compensation could be paid for it after conforming the ownership.

5.14 Shortage of police officers in police stations - Hon. Milan Jayathilake

Hon. Member informed that due to the shortage of police officers in the police stations, it is not possible to take action when a complaint is lodged and requested that special attention be paid in this regard.

The Hon. Chairman directed to remove the police officers who had been unnecessarily deployed for the security of the elites and to attach them to the police stations.

5.15 Motions submitted by Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara

5.15.1 Obtaining approval for self-design

The Hon. Member, State Minister informed that the Ministry of Defence had banned a self-design created by a person in Kandy-Ampitiya which was in good demand for scaring animals due to its shape.

Hon. State Minister further requested that this matter be referred to the Security Council for a formal introduction and immediate action be taken in aforesaid matter.

5.15.2 Lack of facilities for the Police Officers in Colombo district

Hon. State Minister informed that the Police officers are reluctant to stay in Colombo district due to the lack of facilities and high cost of living.

The Hon. State Minister further informed there is a possibility that these officers could be retain within the Colombo district, if they are provided with a certain allowance.

The Hon. State Minister informed that due to the unwillingness of Police Officers to work in Colombo district, some of the Police officers had to work in Colombo district for a long period of time.

5.16 The role of the Mayor of Municipal Council of Jaffna – Hon. Madhura Withanage

The Hon. Member inquired about the enforcement of law regarding the deployment of 05 people who were in the uniforms used by LTTE Police officers on the duty near the Jaffna town.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the law was enforced regarding this matter.

5.17 Issuing guns for farmers – Hon. Samanpriya Herath

Hon. Member requested that the attention need to be paid regarding the matter of issuing guns for the farmers as the 25% of harvest damage was caused by the animals.

The Hon. Chairman informed that it's appropriate to issue a number of guns for the Farmers' Organizations.

The Secretary to the Ministry informed that a discussion was held with the Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage, the Minister of Agriculture and it's expected to prepare an appropriate program for this at the conference that will be held with all the District Secretaries in the future.

Hon. Arnundika Fernando, the State Minister requested to contact with the Ministry of Plantation in this regards.

6. The Committee at 3.30 p.m. adjourned *sine die*.

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries
Third Meeting- 05 August 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. Douglas Devananda (Chair)
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara (State Minister)
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galapaththi

Non-Committee Members Present

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. Selvarajah Kajendran
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatta
Hon. Sudath Manjula
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghawan

1. Considering Annual Reports

After consideration, the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries agreed to the following annual reports referred by Parliament to the Committee and it was decided that the Report of the Committee regarding the annual reports be presented to Parliament on by Hon. Douglas Devananda, Chairman of the Committee.

- 1.1** Annual Report of the Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation for the year 2017
- 1.2** Annual Report & Accounts of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency for the year 2018
- 1.3** Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for the year 2019

2. Matters arising out of the minutes of the meeting held on 26.03.2021

2.1 Engaging the Land owned by Minneriya Fisheries Cooperation for a productive purpose – Hon. Amarakeerthi Athukorala

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister informed that the actions are beings planned to develop the Minneriya Fisheries Cooperation as a state and private joint venture and the opportunity could be given to the people who are interested in the area of Hon. Member.

2.2 Removing the ban on Scuba fishing – Hon. Kader Masthan

The Deputy Director, Naval Operations informed the committee that as per the gazette issued regarding this matter the Scuba fishing is banned from 06.00 a.m. – 06.00 pm.

The Deputy Director, Naval Operations further informed that there is no objections regarding the permission granted on Scuba fishing only in the night time in the areas except commercial harbors and Navy harbors.

The Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed that the Department issued this ban not because of the security measures, but because of the damage caused to marine resources.

2.3 Obtaining permission for travelling to Iranathivu Island – Hon. Selvarajah Kajendran

The Deputy Director, Naval Operations informed that a formal ferry service is not in operation with in this zone and that the permission cannot be granted to use fishing boats for that considering the safety of lives of the people.

The Deputy Director, Naval Operations further informed that there won't be any issue in transferring the grant of permission to Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources if the afore said ministry implements a proper and formal regulatory authority regarding this.

The Deputy Director, Naval Operations further informed that the Navy is responsible regarding the safety of lives of people when transporting people via sea and that it's suitable to grant permission by the Navy to travel into Iranativu Island as currently Navy is following a proper and formal regulatory methodology regarding this.

2.4 Banning the mining of ilmenite in the coastal area of Thirukkovil, Ampara – Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

The Director General, Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management informed that a private party has applied for a permit in Ilmenite mining in this area.

Accordingly, The Director General, Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management further informed that ideas of the public was taken in following the steps relevant in issuing this permit and this permit will only be issued after getting necessary solutions for those ideas.

Hon. Member requested to reconsider the changes observed in the basic project proposal and Environmental effect Evaluation Report presented on this and to reconsider on the selected number of people involved in collecting the public ideas.

2.5 Use of abandoned buildings belonging to the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation in Batticaloa District for an effective purpose - Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

2.5.1 Reconstruction of the buildings in Kaluwankarni and Kallaru

Hon. Member informed that the building where a fuel station is opened in Kaluwankarni area needed to be repaired.

2.5.2 Repairing of the dilapidated bridge in Kaluwankarni

Hon. Member requested to construct a bridge to travel light vehicles as there is no bridge in this area.

The Director General, Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management informed that a report regarding the mentioned matter will be presented on the next committee meeting.

3. Motions submitted by Hon. Members

3.1 Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 63)

Request made by the Sri Lanka Spear Fishing Association of Unawatuna Ganahena, Galle for lifting the ban on Spear Fishing.

Hon. Member requested to provide a separate area for this purpose after identifying an area where minimum marine resource destruction could occur. The Hon. Chairman instructed Hon. Member to present a project proposal to study about this matter.

3.2 Hon. Shantha Bandara (Motion No. 87)

Request made by the Hon. Member for obtaining fishing gear for the Fisheries Society of Siyambalangamuwa, Usgala, Galgamuwa, Kurunegala.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the reply for this motion will be presented to the Hon. Member in the future.

3.3 Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 161)

Request made by Mr. A.L. Uparathna residing at No. 165, Turki Niwasa, Midigama, Ahangama to obtain a compensation for depriving of service at Ceylon Fisheries Corporation.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the reply for this motion will be presented to the Hon. Member in the future.

3.4 Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 256)

Request made by Mr. N. Saman De Silva, Chairman of Balapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha regarding removal of stone barriers located at fisheries harbours of Galbokka, Wathuragama, Mankada and Haraspola in Balapitiya area

The Director General, Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management informed that there is no objection of Department of Coastal Conservation regarding the removal of stone barriers after conducting a field visit.

The Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed that after presenting the above mentioned recommendation to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources the permission to blow off this stone barrier will be handed over to Sri Lanka Navy after discussing with all the relevant institutes.

3.5 Hon. Shantha Bandara (Motion No. 347)

Request made by the Hon. Member to obtain fishing gear and fingerlings for the Ekamuthu Fisheries Association of Nikawelayaya, Mediyawa, Mahawa in Kurunegala District

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the reply for this motion will be presented to the Hon. Member in the future.

3.6 Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 378)

Request made by W.N. Wickramasuriya residing at 1st Lane, Elsmore, Ingiriya regarding interdiction while serving as a Civil Engineer at the Head Office of Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation.

The Chairman of Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation informed that this person had not met the qualifications required for the post and the Director Board has decided to dismiss W.N. Wickramasuriya from service without conducting a formal disciplinary inquiry as this was arose during his probationary period.

The Hon. Member requested a report regarding this matter

4. Other Matters

4.1 Motions submitted by Hon. Amarakerthi Athukorala

4.1.1 Problems faced by fishermen working in the area of wildlife zone in Polonnaruwa district

Hon. Member informed that as the most of the tanks in Polonnaruwa District are situated in the wildlife zones, the fishermen in this area have to face different problems.

Hon. Member requested to follow a lenient policy regarding this.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister informed the Hon. Member that a discussion could be held with the Department of Wildlife Conservation regarding this if the relevant details provided.

Hon. State Minister further informed that a raid unit was established by the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka to take necessary steps regarding the illegal activities done in fishing activities.

4.1.2 Problems faced by fresh water fishermen working in the area of Janaranjana Tank in Polonnaruwa district.

Hon. Member requested to provide attention regarding the injustice faced by the fishermen in Polonnaruwa district among the fishermen engaging in freshwater fishing in Janaranjana tank situated near Medirigiriya which belongs to both Trincomalee and Polonnaruwa districts.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister informed that a program could be operated enabling the fishermen in both Trincomalee and Polonnaruwa districts without any interruption.

4.2 Motions submitted by Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister

4.2.1 Constructing a freezer in Galle

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister informed that the investors have been informed to present their project proposals regarding the construction of a freezer in Galle.

4.2.2 Piling up sand in the estuary of Chilaw frequently

The Hon. State Minister informed that as sand is piling up frequently in the estuary of Chilaw where the fishing harbor is located the fishing boats get interrupted when entering the fishing harbor.

The Hon. State Minister further informed that a permanent or temporary solution needed to be provided.

4.2.3 Damaged houses in Thoduwawa, Puttalam district due to the coastal erosion

The Hon. State Minister inquired about implementing a suitable program regarding the damages caused to temporary fishing houses due to the coastal erosion in Thoduwawa in Puttalam district.

The Director General of the Department of Coast Conservation informed that an analysis is being conducted regarding the actions that can be taken to prevent this situation and that expected to take necessary actions in future according to it.

4.3 Problems faced by the fishermen engaging in sprats fishing industry in Weligama region – Hon. Dilip Wedaarchchi

Hon. Member requested to work on cancelling the order issued on banning the fishing net used for sprat fishing industry in Weligama area.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister informed that as the fishing net used for sprat fishing industry by the fishermen in this area is illegal according to the Sri Lanka Fisheries Act and the people were informed about giving them the nets used for this industry after banning the illegal fishing net.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister further informed that it is recommended to use Madel or Karamal del instead of Hembili del until the report with recommendations received which will be made after conducting a formal study by The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency regarding this matter.

The Hon. State Minister informed that Madel cannot be provided as there is no Madel harbor in this area but an optional fishing net could be provided and a mediation could be provided in ministerial level.

4.4 Motions submitted by Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam

4.4.1 Using the buildings owned by the Ministry of Fisheries for usefully for fishing industry

Hon. Member requested to keep the building situated near the Kalladi Bridge in Batticaloa district owned by Ceylon Fisheries Corporation under the Ministry of Fisheries itself which was requested by the Ministry of Tourism for a hotel school.

The Acting Chairman of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation informed that the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation does not have the ownership of the land where the building is situated and the corporation is only having the possession of the land.

The Acting Chairman of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation further informed that even though a request was made by the Ministry of Tourism from the District Secretariat, a letter was issued by the Director Board of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation informing the reluctance of giving the building.

4.4.2 Opening a fishing market in Batticaloa district

Hon. Member requested to open a fishing market in Batticaloa district.

The Chairman of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation informed that it is planned to open 25 huge scale fishing markets in the country and he further informed that one outlet is going to be opened in Batticaloa district.

Hon. Member informed that a building owned by Building Materials Corporation which is located near Batticaloa Railway Station is suitable for this matter.

The Hon. State Minister instructed the Chairman of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation to consider about this matter.

4.4.3 Stealing fish from the fishermen engaging in deep sea fishing in Ampara and Batticaloa districts

The Hon. Member informed that a complaint was filed against a group of people who steal fish from the fishermen engaging in deep sea fishing in Ampara and Batticaloa districts but any of the legal actions haven't been taken regarding this matter.

The Director General of Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed that the necessary actions have been taken to inform the Commander of Navy regarding this matter.

Hon. Chairman informed that an intervention will be done at the end of this month.

4.4.4 Gazetting new Madel harbors

The Hon. Member requested to provide an opportunity to include the places which are not included when gazetting the new Madel harbors even though the harbors were engaged in Madel harboring for a long period of time.

4.5 Motions submitted by Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatta

4.5.1 Providing a ferry for the people engage in fishing around Beira Lake

Hon. Member informed that the people who engage in fishing activities centralizing the Beira Lake lost their ferry due to the development activities carried out around the Beira Lake in Colombo district.

The Hon. State Minister informed that a request was made to Ministry of Urban Development and Housing to mark a suitable place to build a ferry for these people, as a reply was not provided yet, the request will be resent to the ministry.

4.5.2 Koralawella Madel harbor being faced to sea erosion

The Hon. Member requested to develop the 2 Madel harbors in Koralawella as they are degenerated due to the sea erosion.

Director General of Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed that it is expected to develop all the degenerated madel harbors in collaboration with Survey Department and if not it is expected to follow another optional action.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara informed that it's expected to amend the current Madel Act considering the prevailing condition.

4.6 Motions submitted by Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

4.6.1 Lack of systematic construction of fisheries shops in Galle town

Hon. Member informed that due to the lack of systematic construction of fisheries shops located at the exit road of Galle Express Way, the attraction and beauty of that area was lost.

Therefore, Hon. Member requested to build these shops systematically with the intervention of Ministry of Fisheries. Hon. Member informed that arrangements can be made to charge a fee when giving out those shops.

The Hon. State Minister informed that the attention would be paid regarding this matter.

4.6.2 Developing Galle Fisheries Harbor

Hon. Member inquired regarding the plan of developing Galle Fisheries harbor.

The Deputy General Manager (Engineering) of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation informed that the feasibility study of the ongoing project regarding this was completed and the studies on Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment is currently being conducted.

4.6.3 Import and Re-export of ornamental fish

Hon. Member inquired about providing license to import and re-export ornamental fish.

The Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed that the license could be obtained by following the procedure for this.

The Hon. Member requested from the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka to consider about the application presented to re-export ornamental fish by an organization engage in raising ornamental fish in Galle which their application was rejected.

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekara, the State Minister informed that the necessary steps have been taken to develop the businesses of the Ornamental fish raising organizations.

4.7 Progress of the Point Pedro Fishing Harbor Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan

Hon. Member inquired about the Fishing Industry of Northern Province including the progress of Point Pedro Fishing Harbor.

Hon. Chairman informed that after discussing with Asian Development Bank and Korean EXIM Bank regarding this, it is expected to begin the future work with the institution that would provide the financial aids first.

The Hon. State Minister informed that as the multi-day fishing activities are not conducting in Northern Province it is expected to train the fishermen and provide them with the necessary knowledge, fishing equipment and a proposal was presented by the Hon. Chair on providing the multi-day fishing vessels under a subsidy scheme for these fishermen.

The Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources informed that the process to train the Staff needed for multi-day fishing vessels is started to conduct through Ocean University of Sri Lanka.

4.8 Motions submitted by Hon. G.G. Ponnambalam

4.8.1 Illegal entering of Indian fishermen to the Northern ocean fishing region

Hon. Member informed that the Indian fishermen who illegally entered into the northern maritime region on last 22nd July caused a vast damage by destroying the fishing equipment of the local fishermen.

Hon. Member informed to work on providing a compensation to those fishermen by providing the fullest attention regarding this damage and to take necessary steps by the Sri Lanka Navy to stop the arrival of these Indian fishermen until the two governments reach into an agreement.

The Hon. Chairman informed that attempts are being taken through the discussions to stop the illegal entering of the Indian fishermen into the Northern maritime region and the Sri Lanka Navy is engaging in the arresting of Indian fishermen who entered illegally.

The Hon. Chairman further informed that when conducting the discussions with the Indian parties about giving compensations to the local fishing community who faced into this incident, those parties mentioned about providing relief in another way instead of providing compensation.

4.8.2 Problems of the fishing community engaging in sea leech cultivation

The Hon. Member informed that the fishing community engage in sea leech cultivation in Northern Province faces into various problems when doing their livelihood.

The Hon. Chairman informed the Hon. Member to participate in the meeting that will be held in Punari on 10th August to discuss regarding this matter.

4.8.3 Fishermen do not receiving permission due to the Navy Camp situated near Mulativu Town

Hon. Member informed that because as the Navy Camp located in the left side of the road which goes to Mulativu town, the fishing activities are not allowed round that area.

The Hon. Chairman instructed Captain (H) G.H.G.S. Udayanga, Deputy Director (Naval Operation) of Sri Lanka Navy to specially consider about this matter.

4.9 Motions submitted by Hon. Selvarajah Kajendran

4.9.1 Dissapearence of 3 fishermen in Trincomalee district

Hon. Member informed that the Hon. Chairman and Hon. State Minister were informed regarding the disappearance of 3 fishermen in Trincomalee District on last 23rd May.

Hon. Member inquired about the present status of this matter.

The Hon. Chairman informed that the further investigations are being conducted and the discussions are being conducting with the regional countries regarding this situation, but no information has been received about this fishermen yet.

4.9.2 Reacquisition of Maleitti fishing harbor of Jaffna district to Ministry of Fisheries

The Hon. Chairman informed that the attention need to be payed to the legal conditions and limitations regarding this matter and a decision could be made after the discussion on the ability to implement the proposal mentioned by the Hon. Member.

4.9.3 Fishermen coming from other areas engage in the fishing activities in Northern and Eastern Provinces

The Hon. Member informed that the livelihood of the fishermen in Maleitti area have been threatened as the fishermen from southern area who come to Maleiiti area engage in fishing activities.

4.9.4 Developing the Fishing Harbors in Northern and Eastern Provinces

The Hon. Member requested to pay the attention about providing the facilities for the fishing community in those provinces and to consider about developing the fishing harbors located in the areas of Point Pedro, Gurunagar and Pesalei.

The Hon. Chairman informed that a considerable time will be taken to develop the fishing harbors and to give a necessary training to the fishing community that the need and he further informed that most of the problems could be solved by giving them the necessary fishing equipment under loan facilities.

Hon. Member requested to consider about giving a training only a group of people in an area where a huge population lives and regarding the

shortcomings when giving a training for the fishing community who engage in deep sea fishing.

4.10 Motions submitted by Hon. Sudath Manjula

4.10.1 Fresh Water Fishing industry in Kegalle district

The Hon. Member informed that a species of baby fish was added to the tanks where fresh water fishing industry exists in 2017 in Ruwanwella Divisional Secretariat in Kegalle district, but it was failed.

Hon. Member proposed that it will be suitable to add baby fish into the tanks without causing harm to the existing fish in those tanks after conducting a proper study.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara, the State Minister informed to present a written document regarding the tanks that connected with this process and then the attention could be paid.

4.10.2 Ornamental fish raising businesses in Kegalle district

The Hon. Member informed that the associations who engage in this business in Ruwanwella Divisional Secretariat face a problem in selling ornamental fish in a certain period of time.

Therefore, the Hon. Member requested to implement a proper program to formalize the buying of this fish with the intervention of the government.

4.10.3 Having to pay a high price for sea fish with in Kegalle district

The Hon. Member requested to start fish markets in the all sub-cities of Kegalle district as a solution for this problem and to start a wholesale fish market in Kegalle district.

Hon. Member informed that the necessary support could be provided for this matter.

Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, the State Minister informed that the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation has decided to increase the Fish outlet network in the areas which are not close to the sea and therefore the attention could be paid regarding that if the necessary support would be provided by the Hon. Minister.

5. The Committee was, at 04.00 p.m. , adjourned until 09th September 2021

**Ministerial Consultative Committee on Education
Third Meeting – 10th September 2021**

Committee Members Present

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena (Chair)
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha (State Minister)
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda (State Minister)
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola (State Minister)
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Anupa Pasqual
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

Non – Committee Members Present

Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody
Hon. (Mrs.) Kokila Gunawardene
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga

1. Considering Annual Reports

The following annual reports submitted to Parliament were considered and agreed upon by the Committee, where upon it was decided that the Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Chairman of the committee should present the Report of the Committee regarding the Annual Reports to the Parliament on 21st September 2021.

- 1.1** Annual Report of the Ceylon-German Technical Training Institute for the years 2016 & 2017
- 1.2** Annual Report of the University Of Colombo School Of Computing for the year 2019
- 1.3** Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences University of Peradeniya for the year 2019
- 1.4** Annual Report of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the year 2019
- 1.5** Annual Report & Statement of Accounts of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka for the year 2019
- 1.6** Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements of the Institute of Human Resource Advancement of the University of Colombo for the year 2019

- 1.7** Annual Report and Accounts of the Postgraduate Institute of Science of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2019
- 1.8** Annual Report of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute for the year 2019
- 1.9** Annual Report and Accounts of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019
- 1.10** Annual Report and Accounts of the University of Kelaniya for the year 2019
- 1.11** Annual Report of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019
- 1.12** Annual Report of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka for the year 2019

The Secretary to the Ministry was advised by the Hon. Chairman to present the Annual Reports of the institutions under Ministry of education which were not presented within the relevant time to the Parliament in the future without any delay.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Third Meeting held on 10.03.2021

2.1 “Including Law of Sri Lanka as a subject into the School curriculum”
(Item No. 3 of the minutes dated 10.03.2021)

Hon. Susil Premajayantha, State Minister stated that a Sub – Committee would be appointed with him being the Chairman to state the Investigation regarding the above mentioned subject. Moreover, Hon. Susil Premajayantha informed that several discussion rounds were held to investigate the facts by the Technical Committee which consist Officers of the State Lawyers Association, Officers of Attorney General’s Office, Officers of National Institution of Education and other government officers who were appointed by the above mentioned Sub – Committee and the report of the mentioned committee was received late because of the prevailed disturbing health condition in the country.

Hon. Susil Premajayantha informed about the approach that is going to be used by the Sub – Committee for this investigation.

Furthermore, Hon. Susil Premajayantha, State Minister informed that Law will be added to the School Syllabus not as a separate subject, but as a part of the Citizenship Education which is taught from grade 6 – grade 11.

In addition to the above mentioned matters, Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya requested to include the matters about the responsibilities of the school children and matters regarding the rights of citizens and about the relationship between Law and the Society to the school syllabus.

2.2 Conducting Competitive Examinations to recruit teachers - (Hon.) (Mrs.) Kokila Gamage (Item No. 11.2 of the minutes dated 10.03.2021)

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education Mrs. P.K.S. Subodani stated that according to the cabinet decision regarding the recruitment of graduates as Teacher Trainees, they would be recruited as temporary teachers by an interview and a practical examination and after that they will get permanent in the service after passing an examination held by the ministry after the probation period of 03 years. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education Mrs. P.K.S. Subodani informed that the applications were called for teaching foreign languages from the applicants who possess a degree regarding foreign languages and also the applications were called for the post of teachers for the schools in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Hon. Susil Premajayantha, State Minister showed that the current teacher student ratio of the country is at 17:1 and scarcity of teachers to teach Science, Mathematics, English and Technology subjects prevails as there are issues in placing the teachers into schools appropriately.

Hon. Susil Premajayantha, State Minister also informed that the 18,000 teacher graduate trainees recruited were appointed to the Educational Offices and schools and proposals were made to make 19 National Teaching Colleges into Universities.

The Hon. Chairman stated that making a National Policy regarding the recruitment of teachers is already in process and it was currently decided to get the proposals and suggestions of the Hon. Members regarding this matter.

Secretary to the Ministry stated that the databases have been created after collecting the information regarding how the recruitments should be done according to the vacancies in the schools and subject requirements and that the Hon. Members would be informed regarding this matter after taking a decision regarding recruitment by clarifying the matter to the Governors of all the provinces.

Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera inquired about the steps that have been taken regarding the problematic condition that could face by the recently recruited 18,000 graduate trainees if they fail the test of making them permanent in the post after the 03 years of training period.

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody requested to make a methodology to appoint the graduates recruited as school laborers into graduate trainees.

Secretary to the Ministry stated that a new cabinet paper should be presented regarding the problematic condition of the cabinet paper which exists as a proposal of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament.

Hon. Chairman stated that the necessary steps will be taken to appoint a sub-committee including all the powers within 02 weeks and also stated that the necessary steps will be taken to compose a National Policy regarding the recruitment of teachers on the basis of the report of afore mentioned committee.

2.3 Releasing the report of the Committee appointed to look into the issues of the University of Jaffna to the Media - (Hon. Selvarajah Kajendren)
(Item No. 11.14.3 of the minutes dated 10.03.2021)

Hon. Chairman advised to provide answers to the Hon. Member informing the steps that have been taken regarding the above mentioned matter.

2.4 Attaching an officer from Sri Lanka Administrative Service to the post of Additional Provincial Director of Education of the North Central Province) - Hon. H. Nandasena (Please refer Item No. 11.16 of minutes dated 03.10.2021)

Hon. Chairman informed to provide answers to the Hon. Member informing the steps that have been taken regarding the above mentioned matter.

3. Proposals of the Hon. Members of the Parliament

3.1 Development of Mother tongue collapses because of the reason that the English medium invades the place with the gradual displacement of the State Language medium of Education – Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
(Motion No. 410)

Hon. Member requested to include the above mentioned motion into the agenda of the next ministerial Consultative Committee on Education.

3.2 Filling vacancies for the posts of Mawlavi Teachers to teach Islam Religion in Government Schools and fulfilling needs thereto - Hon. Rauff Hakeem (Motion No. 75)

3.3 Upgrading Al – Adan College in Badulla and Sir Rasik Perd College in Bandarawela into National Schools - Hon. Rauff Hakeem (Motion No. 76)

3.4 Upgrading W/P/C Kairiya Balika College, Dematagoda and W/P/C Al Hikma Collge into National Schools - Hon. Rauff Hakeem
(Motion No. 77)

3.5 Converting Muslim Balika College in Thalapitiya Galle into a National School - Hon. Rauff Hakeem (Motion No. 78)

- 3.6 Requirement of Teachers in the Schools of our country - Hon. Lasantha Alagiyanawanna (Motion No. 98)**
- 3.7 Starting a Pirivena in the Ganewaththa ancient temple in Delduwa, Wadduwa - Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera (Motion No. 114)**
- 3.8 Obtaining a water purifying system to the Yatiyana College, Matara - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 115)**
- 3.9 Payment of a salary or dependency allowance to sports trainers and instructors in schools - Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda (Motion No. 116)**
- 3.10 Filling vacancies of non- academic staff including Library Assistants in Provincial Schools - Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda (Motion No. 117)**
- 3.11 Re-opening the schools subsequent to an extensive study and following instruction of the Health experts - Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda (Motion No. 118)**

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the Motions from 3.2 – 3.11 have been sent to the Hon. Members.

- 3.12 Injustice caused to the students who sat for the exams on old syllabus and new Syllabus in 2019 and the methodology followed by the University Grants Commisiion in this regard – Hon. Member Udayana Kirindigoda (Motion No. 119)**

The Chairman of the University Grants Commission stated that the students who sat for G.C.E. Advance Level Examination has already been selected for the universities and those students are doing their studies now.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Udayana Kirindigoda.

- 3.13 Converting G/ Ampegama College into a National School – Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 121)**

Secretary to the Ministry informed that all the formalities have been made to convert G/ Ampegama College into a National School.

- 3.14 Refusing the admission of the daughter of Mr. K H Lakmal Indika to grade 01 of Siridhamma College, Galle for the year 2021 - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 122)**

Hon. Chairman advised Secretary to the Ministry to consider about the above matter.

3.15 Injustice caused to the A/L students of the year 2019 due to the "Z score" method - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 127)

The Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof. Sampath Amarathunga informed that the child who faced the injustice has been selected to the Medical Faculty of University of Ruhuna.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Buddhika Pathirana.

3.16 Request made by Mrs. J K Susila Nilmini in Matara regarding the admission of her child to Rahula College Matara on a fraternal basis - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana – (Motion No. 142)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Buddhika Pathirana.

3.17 Appointing a teacher for the subject Engineering Technology to Sariputta Secondary College, Pamburana, Matara and a class of Engineering Technology to the school – Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 173)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Buddhika Pathirana.

3.18 Transferring the land where the old Abayadana College is located to Sri Lanka Tourism and Hotel Management Institute - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 189)

Hon. Chairman advised the Secretary to the Ministry to inquire the opinion of Hon. Attorney General and act accordingly.

3.19 Obtaining a water purification system for Yatiyana College, Matara - Hon. Buddhika Pathirana (Motion No. 192)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Buddhika Pathirana.

3.20 Attachment of graduates to the posts that are not related to the subjects of degree and obtaining a solution for anomalies arisen due to implementation of various promotion and salary schemes - Hon. Buddika Pathirana (Motion No. 195)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Buddhika Pathirana.

3.21 Rejecting admission of W. H. Gagana Hansa Senethmal to Grade 04 of Richmand College Galle for the year 2019 – Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 203)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member Chandima Weerakkody.

3.22 Rejecting admission of daughter H.B.G. Theja Sri Ashinshana to grade 01 of Sangamiththa Girls College, Galle - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 204)

Hon. Chairman advised the Secretary to the Ministry to consider the matter and act accordingly.

3.23 Rejecting admission of the daughter, N.W.G. Woshadi Sugandara to none of the Government schools in 2021 - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 204)

Hon. Chairman advised the Secretary to the Ministry to consider the matter and act accordingly.

3.24 Failure to obtain a pension to Mr. W K Sangada, a casual labourer of Technical Education and Training Institution - Hon. Chandima Weerakkody (Motion No. 206)

Hon. Member informed that Mr. W.K. Sanghadasa has been re-established in service according to the decision of the Committee to Investigate Political Victimization and providing the pension had been rejected due to the reason that his age was above 45 years when re-establishing in service.

Hon. Chairman advised the Secretary to the Ministry to check the possibility of providing the pension to Mr. Sanghadasa and act necessarily.

3.25 Construction of an auditorium to Bothalegama College - Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera (Motion No. 217)

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the answers to the above mentioned Motion has been sent Hon. Member.

Hon. Member Yadamini Gunawardena mentioned about converting the schools in Colombo district to National Schools.

4. Other Matters

4.1 Appointing teachers to enhance the Sports and Art skills of the students in Primary classes – Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha

Hon. Member requested to appoint teachers with the expertise in sports skills as well as the other skills such as Music, Dancing, Arts and Debate to enhance those skills of the children in primary classes.

The Hon. Member has proposed that teachers possessing expertise in sports skills as well as other skills such as Music, Dancing, Arts, and Debate be appointed to improve the skills of children in primary classes.

4.2 Matters regarding the recruitment of teachers to schools – Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. Member requested about the timeline that the gazette will be issued on recruiting the teachers to schools and requested that if there is an agreement within the relevant officers of all provinces regarding the recruitment of teachers.

Secretary to the Ministry informed that the data regarding the teachers of all provinces had been computerized and the necessary actions are being made regarding recruiting the teachers.

4.3 Motions submitted by Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatta.

4.3.1 Converting the De Zoysa College – Moratuwa to a National school

Hon. Member requested to convert the De Zoysa College – Moratuwa to a National school.

4.3.2 Appointing a principal to Bomiriya National School on permanent basis

Hon. Member stated that an acting Principal was appointed to Bomiriya National School as the permanent principal of the college has been abroad on leave and the acting principal is being disturbed when doing the school activities systematically.

Hon. Chairman advised the Secretary to the Ministry to facilitate the working background of the Principal by providing all the power and privileges for the post to do the duties.

4.3.3 Providing Pfizer Vaccine to State and Private University Students.

Hon. Member requested to provide Pfizer vaccine to State and Private University students.

4.4 Giving admissions for medical students to enter into Kothalawala Defense University – Hon. Harini Amarasooriya

Hon. Member inquired about the admission process of recruiting 100 medical students to the Kothalawala Defence University.

Secretary to the Ministry stated to provide a written document after looking into afore mentioned matter.

4.5 Motions submitted by Hon. Anupa Pasquel

4.5.1 Providing loan facilities to the university students who are facing financial issues due to covid – 19 pandemic

Hon. Member requested to consider the request of the 2nd and 3rd year undergraduate students of the UGC approved 12 universities who did not request loan facilities in the 1st year to continue their studies as their source of income became insufficient due to the Covid – 19 pandemic.

4.5.2 Giving the Rs. 15,000/= allowance of Engineers' Service to the Engineers working in universities.

Hon. Member requested to provide the Engineers' Service allowance of Rs. 15,000/= which started in 2012 to the engineers working in universities.

4.5.3 Issues related to the IT officers working in universities

Hon. Member requested to give an opportunity to discuss the issues of the IT officers working in universities as there are many other issues including the absence of a promotion scheme.

4.5.4 Converting the Ocean University into a State University

Hon. Member requested to convert the Ocean University into a state university by taking over it to the University Grants Commission.

4.5.5 Requests of the Buddhist monks who study in Pirivenas

Hon. Member requested to pay a special consideration as it was requested to include the subjects like Ayurveda, Astrology, and Occultism into the syllabus.

4.6 Motions submitted by Hon. Chandima Weerakkody

4.6.1 Appointing a Principal to Batemulla National School

Hon. Member requested to appoint a permanent principal to Batemulla National School as a teacher is handling the administrative activities of the school at the moment.

4.6.2 Re-opening the National Institute of Business Management (NIBM)

Hon. Member requested the re-opening of the Medical and Engineering Faculties of National Institute of Business Management (NIBM) where 30,000 students are studying.

5. The Committee was adjourned at 12.30 p.m. *sine die*.
