



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 151.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, March 08, 2017 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. 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. 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. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

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. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management

Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Ports and Shipping

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

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

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

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

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. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Post, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs

Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Public Enterprise Development

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. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs

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

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

Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence

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. Faizal Cassim, Deputy Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

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. Tharanath Basnayaka, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure

Hon. Nishantha Muthuhettigamage, Deputy Minister of Ports and Shipping Affairs

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

Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena

Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekera

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena

Hon. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

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. Chandima Gamage

Hon. Siripala Gamalath

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena

Hon. Bandula Gunawardane

Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Arumugan Thondaman
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. S. Premarathna
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharroof
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma

Hon. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
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. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavaroatham Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan

Hon. Muthu Sivalingam

Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

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. Announcement by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to announce to Parliament my ruling on the matter raised in the Chamber of Parliament by the Hon. Wimal Weerawansa on 22nd February 2017 that five Members of Parliament including him be recognized as an independent group of the Opposition which has seceded from the United People’s Freedom Alliance.

The letter dated 9th March 2017 has requested that five Members including the Hon. Wimal Weerawansa be recognized in Parliament as an independent group of Members of Parliament of the Opposition as the National Freedom Front and the right the Hon. Wimal Weerawansa would be entitled to as the leader of the group to attend Meetings of the Party Leaders and to make special statements in Parliament under Standing Order No. 23 (2) of the Parliament be recognized. The Hon. Wimal Weerawansa had made a statement similar to this on 5th April 2016 regarding this matter in this august assembly.

Accordingly, I have to decide according to the Constitution and the Standing Orders of Parliament whether other political parties or groups can be legally recognized in Parliament other than the six political parties namely the United National Party, United People’s Freedom Alliance, Ilangei Tamil Arasukatchchi, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, Elam People’s Democratic Party and Sri Lanka Muslim Congress that legally contested for the General Election on 17th August 2015 and declared by the Election Commissioner on 19th August 2015 in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1928/2.

There are historic recurrences that on many occasions, not only in this Parliament but also in previous Parliaments, Members of Parliament secede from their political parties from which they contested for the election and sat in the opposition as independent MPs. In such events there are many occasions that the right to speak of MPs in Parliament was ensured with the intervention from the Speaker. In the past various procedures were followed even in administrative processes to protect the rights of the MPs who are seated in the opposition.

I would like to state further that I and my predecessors and the Committee on Parliamentary Business have taken various decisions on various occasions based on the similar facts.

The Commissioner of Elections by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1928/3 dated 19th August 2015 by virtue of section 62 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No: 01 of 1981, has declared that Hon. Wimal Weerawansa has been elected as a Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance for the Colombo district at the General Election held on the 17th of August 2015. The Commissioner of Elections by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1928/2 dated 19th August 2015 has stated that Hon. Wimal Weerawansa MP, has been returned to parliament after having won the General Election by contesting under the United People's Freedom Alliance and as a member of that party and that Members of Parliament from six (6) recognized political parties that contested that election have been returned to Parliament.'

I also wish to state that it is mentioned in the minutes of the Committee on Parliamentary Business that it has been unanimously accepted by the leaders of all political parties representing the current 8th Parliament that commenced on the 01st of September 2015 that the current 8th Parliament is represented by only six recognized political parties.

Further, the political groupings or parties within the 6 political parties which according to the declarations made by the Commissioner of Elections comprise the 8th Parliament and as to the contents or conditions of such agreements entered into between them do not come under my scope as the Speaker and I also wish to state that becoming aware of such internal alliances does not come under the purview of my office as Speaker.

I am of the opinion that the parties to be recognized for the purpose of business of Parliament should be determined on a legal basis in compliance with the Constitution and the Standing Orders. Paragraph (a) of Sub section (13) of Article 99 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has set out as follows the relationship between a Member of Parliament and the party or group from which he submitted nominations for the election.

I declare that Paragraph (a) of Sub section (13) of Article 99 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka states that where a Member of Parliament ceases, by resignation, expulsion or otherwise, to be a member of a recognized political party or independent group on whose nomination paper his name appeared at the time of his becoming such member of Parliament, his seat shall become vacant upon the expiration of a period of one month from the date of his ceasing to be such member.

Further, in establishing the Constitutional Council under the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, as one Member of Parliament is nominated with the participation of the parties other than the parties represented by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition under sub paragraph (e) of Article 41 a (i), several crises will have to be faced in that process if consideration of the other parties represented in Parliament is not done on a legal basis.

From a practical point of view, if a Member of Parliament or a group of Members of Parliament who decide to function independently subsequent to handing over nominations and contesting an election under a certain recognized political party or an independent group, make a request to be granted the rights or privileges enjoyed by a recognized political party or an independent group that is elected to Parliament by handing over nominations and contesting an election, granting such a request could pave way for the creation of new parties or groups at different times in Parliament as single Member parties, parties with groups of Members etc., and it could cause a collapse of the entire Parliamentary process and provide the opportunity for abuse of Parliamentary privileges.

A lot of instances could be witnessed during the recent past, in which my predecessor speakers took practical decisions to safeguard the rights of Hon. Members of Parliament and carry on the business of parliament in an effective manner on such occasions when similar incidents occurred.

Presently I have taken action personally and through the Committee on Parliamentary Business to allocate seats in the opposition side and allocate necessary time to participate in debates to the group of Members of Parliament of United Peoples' Freedom Alliance when they decided to sit in the opposition side.

Furthermore, opportunity has been provided with the concurrence of the Committee on Parliamentary Business even to Hon. Dinesh Gunawardana, MP, to make a declaration under standing order No. 23(2) of Parliament on a matter of urgent and public importance on behalf of the United Peoples' Freedom Alliance at the end of the time allocated for questions for oral answers.

A similar course of action had been followed by my predecessor too. Although certain rights were made available in practice within Parliament with the concurrence of the Committee on Parliamentary Business, as per the Constitution and the Standing Orders of Parliament, neither myself nor Parliament can establish in Parliament a new party or a group that is fully recognized by law.

Accordingly, I would like to emphasize the fact that Parliament can legally recognize only the parties or groups which are elected to Parliament after submitting nominations and are mentioned in the respective Gazette notification and not the groups or political parties that Members of Parliament may wish to represent from time to time according to their will when acting on their ideas.

I would like to inform the House however, that I will not hesitate at all to safeguard the rights enjoyed in Parliament by each Member as a Member of Parliament and to intervene in instances where these rights are violated.

Hon . Members, on various occasions every party has expressed their views regarding this matter, and I would like to state that I have paid my attention all those views in arriving at this decision. Therefore, I emphasize that there is no need to express views further on this matter or to have debates. ”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Science, Technology and Research presented the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research for the year 2015 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Paranthan Chemicals Company Limited for the year 2014 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce.

Question put, and agreed to.

(3) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the People’s Bank 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. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Tilak Marapana, Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development presented the Report of the Committee on Economic Development on “Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Bill” which was referred to the said committee.

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

(2) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana, The Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment presented the Report of the Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment on “Regulations under the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act No.27 of 2006” which were referred to the said committee.

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

4. Petitions :

(1) Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare presented —

- (i) a petition dated 28.11.2016 from Mrs. S.M.S.K. Hadugoda of Saubhagya, Pamunudeniya, Yatawatta; and
- (ii) a petition dated 03.12.2016 from Mr. S.T. Silva of No. 11, Colony A, Kotuwegedara, Matale.

- (2) Hon. Sunil Handunnetti presented —
- (i) a petition dated 13.01.2017 from Mr. A. S. H. J. De Alwis of No. 23/9, Devala Lane, Nugegoda;
 - (ii) a petition dated 20.01.2017 from Dr. (Mrs.) D. Gunawardana of No. 121, Weda Nivasa, Maththegoda;
 - (iii) a petition dated 11.02.2017 from Mrs. G. W. Karunawathie of Lakmal, Palatuwa, Matara;
 - (iv) a petition dated 05.12.2016 from Mr. J. Somadasa of No. 154, Kirigampamunuwa, Polgasowita; and
 - (v) a petition dated 02.11.2016 from Mr. U. H. Jayalath of No. 9/3, Second Cross Road, Polhena, Matara.
- (3) Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah presented a petition dated 12.07.2016 from Mr. S. Nagarasa of Elalai West, Elalai.
- (4) Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne presented a petition dated 10.10.2016 from Mr. N.K.D. Asanka of No. 51, Hermanwatta 11, Ganima, Dodangoda.
- (5) Hon. Hector Appuhamy presented a petition dated 23.01.2017 from Mr. U. I. Quintus Fernando of Church Road, Morakale, Ihala Kottaramulla.
- (6) Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne presented a petition dated 01.12.2016 from Mr. B.G.D. Deshapriya of Wilpaththu Corps, Civil Security Department, Thambiyawa.

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

Suspension of Sitting

1.24 p.m.

The sitting was suspended until 1.41 p.m.

1.41 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

Suspension of Sitting

2.06 p.m.

The sitting was suspended until 2.26 p.m.

2.26 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

Suspension of Sitting

2.38 p.m.

The sitting was suspended until 3.14 p.m.

3.14 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

And Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena having disregarded the Authority of the Chair, Mr. Speaker named Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena to Parliament.

The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,—That the Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena be suspended from the service of Parliament for a period of one week, the conduct being grossly disorder in the House on 08 March 2017 and having named by the Speaker under Standing Order No. 72(1) read with Standing Order No.74(2) of the Parliament, to suspend the service of Parliament of the Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena for a period of one week.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament having divided as follows: Ayes:85, Noes: 22, Abstained: 03.

Question put, and agreed to.

AYES

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe	Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana	Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare
Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera	Hon. Niroshan Perera
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama	Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini
Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka	Fernandopulle
Hon. Ravi Karunanayake	Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene
Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam	Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella	Hon. M. L. A. M. Hizbullah
Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara	Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie
Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera	Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma	Hon. (Mrs.) Sumedha G. Jayasena
Bandara	Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva
Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga	Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana
Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Hon. Ajith P. Perera
Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe	Hon. Tharanath Basnayaka
Hon. Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa	Hon. Ranjan Ramanayake
Hon. D. M. Swaminathan	Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Rauff Hakeem	Hon. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara
Hon. Abdul Haleem	Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Kabir Hashim	Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka	Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala	Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne

Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran	Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. Chandima Gamage	Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Edward Gunasekara	Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne	Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana	Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramane
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana	Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah	Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam	Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek	Wijerathna
Hon. Sirinal de Mel	Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Mohamed Navavi	Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan	Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana	Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa	Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha	Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Srisikandarasa
Hon. Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Mansoor	Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. S. M. Marikkar	Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana	Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. K. Kader Masthan	Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. Imran Maharroof	Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma	Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Tilak Marapana	Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

NOES

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena	Hon. Padma Udhayashantha
Hon. Dilum Amunugama	Gunasekera
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasingha	Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Siripala Gamalath	Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena	Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Bandula Gunawardana	Hon. Salinda Dissanayake
	Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara

Hon. S. Premarathna	Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya	Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga	Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe	Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella	Hon. Wimal Weerawansa

ABSTAINED

Hon. Anura Dissanayaka	Hon. Vijitha Herath
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake	

And having caused Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena to withdraw, the Sitting was resumed.

5. Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 3.55 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 6.11 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media moved,— That this debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

The debate stood adjourned; debate to be continued on a future date.

6. Adjournment (Release of Lands Occupied by Security Forces to Original Occupants) : 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 7.22 p.m. adjourned until 10.30 a. m. on Thursday, March 09, 2017 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 08th March, 2016.