



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 56.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 08, 2016 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. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious
Affairs and Minister of Lands

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

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

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

Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance

Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education

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

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports

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

Hon. Palany Thigambaram, Minister of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and
Community Development

Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare

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

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

Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure

Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Minister of Housing and Construction

Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration and Management

Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

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

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Ports and Shipping

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development

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

Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. D. M. Swaminathan, Minister of Prisons Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs

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

Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Public Enterprise Development

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. T. B. Ekanayake, State Minister of Lands

Hon. Mohan Lal Grero, State Minister of Higher Education

Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Dilan Perera, State Minister of Highways

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. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Industry and Commerce Affairs

Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence

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

Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera, State Minister of Labour and Trade Unions Relations

Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade

Hon. M. L. A. M. Hizbullah, State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement

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

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Megapolis and Western
Development

Hon. Dunes Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Disaster Management

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

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

Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and
Mass Media

Hon. Susantha Punchinilame, Deputy Minister of Public Administration and
Management

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, Deputy Minister of Power and Renewable Energy

Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Digital
Infrastructure

Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake, Deputy Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare

Hon. Nimal Lanza, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprise Development

Hon. Duleep Wijsekera, Deputy Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim
Religious Affairs

Hon. Ameer Ali Shihabdeen, Deputy Minister of Rural Economic Affairs

Hon. H. M. M. Harees, Deputy Minister of Sports

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardana

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare
Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasingha
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda

Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara
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. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Sivasakthy Ananthan
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Ali Zahir Moulana Seyed
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
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

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

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

1. Announcements made by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:-

I

“I wish to announce to the House that I have received the determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bills titled “Budgetary Relief allowance of Workers” and “National Minimum Wage of Workers” which have been challenged in the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that the Court has no jurisdiction to proceed further with the petitions, as the jurisdiction of the court has not been duly invoked because the petitioners have failed to satisfy the requirement that not less than three fourth of the members of the petitioners’ union are Citizens of Sri Lanka.

I order that the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

II

As per the resolution adopted by the Parliament on 19 December 2015 and the decision taken by the Committee of Selection on 09 January 2016 to increase the number of membership of each Sectoral Oversight Committee to twenty (20), the Committee of Selection has nominated the following Members to serve in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development:—

Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Sri Lanka Navy for the year 2014.

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

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Minister of Science, Technology and Research presented the Annual Report of the Institute of Fundamental Studies for the year 2013 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation for the year 2012 and moved that this Report be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

(5) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingency Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget - 2016 as at 23.02.2016 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Act, No. 16 of 2015.

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

(6) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Pensions for the year 2014.

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

(7) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice under Section 61 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 read with Section 45 of the Act and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1954/34 of 18th February 2016.

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

(8) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of Sports Development for the year 2014.

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

3. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Wajira Abeywardana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 02.10.2015 from Mr. D. H. Meththananda of No. 307/3, Arachchikanda, Hapugala, Wakwella;
 - (ii) a petition dated 16.12.2015 from Mrs. H. M. R. Damayanthi of No. 5 A, Polwatta, Kundasale; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 24.01.2016 from Mr. P. W. Gunawardana of Grama No. 07, A/37, Muwangala, Hingurana.
- (2) Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka presented a petition dated 09.01.2016 from Mr. D. S. P. Tedlal de Silva of No. 371/1, Chandrawasa Mawatha, Patabadinulla, Ambalangoda.
- (3) Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi presented a petition dated 17.01.2016 from Mr. N Samaraweera of No.333/6, Gallalithota, Ambalanthota.
- (4) Hon. Ajith P. Perera presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 26.11.2015 from Mr. Ariyadasa Undatiyawala of No. 452/G, Gurugammanaya, Bulathsinhala;
 - (ii) a petition dated 12.11.2015 from Mr. L. D.Kumarage of No 384, Agalawaththa Road, Weththawa, Mathugama; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 10.11.2015 from Mr. M. S. Perera of No. 84 A, Gammana Road, Aluthgama, Bandaragama.
- (5) Hon. Anura Dissanayaka presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 04.01.2016 from Mrs. D. M. BandaraMenike of No. 119, D-01, Alubadda;
 - (ii) a petition dated 05.01.2016 from Mrs. Dayani Kohilamulla Arachchi of No. 55, Amunugama, Gunnepana;
 - (iii) a petition dated 05.01.2016 from Mr. M. H. M. Samarasinghe of Nuwara Nivasa, Paragasmankada, Wellawaya; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 02.01.2016 from Mr. M. A. D. C. K. Kularathna of No. 151, Agrabodhi Mawatha, Kanthale.
- (6) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 07.01.2016 from Mr. H. A. Nimal of Pasela Asala, Borukgamuwa, Pallewala;
 - (ii) a petition dated 20.01.2016 from Mr. H. W. S. Rathnakumara of No. 44/8, Rosviator Estate, Thihariya, Kalagedihena; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 12.11.2015 from Mr. R. M. Leelarathna of No. 30, Hatton Niwasa Road, Hatton.

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

4. Prescription (Special Provisions) : The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana presented,— “Bill to enable special legal provisions to be made in respect of persons who were unable to pursue their rights in court for the recovery of any immovable property including land due to the activities of a militant terrorist group which prevailed in Sri Lanka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, May 23, 2016 and to be printed.

5. Sittings of the Parliament (No.1) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 7 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06.10.2015, henceforth, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Tuesdays and Wednesdays shall be 1.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.. At 6.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays Standing Order No. 7(5) of the Parliament shall operate. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 2) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 7 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 06.10.2015, henceforth, the hours of sittings of Parliament on Thursdays and Fridays shall be 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.. At 6.30 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays Standing Order No. 7(5) of the Parliament shall operate. On Thursdays and Fridays at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Sittings of the Parliament (No. 3) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the motion No. 1 agreed to by Parliament this day, the hours of sitting this day shall be 1.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 2.00 p.m. Standing Order No. 7(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Plan of Action Regarding Victims of Enforced Disappearances and Persons Held in Custody for a Long Period of Time) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 2.35 p. m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Public Administration and Management moved,— That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.30 p. m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development moved,— That Hon. Lucky Jayawardana do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.40 p. m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement moved,— That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.47 p. m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

And it being 6.30 p. m. the Parliament was adjourned by the Presiding Member without question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 09, 2016.