



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 147.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 1.00 p. 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. 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. (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. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries

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. S. B. Nawinne**, Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs
- Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera**, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
- Hon. Harin Fernando**, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
- Hon. A. D. Susil Premajyantha**, Minister of Science, Technology and Research
- Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Minister of Housing and Construction
- Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen**, Minister of Industry and Commerce
- Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara**, Minister of Public Administration and Management
- 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 Rajapakse**, 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. Mangala Samaraweera**, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe**, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training
- Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya**, Minister of Power and Renewable Energy
- Hon. W. D. J. Senewiratne**, Minister of Labour and Trade Unions Relations
- 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. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Industry and Commerce Affairs
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. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade
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. Dunesh Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Disaster Management
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
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. 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. Tharanath Basnayaka, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
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. Dilum Amunugama

Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala

Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri

Hon. Velu Kumar

Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne

Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran

Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera

Hon. Chandima Gamage

Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila

Hon. Nihal Galappaththi

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardana

Hon. Bandula Gunawardane

Hon. Edward Gunasekara

Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera

Hon. S. M. Chandrasena

Hon. D. V. Chanaka

Hon. Sisira Jayakody

Hon. Malith Jayathilake

Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha

Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne

Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne

Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana

Hon. K. Thuraiatretnasingam

Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. Arumugan Thondaman
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Piyal Nishantha 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. 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. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero

Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
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. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. E. Saravanapavan
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe

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

This Bill was presented to Parliament on 09 January 2017. It was referred to each Provincial Council in terms of Article 154G (5)(a) of the Constitution and the Provincial Councils were requested to report their views to Parliament within a period of one month from 10 January 2017, in terms of Standing Order No. 46A (2)(a) of the Parliament.

The views of the Provincial Councils reported to Parliament are as follows:-

- North Central Provincial Council has expressed its consent to the Bill after it was considered.
- Central, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Western and Uva Provincial Councils have expressed their consent subject to amendments after consideration.
- Northern Provincial Council has reported their disagreement to the Bill while Eastern Provincial Council has reported that it has decided to postpone the consideration till the constitutional reforms are implemented.

The views of all Provincial Councils be referred to the Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented,— the Recommendations of the Finance Commission for the year 2017 to H.E. the President in terms of the Article 154R (4) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and moved that these Recommendations be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented,— the Annual Report of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal 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.

(3) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented,— the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau for the year 2014 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Ceylon-German Technical Training Institute for the year 2014 and moved that this report 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 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation for the year 2013 and moved that this report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs presented the Annual Performance Report of the Department of National Museum for the Year 2015 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage.

Question put, and agreed to.

(7) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka 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 Regulations made by the Minister of Ports and Shipping under Section 321 read with Section 139 of the Merchant Shipping Act, No. 52 of 1971 relating to Verification of Container Gross Mass and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No.1979/30 dated 11th August 2016; and moved that these Regulations be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees : (1) Hon. Tilak Marapana, Chairmana of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development on “The Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008” which was referred to the said committee.

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

(2) Hon. S. M. Marikkar, Member of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage on behalf of the Hon. C. B. Rathnayake, the Chairman of the said Committee presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage on “Annual Report of the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority for the year 2012” and “Annual Performance Report of the Department of Sports Development for the year 2015” which were referred to the said committee.

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

(3) Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna, Chairperson of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender on “Annual Report of the National Child Protection Authority for the year 2013”, “Performance Report of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services for the year 2015” and “Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for the year 2015” which were referred to the said committee.

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

4. Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Duminda Dissanayake presented a petition dated 27.12.2016 from Mr. J. B. R. D. Herath of Kada Veediya, Thirappane.
- (2) Hon. P. Harrison presented a petition dated 06.11.2016 from Mr. D. Pathmasiri of Kirikkulama, Galkulama, Anuradhapura.
- (3) Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam presented a petition dated 31.08.2016 from Mr. A.M.S.S. Adhikari of Aluth Gedara, Gangoda Road, Nikaweratiya.
- (4) Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie presented a petition dated 27.01.2017 from Mrs. K. L. Indika Lakmali of No. 190, Brito Babapulle Place, Grandpass, Colombo 14.
- (5) Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare presented a petition dated 27.01.2017 from Mrs. W. G. Kusumawathie of No. 97/6 A, Butewa, Mathalapitiya.
- (6) Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna presented—
 - (i) a petition dated 08.10.2016 from Mr. N.A.R.S. Bandara of Kaikawala watta, Kaikawala, Matale;

- (ii) a petition dated 07.11.2016 from Mr. P.B. Shelton of No. 23, “Lahiru”, Muwandeniya – Matale; and
- (iii) a petition dated 31.10.2016 from Mr. W.M.S.S.K. Wanasinghe of Narangolla, Raththota.

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

5. Revocation of Irrevocable Deeds of Gift on the Ground of Gross Ingratitude : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana presented,— Bill to provide for Revocation of Irrevocable Deeds of Gift on the Ground of Gross Ingratitude and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, March 07, 2017 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

6. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Finance under Section 20 read with Sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Act No. 48 of 1985 and Act, No. 28 of 1987 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1903/41 of 26th February 2015, which were presented on 23.09.2015, be approved.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

7. Order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 14 of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to Cess and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/52 of 11th November 2016, which was presented on 26.01.2017 be approved.

The State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply moved,—That Hon. Edward Gunasekara do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.20 p.m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways moved,—That Hon. J. M. Ananda Kuamarasiri do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.45 p.m. Hon. J. M. Ananda Kuamarasiri took the Chair.)

(At 6.02 p.m. the Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 1) : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 3 (4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to the exemptions to be granted in respect of the proposed project and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1993/34 of 18th November 2016, which was presented on 27.01.2017 be approved.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways moved,—That this debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Accordingly, the debate stood adjourned; the debate to be continued on a future date.

9. Order under the Strategic Development Projects Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,— That the Order made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 3(4) of the Strategic Development Projects Act, No. 14 of 2008 relating to the exemptions to be granted in respect of the proposed project and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1996/26 of 06th December 2016 amended by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2004/29 of 30th January 2017, which was presented on 08.02.2017 be approved.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways moved,—That this debate be now adjourned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Accordingly, the debate stood adjourned; the debate to be continued on a future date.

10. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : The Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 20 read with Subsection 3 of Section 4 and Section 14 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969 as amended by Acts, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987, published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1999/47 of 30th December 2016, which were presented on 27.01.2017 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment (Methodology for Provision of Rice at Low Cost) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Higher Education and Highways moved,—That Hon. Mujibur Rahuman do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.10 p.m. Hon. Mujibur Rahuman took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; was at 7.15 p. m. adjourned until 1.00 p. m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.