



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 173.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 1.00 p. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairman of Committees

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Foreign Employment

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and State Minister of Mahaweli Development

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignment

Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka, Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms and the Chief Government Whip

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Higher Education and Highways and Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

Hon. S. B. Nawinne, Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce

Hon. (Mrs.) Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Development Assignments

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training

Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade

Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. Palitha Range Bandara, State Minister of Irrigation

Hon. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran, State Minister of Child Affairs

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance

Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade

Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research

Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, State Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation

Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Finance and Mass Media

Hon. Faizal Cassim, Deputy Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Deputy Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife

Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Hon. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Employment
Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training
Hon. Susantha Punchinilame, Deputy Minister of Public Administration and Management
Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries
Hon. Indika Bandaranayake, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction
Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage
Hon. Duleep Wijsekera, Deputy Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs
Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, Deputy Minister of Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana
Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena
Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavaroatham Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha Herath

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Presentation of Papers : (1) Speaker presented the Performance Report of the Audit Service Commission, from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017, in terms of Articles 41B(6) and 153H of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(2) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Trade and Investment Policy for the year 2016;
- (ii) Annual Performance Report of the Department of Management Services for the year 2016;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2016;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 5 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2012/16 of 28th March 2017;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2012/17 of 28th March 2017;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2012/52 of 31st March 2017;
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2018/2 of 08th May 2017;
- (viii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub Section (3) of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2019/21 of 19th May 2017; and
- (ix) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2006/42 of 16th February 2017)

and moved that these Reports, Orders and Resolution be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Parliament of Sri Lanka for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 27 (1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission, amending the name of Department of Anesthesiology to Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1990/16 of 26th October 2016 and moved that this Order be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the —

- Annual Performance Report and Accounts of Puttalam District Secretariat for the year 2016;
- Performance Report and Accounts of Trincomalee District Secretariat for the year 2016; and
- Annual Performance Report and Accounts of Hambantota District Secretariat for the year 2016.

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Department of Prisons for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

(11) The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms presented the Performance Report of the Department of Imports and Exports Control for the year 2016 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, The Chairperson of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development, and Environment and Natural Resources presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources on “Performance Report of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife for the year 2015”, “Performance Report of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the year 2015” and “Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Botanical Gardens for the year 2015” which were referred to the said committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(2) Hon. Bandula Gunawardana, The Member of the Committee on behalf of the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development presented the Report of the Committee on Economic Development on “Order under section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979” and “Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969” which were referred to the said committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

3. Petitions :

(1) Hon. Susantha Punchinilame presented —

- (i) a petition dated 23.05.2017 from Mrs. D.W.D. Mallika of No. 181/41, Thissa Mawatha, Galavilawaththa, Homagama;
- (ii) a petition dated 22.05.2017 from Mr. H. Upali Wijayalath of No. 78, Thissapura, Ampara; and
- (iii) a petition dated 22.05.2017 from Mrs. H.M. Mallika Upulwila of Trincomallee Road, Horowpathana.

(2) Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe presented a petition dated 24.04.2017 from Mr. E.M. Jayarathna of No. 86, Gangoda Road, Kurunegala.

(3) Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma presented a petition dated 27.04.2017 from Mrs. K.U. Vinetha Indrani of Kammalduwa, Galatara, Iththevana.

- (4) Hon. Gamini Lokuge presented a petition dated 19.05.2017 from Ms. E.D.I. Dulrikshi of No. 73, Samagi Mawatha, Maharagama Road, Mampe, Piliyandala.
- (5) Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa presented a petition dated 27.01.2017 from Mr. K.B. Sirisoma, Serving in Ministry of Ports and Shipping, Colombo 01.
- (6) Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 25.04.2017 from Mr. N. H. K. Nandasena of “Nandana”, Waduwelipitiya North, Kahaduwa; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 26.03.2017 from Mr. K. S. Gamarathna of Polgahawila, Wandurmaba.
- (7) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 26.03.2017 from Mrs. K.A. Nandawathie of No. 04, Webada East, Webada; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 30.04.2017 from Mr. Y.L.P. Peiris of No. 319, Maligathenna, Weyangoda.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order No. 25A of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

Suspension of Sittings

1.51 p.m.

The sitting was suspended until 2.13 p.m.

2.13 p.m.

The sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the chair.

Suspension of Sittings

2.37 p.m.

The sitting was suspended until 3.12 p.m.

3.12 p.m.

The sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the chair.

4. Nation Building Tax (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Mass Media presented,— Bill to amend the Nation Building Tax Act, No. 9 of 2009.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 4 July, 2017 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

5. Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government presented,— Bill to amend the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262).

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 4 July, 2017 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Leave to introduce Bill (No.1) : Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara seconded by Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage presented,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Ananda Aluthgamage Development, Social Services and Charity Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order No. 47(5) of the Parliament, to the Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage for report.

7. Leave to introduce Bill (No.2) : Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage seconded by Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara presented,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Shantha Abeysekara Development, Social Services and Charity Foundation.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

The Bill stood referred under Standing Order No. 47(5) of the Parliament, to the Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage for report.

8. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,—That the Order made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to Cess and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2011/9 of 21st March 2017, which was presented on 23.05.2017, be approved.

(At 3.35 p.m. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Primary Industries moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.45 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardena do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.55 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardena took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : The Minister of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms on behalf of the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 20 read with Sub-Section (3) of Section 4 and Section 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Act, No. 48 of 1985 and Act, No. 28 of 1987 and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2019/24 of 19th May 2017, which were presented on 07.06.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment : It being 6.30 p.m. the Presiding Member adjourned the Parliament without question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2017.