



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 77.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, June 10, 2016 at 10.30 a. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

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

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. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and
Wildlife

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

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce

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 Petroleum Resources Development

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

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. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, State Minister of Finance

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management

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

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

Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprise Development

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

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. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. D. V. Chanaka
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff

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. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Sivasakthy Ananthan
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
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

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. Tikiri K. Jayathilake, Assistant Secretary-General

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

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

“Hon. Members, a discussion was carried out at the Committee on Parliamentary Business yesterday, regarding the confusion that arose with regard to the result of the division that was taken with reference to the motion cited as Item No.1 of the day’s Order Paper of 05th May 2016 on a Supplementary Sum of Rs.55 million which was taken up on the same day and accordingly, the full report of the Committee appointed by me to conduct an investigation into this matter comprising of the following senior Members of Parliament: Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa the former Speaker, Hon. Rauff Hakeem the Minister of City Planning and Water Supply, Hon. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe the Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana, was handed over to me.

As per the aforementioned report, there was a probability of making a bona fide error or an oversight given the chaotic situation that arose with the arrival of Members of Parliament into the chamber of Parliament on many different instances during the counting of the votes when the division which was to be called at 6.30 p.m., was called at 5.45 p.m. and those Members of Parliament who arrived late being provided with the opportunity getting their votes counted on three instances.

The Committee has emphasized that there is no reason for suspicion or uncertainty of any manner whatsoever regarding the impartiality or the independence of the Presiding Member at that occasion or the Secretary General of Parliament.

Further, the following points have been highlighted by the Investigation Committee:

“ General Observation

The Committee is of the view that during the last few months the conduct of some Members had been unruly, aggressive and hostile. If there will be a continuation of this kind of conduct, there will be an erosion of public confidence reposed in the Parliament and the democratic system of governance. Such a situation might eventually eat into the vitals of the democratic principles and norms. Hence the Committee recommends that stringent measures should be taken to uphold the discipline and to maintain the decorum of the Parliament.

Recommendations

- i. The Committee recommends that this is a noteworthy matter to be resolved, by a discussion at the Party Leaders’ Meeting in the interests of the Parliamentary system. If no consensus is arrived at, in considering circumstances under which the uncertainty has arisen, we recommend to hold a fresh counting of vote. (Noted a fresh vote was held.)

- ii. When a Bill or a Resolution is presented to the Parliament, the Minister in charge of the subject concerned (including the officials) shall act in due diligence and appraise the House with clarity the nature and the purpose of the Bill or Resolution.
- iii. The ringing of Division Bell to indicate the voting of Members must be continued for five minutes.
- iv. When voting had been fixed at a particular time, the House shall not commence voting before the fixed time even if the Debate is concluded. The House may be adjourned till the time fixed for voting.
- v. At the time of voting, in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall preside and conduct the voting in the House.
- vi. Members of the Speaker's Panel shall be given a special training to develop their skills.
- vii. Officials of the Parliament shall not engage with the Members or any outsider to evaluate or examine the conduct in the House or any other related matter unless there shall be a direction from the Speaker.
- viii. Stringent measures should be taken to uphold the discipline and to maintain the decorum of the Parliament.
- ix. The existing Standing Orders may be revised appropriately to meet the above-mentioned requirement."

I would like to inform that the Secretary General of Parliament has expressed his regret in writing about this incident.

Further, the Committee on Parliamentary Business that met yesterday discussed about the impeachment against the Secretary General of Parliament signed by the Members of Parliament representing the joint opposition and the Committee on Parliamentary Business was of the view that there was no reason to submit such an impeachment.

Furthermore, a number of such incidents had been reported in our Parliament and in other Parliaments throughout the world. According to the Hansard reports such mistakes had been rectified in our Parliament on three occasions. British Parliament had rectified such mistakes and shortcomings occurred during voting at 11 times. Therefore I renounce the effort taken by some Members of Parliament to emphasize that it was for the first time such an incident took place in a Parliament throughout the world.

Likewise, I would like to inform that Hon. Sisira Jayakody and Hon. Wimal Weerawansa expressed their regret to me with regard to their conduct during the said incident.

However, it should be emphasized that the co-operation of all the Members of Parliament is essential during a Division of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretariat should take steps to count the votes vigilantly with the support of the Chair."

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Recommendations of the Finance Commission to His Excellency the President in terms of the Article 154R (4) of the Constitution for the year 2016.

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

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Census and Statistics for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Report of the Road Development Authority for the year 2012 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Home Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the District Secretariat - Polonnaruwa for the year 2015 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Atomic Energy Authority for the year 2013 and moved that this Report be referred to the Committee on Energy.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Performance Reports of the Department of Imports and Exports (Control) for the years 2014 and 2015 and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Wajira Abeywardana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 12.12.2015 from Mr. A. G. Somarathne of Minuwandeniya, Naththawela, Wanduramba;
 - (ii) a petition dated 21.03.2016 from Mr. Dr. M. D. Asanga Ranjana working at Provincial Council Indigenous Medicine Udana Project, Kalegana, Galle;
 - (iii) a petition dated 27.03.2016 from Mr. G. Dharmadasa of Mathogala Kanatta, Ankokkawala, Galle;
 - (iv) a petition dated 27.09.2015 from Mr. G. W. P. Chandrawansa of No. 16, Wellawatta, Hikkaduwa;
 - (v) a petition dated 01.12.2015 from Mrs. H. G. Chandrapala of Giniwella, Kathaluwa, Ahangama;
 - (vi) a petition dated 07.08.2015 from Mr. K. M. G. Nimal Karunathilake of Hikkaduwa Nayapamula Access Road, Pitavitagoda, Baddegama;
 - (vii) a petition dated 14.10.2015 from Mr. M. Teeman de Silva of Abidisani, Hadanagodawatta, Mahanegoda, Bussa;
 - (viii) a petition dated 22.09.2015 from Mr. M. M. K. C. Jayavilal of Welikadamulla, Balapitiya;
 - (ix) a petition dated 24.02.2016 from Mr. M. T. M. Nizar of No. 34 B, Sethsiri Mawatha, Aththidiya Road, Rathmalana;
 - (x) a petition dated 24.09.2015 from Mr. P. J. Rupasinghe of No. 247/45, Sunnyside Gardens, Karapitiya, Galle;
 - (xi) a petition dated 27.09.2015 from Mrs. P. S. Rukmani Dias of Yogashramaya Road, Kahatapitiya, Batapola;
 - (xii) a petition dated 29.02.2016 from Ven. T. Saddammachala of Ama Suwa Arana, Meditation Centre, Thekkawaththa, No. 352, Tambuththegama; and
 - (xiii) a petition dated 21.03.2016 from Mr. W. Shelton of No. 70/9/1, Bogahawatta,, Dadalla, Ginthota.
- (2) Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana presented a petition dated 05.10.2015 from Mrs. Kolsum Beevi Marzook of Riyaz Bakery Road, Jeyanhary, Eravur 03.
- (3) Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 07.02.2016 from Mr. B. G. W. Jayasinghe of No. 116/F, Kiriwelewatta, Millethe, Kridiwela;
 - (ii) a petition dated 18.02.2016 from Mr. B. I. G. Sampath Jayawardena of No. 48/3A, Pallegama, Ampitiya, Kandy;
 - (iii) a petition dated 07.03.2016 from Mr. S. A. Kumarasinghe of No. 76, Kalukondayawa, Malwana;
 - (iv) a petition dated 23.02.2016 from Mr. W. M. Karunasena of No. 200/A/1, Hathperuma, Bogahawatta, Kirindiwela; and
 - (v) a petition dated 26.02.2016 from Mr. W. P. Sahan Pathiraja of No. 194/35, Magalegoda, Veyangoda.

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

4. Fiscal Management (Responsibility) (Amendment) : The Minister of Finance presented,— “Bill to amend the Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act, No. 3 of 2003.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 and to be printed.

5. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of the motion agreed to by Parliament on 08.03.2016, the hours of sitting this day shall be 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.. At 11.30 a.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.

6. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Mohamed Navavi seconded by Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Ameer Ali 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.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna seconded by Hon. Mohamed Navavi moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Sri Lanka Association for Child Development (SLACD).”

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 Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine for report.

8. Adjournment (Return of Military-Held Lands and Structured Programmes Aiming the Displaced in the North and East) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The State Minister of Child Affairs moved,—That Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.20 p. m. Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 2.14 p. m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.00 p. m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Child Affairs moved,—That Hon. Bimal Rathnayake do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.16 p. m. Hon. Bimal Rathnayake took the Chair.)

Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana seconded by Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.32 p. m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

And it being past 6.30 p. m. the Parliament was at 6.53 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member without question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 1.00 p. m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2016.