



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 150.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, March 07, 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. (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. (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. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries

Hon. S. B. Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare

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. 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. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, Minister of Power and Renewable Energy

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. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture

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

Hon. Dilan Perera, State Minister of Highways

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

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

Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera, State Minister of Labour and Trade Unions Relations

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. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Megapolis and Western 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. Karunarathna Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media

Hon. Ajith P. Perera, Deputy Minister of Power and Renewable Energy

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 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. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

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. Chandrasiri Gajadeera

Hon. Chandima Gamage
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thurairetnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
Hon. T. Ranjith De Zoysa
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. I. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana
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. 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. C. B. Rathnayake

Hon. Lohan Ratwatte

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga

Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera

Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Mujibur Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna

Hon. Namal Rajapaksa

Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa

Hon. Gamini Lokuge

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. Kanchana Wijesekara

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. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. M. H. M. Salman

Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan

Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath

Hon. Kanaka 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,

I wish to inform that the letter received from the Attorney General in response to the report of the Committee on Public Enterprises on the issue of Treasury Bonds by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka which was presented to this House on 28th of October 2016 and was subsequently referred to the Attorney General on 26th of January 2017 in accordance with the decision of this August Assembly is tabled as per the decision of the Committee on Parliamentary Business held on 23rd of February 2017.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Transport Board 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.

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage for the year 2014 and moved that this Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) 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.

(Excise Notification No. 991)

- (ii) 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.

(Excise Notification No. 993); and

- (iii) Report on Supplementary Allocations from the Supplementary Support Services and Contingent Liabilities Project appearing under Expenditure Head No. 240 of the Department of National Budget - 2016 as at 31.12.2016 and 2017 as at 31.01.2017 under Section 6(1) of the Appropriation Acts, No. 16 of 2015 and No. 24 of 2016, respectively.

and moved that these Notifications and Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Public Finance

Question put, and agreed to.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy for the year 2014; and

- (ii) Annual Reports of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute for the years 2013 and 2014;

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (i) Hon. Douglas Devananda, Member of the Committee, on behalf of the Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah, the Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and North & East Reconstruction presented the Report of the Committee on Reconciliation and North & East Reconstruction on “Annual Report of the Official Language Commission for the year 2011”, “Annual Report of the Official Language Commission for the year 2012”, “Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of National Co - existence, Dialogue and Official Languages for the year 2015” and “Performance Report of the Department of Official Languages for the year 2015” which were referred to the said committee.

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

(ii) Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, The Chairman of The Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the Committee on Public Finance on “Orders under Sections 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No 13 of 1989 ” which were referred to the said committee.

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

(iii) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, The Chairman of The Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti - corruption) and Media presented the Report of the Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media on “Order under Section 7(2) of Code of Criminal Procedure (Special Provisions) Act No.2 of 2013” which was referred to the said committee.

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

4. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage presented a petition dated 02.02.2017 from Mr. K. G. Cyril Gunaratne of No. 108/16, Newlinhill State, Pilapitiya, Muruthalawa.
- (2) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 28.12.2016 from Mrs. D. M. T. K. Dissanayaka of No. 41/12, Warapitiya, Kundasale;
 - (ii) a petition dated 14.01.2017 from Mr. E. G. N. S. Pieris of No. 100/40, Dharmaraja Mawatha, Kandy;
 - (iii) a petition dated 01.12.2016 from Mr. M.B. jayasena of No. 7E 1, Daskara, Muruthagahamula; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 07.01.2017 from Mr. P. B. Meedeniya of Uduwa, Kandy.
- (3) Hon. Nihal Galappaththi presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 03.02.2017 from Ms. D. R. Venaka Krishanthi of Seniru, Thalawa, Kariyamadiththa;
 - (ii) a petition dated 25.12.2016 from Mr. K.A. Siripala of No. 268, Kudagammana 11, Adalla, Weerawila;
 - (iii) a petition dated 29.01.2017 from Mr. Roshan K. Pinchahewa of No. 864/2, Ethul Kotte, Kotte; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 20.12.2016 from Mr. Upali Naotunna of No. 91, Maitrigama, Hambantota.
- (4) Hon. Edward Gunasekara presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 01.02.2017 from Mrs. D. Poornima Udeshini of No. 23/2, New Hospital Road, Pamunuwa, Maharagama;
 - (ii) a petition dated 05.07.2016 from Mr. E.S.S.K. Soyza of No. 87/1, Gunarathna Mawatha, Negombo;
 - (iii) a petition dated 25.12.2016 from Mr. K.A.D. Wickramasiri of No. 194, Thammita, Makewita; and
 - (iv) a petition dated 26.12.2016 from Mr. W.P. Karunawardhana of No. 64, Barawawila, Divulapitiya.

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

5. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs presented,— “Bill to give effect to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; to ensure the right to Justice and Reparation to Victims of Enforced Disappearance; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 21 March, 2017 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.1) : The Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1996/10 of 06th December 2016, which was presented on 08.02.2017 be approved.

(At 2.30 p.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.25 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Mujibur Rahuman do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.52 p.m. Hon. Mujibur Rahuman took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.2) : The Minister of Finance moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3 of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to Excise Duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/29 of 10th November 2016, which was presented on 08.02.2017 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Adjournment (Expeditious Mechanism for Development of Coconut Cultivation) : The and Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 6.44 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 08, 2017.