



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 158.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, April 04, 2017 at 1.00 p. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees

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

Hon. Wajira Abeywardana, Minister of Home Affairs

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

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

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

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

Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management
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. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training
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. P. Harrison, Minister of Rural Economic Affairs
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. T. B. Ekanayake, State Minister of Lands
Hon. Mohan Lal Grero, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Dilan Perera, State Minister of Highways
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. (Mrs.) Vijayakala Maheswaran, State Minister of Child Affairs
Hon. V. S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education
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. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research
Hon. M. L. A. M. Hizbullah, State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement
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. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources
Development

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 Foreign Affairs

Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Employment

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

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

Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries

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 Wijesekera, 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. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasingha

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. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheeswaran
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
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. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath
Hon. Vijitha 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) Speaker presented the Performance Report of the Audit Service Commission, from 01 October 2016 to 31 December 2016, 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 Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Leader of the House of Parliament 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.

(3) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the —

- (i) 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 with regard to the establishment of a Department of English and linguistics in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of University of Sri Jayawardenepura and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1995/24 of 01st December 2016;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 27(1)(b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2002/26 of 18th January 2017 with regard to revoke the order of recognizing Institute of Technological Studies as degree awarding institute of Gazette Extraordinary No. 536/15 of 15th December 1988 ;
- (iii) 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 with regard to the establishment of Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Nursing in University of Colombo and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2002/32 of 18th January 2017;
- (iv) 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 with regard to the establishment of a Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering of University of Peradeniya and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2002/33 of 18th January 2017;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 20(4) (b) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, with regard to the appointment of a Competent Authority in lieu of Director of Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Institute and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2002/34 of 18th January 2017;
- (vi) Order made by the Minister of Higher Education and Highways under Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2005/11 of 07th February 2017 amending the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1413/21 of 06th October 2005 recognizing the Aquinas College of Higher Studies as a degree awarding institute; and

- (vii) 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 with regard to the establishment of a Department of English Language Teaching in the Faculty of Humanities of University of Kelaniya and Published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2005/13 of 08th February 2017.

and moved that these Orders be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the Ocean University (National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering) for the year 2014; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Institute of Business Management for the year 2013.

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the—

- (i) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1994/20 of 21st November 2016;
- (ii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1996/50 of 09th December 2016;
- (iii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1998/5 of 20th December 2016;
- (iv) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2000/85 of 06th January 2017;
- (v) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2002/29 of 18th January 2017;
- (vi) 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. 2003/43 of 27th January 2017;
- (vii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2006/41 of 16th February 2017;

- (viii) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2007/38 of 23rd February 2017;
- (ix) 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. 2007/44 of 26th February 2017;
- (x) Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007, relating to Special Commodity Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2009/5 of 07th March 2017;
- (xi) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties; (Gazette Extraordinary No. 1995/37 of 02nd December 2016) and
- (xii) Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to Import Duties.
(Gazette Extraordinary No. 2000/86 of 06th January 2017)

and moved that these Orders and resolutions be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Manufacturing and Services.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sugarcane Research Institute for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(8) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the First Report of the Task Force on Judicial and Legal Causes for Prison overcrowding and Prison Reform and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Presentation of Reports from Committees : Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, The Chairman of The Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on “ Notification made under Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52)”, “Annual Reports of the Ministry of Finance for the years 2014 and 2015”, “Annual Reports of the Lady Lochore Fund for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015”, “Annual Report of the Development Lotteries Board for the years 2013 and 2014” and “Annual Reports of the National Lotteries Board for the years 2013 and 2014” which were referred to the said committee.

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

3. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Bimal Rathnayake presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 20.01.2017 from Mr. K. Kamaleswaran, Technical Officer, Unit of Siddha Medicine, University of Jaffna, Kaithady; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 03.02.2017 from Mr. W.G.D.D. Karunaratne of No. 251, Morris Road, Welipatha, Galle.
- (2) Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana presented a petition dated 08.12.2016 from Mr. M.H.W. Kusumsiri of No. 05, First Lane, Abhaya Mawatha, Wijayapura, Anuradhapura.
- (3) Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 13.02.2017 from Mr. C. J. Perera of Ikiriyaigolla Junction, Kaikawala, Matale; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 13.02.2017 from Mrs. H. M. Anulawathie Herath of No. 116/4, Pattiwela, Galewela.
- (4) Hon. Sirinal de Mel presented a petition dated 05.09.2016 from Mr. L.K.D.C. Perera of No. 20/5, Mahindarama Road, First Lane, Ethul Kotte, Kotte.
- (5) Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 25.12.2016 from Mr. D.M. Samarakoon of No. 45/01, Near the Gangoda Tank, Yudaganawa, Hingurakgoda; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 01.01.2017 from Mrs. H.M. Pathmalatha Menike of No. 348, Kusumpokuna, Divulankadawala.
- (6) Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 23.11.2016 from Mr. J. A. Lionel Chandraratna of Ranagalla, Nakkawatta; and
 - (ii) a petition dated 29.11.2016 from Ms. T. M. Hemali Thennakoon of Ranagalla, Nakkawatta.
- (7) Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 01.12.2016 from Mr. S. Ashokan of Samurdhi Development Officer, Mugunmatha West Division, Hali-ela; and

- (ii) a petition dated 03.12.2016 from Mr. Selvaraj Jeyashanker of Kelsi Estate, Nanuoya.
- (8) Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga presented a petition dated 24.07.2016 from Mr. K.W.G. Thusharasena of No. 217/15/D3, Meegahawatta, Delgoda.

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

4. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order No.7 of the Parliament and the motion agreed to by Parliament on 08.03.2016, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.. At 4.00 p.m. Standing Order No. 7(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.00 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. National Transport Commission (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 2.19 p.m. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.07 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardena do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.00 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardena took the Chair.)

Question proposed, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Hon. Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clause 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation moved,— That the Bill, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

6. Adjournment (Formal Welfare Programme for Artistes Rendered Helpless) : The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Parliament was at 5.00 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without question put.

The Parliament accordingly adjourned until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 05, 2017.