



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 63.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 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. (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. Gayantha Karunatileka, Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media
and the Chief Government Whip

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

Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports

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

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

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

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. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana
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. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, State Minister of Finance
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. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
Hon. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Industry and Commerce Affairs
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. 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. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources
Management
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. Faizal Cassim, Deputy Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
Hon. Dunesh Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Disaster Management
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. H. R. Sarathie Dushmantha, Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Buddhasasana

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. Indika Bandaranayake, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction

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

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

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. 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. Ananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare

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. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Johnston Fernando
Hon. (Mrs.) Hirunika Premachandra
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda

Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharooof
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. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
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. Hesha Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
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. M. H. M. Salman

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan

Hon. Muthu Sivalingam

Hon. Sivasakthy Ananthan

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. Ali Zahir Moulana Seyed

Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

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) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Reports of the Botanical Gardens Trust Fund for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and moved that these Reports be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Performance Reports of the Department of National Botanical Gardens for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

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

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

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

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

- (i) the Order made by the Minister of Finance under subsection 3 of Section 3 of the Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011, relating to Ports and Airports Development Levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1947/47 of 01st January 2016; and
- (ii) the Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22 read with Section 32 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) as amended from time to time, regarding revision of Excise Duty on spirits (Ethyl Alcohol) and issuing License to Import Spirit (Ethyl Alcohol), and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1956/19 of 02nd March 2016 (Excise Notification No. 988).

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

2. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa presented a petition dated 25.01.2016 from Mr. Vikum Amaraweera of Residential Engineer's Office, Kudaoya, Balaharuwa, Thanamalwila.
- (2) Hon. Sunil Handunnetti presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 27.01.2016 from Mr. H. K. Ruwan Kumara of Sumanasiri Nivasa, Gorakagahawatta, Gandarawatta, Devinuwara;
 - (ii) a petition dated 08.02.2016 from Mr. M. G. S. P. H. Silva of No. 1567, Bandiwewa, Jayanthipura, Polonnaruwa; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 31.01.2016 from Mrs. S. H. Anulawathie of No. 01, Muththettuwegodawatta, Thalalla, Naotunna, Kottagoda.
- (3) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma presented a petition dated 08.02.2016 from Mr. K.P.K. Ariyapala of No. 30, Kirillawala, Kadawatha.

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

3. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Edward Gunasekara seconded by Hon. M. S. Thoufeek moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Ranjan Ramanayake 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 and Welfare for report.

4. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. M. S. Thowfeek seconded by Hon. Edward Gunasekara moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Kulliyathul Imaam Shafiee Arabic College.”

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 Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs for report.

5. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Mohamed Navavi seconded by Hon. M. H. M. Salman moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Nida 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 and Welfare for report.

6. Prescription (Special Provisions) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

(At 2.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.50 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media moved,—That Hon. Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.05 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

(At 5.42 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Clause 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Clause 4

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana proposed an amendment to leave out the words “twelve months” in line 25 in page 2 and insert the words “two years”.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 5 was agreed to.

Clause 6

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana proposed an amendment to insert the words “as amended by Act, No. 3 of 2013” immediately after the words “No. 25 of 2015” in line 5 in page 3.

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 7 was agreed to.

General Amendments

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana proposed following General Amendment:—

“any inconsistency or discrepancy in the Tamil text to be corrected in compliance with the Sinhala text”

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Preamble

Question that the Preamble stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Long Title

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

Enacting Clause and Title

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

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana moved,— That the Bill, as amended be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

7. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report on the possibility of enabling Sri Lankans employed overseas to exercise their franchise in future elections and matters incidental thereto : Hon. Sunil Handunnetti Seconded by Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran moved,— Whereas the right to exercise franchise is a fundamental right for every citizen of Sri Lanka;

And whereas citizens of Sri Lanka employed overseas have not had the opportunity to exercise their franchise in local elections up to now;

And whereas Sri Lankans employed overseas make an invaluable contribution for the sustenance of the economy of Sri Lanka at present through the earning of foreign exchange;

And whereas creating the necessary background for the migrant workers to engage in their employment with dignity is the responsibility of the government;

And whereas the exercise of franchise in an election is a Fundamental Right of the citizens of Sri Lanka;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into the difficulties faced by Sri Lankans employed overseas and the possibility of providing them the opportunity to exercise their franchise in elections and report to Parliament on the same with observations and recommendations.

2. (a) The Committee and its Chairman shall be nominated by Mr. Speaker.
- (b) The Committee shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) Members notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order No. 95 of the Parliament.
3. The Committee shall have the power to —
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) send for persons, papers and records, may order any person to attend before Parliament or before such Committee, and to produce any paper, book, record or document in the possession or under the control of such person;
 - (c) verify or otherwise ascertain by the oral examination of witnesses and examine witnesses upon oath or affirmation which the Chairman of the Committee or a person specially authorized for that purpose may administer;
 - (d) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (e) make interim reports from time to time and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.

4. The Committee shall present its report to Parliament within a period of six (06) months from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant. [P. 152/'15]

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Conduct of Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.05 p. m. adjourned until 10.30 a. m. on Thursday, April 07, 2016 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament on December 08, 2015.