



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 161.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, April 07, 2017 at 10.30 a. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairman of Committees

His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Minister of Defence, Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment and Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation

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. Gayantha Karunatileka, Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media and 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 Leader of the House of Parliament

Hon. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports

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

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

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

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

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Ports and Shipping

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development

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

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training

Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne, Minister of Labour and Trade Unions Relations

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

Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management

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

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. T. B. Ekanayake, State Minister of Lands

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

Hon. Palitha Range Bandara, State Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training

Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education

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. 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 Megapolis and Western Development

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

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

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Employment

Hon. Arundika Fernando, Deputy Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs

Hon. Indika Bandaranayake, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction

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

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. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne

Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardana

Hon. Bandula Gunawardane

Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera

Hon. Sisira Jayakody

Hon. Malith Jayathilake

Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne

Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne

Hon. Lucky Jayawardana

Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah

Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon

Hon. M. S. Thowfeek

Hon. Sirinal de Mel

Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka

Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka

Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake

Hon. Salinda Dissanayake

Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. S. Premarathna
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. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Actg. 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) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the year 2015 moved that this report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2013 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, Chairman of the Committee on Public Enterprises presented the Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises regarding the Rice import process of Lanka Sathosa Limited in the years 2014 and 2015.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne Member of the Committee on behalf of Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce presented the report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce on “Regulations under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007”, “Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board for the year 2012”, “Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department for the year 2015”, “Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd. For the year 2013/2014” and “Annual Performance Report of the Co-operative Employees Commission for the year 2015” which were referred to the said committee.

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

3. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Gamini Lokuge presented —
- (i) a petition dated 06.02.2017 from Mr. Harold Wijesiri Liyanage of No. 92/18, Judges' Housing Complex, Udahamulla, Nugegoda;
 - (ii) a petition dated 26.09.2016 from Mrs. L.P.Kodithuwakku of No. 191C, Kekulawita, Makandana, Piliyandala; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 01.02.2017 from Ven. Mahakande Wijithasiri Thero of Parama Dhamma Visudaramaya, Katuwawala, Boralesgamuwa.

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

4. Votes of Condolence : Appropriate Speeches on the death of Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, former Prime Minister and ex-Member of Parliament continued.

The Speaker announced that he associated himself with the sentiments expressed by both sides of the Parliament on the death of the late Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, the former Prime Minister and ex-Member of Parliament. He directed the Secretary-General of Parliament to send copies of the Official Reports (Hansard) to the members of the bereaved family.

5. Foreign Exchange : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs presented,— Bill to provide for the promotion and regulation of Foreign Exchange; to vest the responsibility for promoting and regulating Foreign Exchange in the Central Bank as the agent of the Government; to provide for the repeal of the Exchange Control Act (Chapter 423); and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 03 May, 2017 and to be printed and be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Economic Service Charge (Amendment) : The Minister of Finance presented,— Bill to amend the Economic Service Charge Act, No.13 of 2006.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 03 May, 2017 and to be printed and be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

7. Business of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Government Business do have precedence this day.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.30 p.m. Hon. Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

8. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No.1) : The Minister of Finance moved,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) on rules governing Distilleries/Warehouses and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1996/52 of 09th December 2016, which was presented on 07.03.2017, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 991)

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardena do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.55 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardena took the Chair.)

The Minister of Sports moved,—That Hon. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.32 p.m. Hon. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Notification under the Excise Ordinance (No.2) : The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22(1) of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) relating to duty on bottled toddy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1998/6 of 20th December 2016, which was presented on 07.03.2017, be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 993)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Regulations under the Convention against Doping in Sports Act : The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Sports moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Sports under Section 34(1) of the Convention against Doping in Sports Act, No. 33 of 2013 relating to the Prohibited List (2017) published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2006/15 of 14th February 2017, which were presented on 21.03.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Regulations under the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act : The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine under Section 30 read with Section 33 of the of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act No. 27 of 2006 relating to prohibition of the manufacture or sale of tobacco products which are prescribed and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1982/33 of 01st September 2016 and amended by Gazette Extraordinary No. 1997/22 of 15th December 2016, which were presented on 07.02.2017 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Relief for Estate Worker Families) : The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 6.52 p.m. adjourned until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 03, 2017 pursuant to the Resolutions of Parliament of 06 April, 2017.