



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 146.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Thursday, February 09, 2017 at 10.30 a. m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker

Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees

Hon. Selvam Adaikkalanathan, Deputy Chairman of Committees

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 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. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports

Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

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

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. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western
Development

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

Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development

Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous
Medicine

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development

Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture

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

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

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. M. L. A. M. Hizbullah, State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement

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. (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. 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. Arundika Fernando, Deputy Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs

Hon. Indika Bandaranayake, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction

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. Sisira Kumara Abeysekara

Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma
Hon. Ananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Edward Gunasekara
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Sisira Jayakody
Hon. Malith Jayathilake
Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. K. Thuraiatretnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Anura Dissanayaka
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka
Hon. Weerakumara Dissanayake
Hon. Douglas Devananda
Hon. Mohamed Navavi
Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara
Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
Hon. K. K. Piyadasa
Hon. Sanath Nishantha Perera
Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
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. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. C. B. Rathnayake
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi

Hon. Indika Anuruddha 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 Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for the Years 2013 and 2014 and moved that these reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd., for the Year 2013/2014 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 Urban Development Authority for the Year 2012 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. 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 "Reports, Order and Notification" referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Lucky Jayawardana, Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment on "Regulations under the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act No. 5 of 2015" referred to the said Committee.

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

(3) Hon. Ranjith Aluvihare, Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations on “Orders under the Diplomatic Privileges Act No. 9 of 1996” referred to the said Committee.

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

(4) Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media on “Order under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act No. 25 of 2002” referred to the said Committee.

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

3. Petitions :

(1) Hon. (Dr.) Harsha De Silva presented a petition dated 13.09.2016 from Mr. K.U. Pushpakumara of No: 90/5, Sapumal Uyana, Pitakotte.

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

Suspension of Sitting

10.47 a.m.

The sitting was suspended until 11.06 a.m.

11.06 a.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

4. Sittings of the Parliament : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament at its rising this day do adjourn until 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21st February 2017.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. Privilege : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the question of privilege arising out of the matter raised by the Hon. K. Kader Masthan, M.P. on 09th December, 2016 in Parliament to the effect that his privileges have been infringed, be referred to the Committee on Privileges under Standing Order No. 127 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

6. Resolution under the Customs Ordinance : Order read for resuming the Adjourned Debate on Question (08th February 2017) Motion made and question proposed,—That the Resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) relating to import duties, which was presented on 24.01.2017 be approved.

(Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/26 of 10th November 2016).

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Order under the Special Commodity Levy Act : Order read for resuming the Adjourned Debate on Question (08th February 2017) Motion made and question proposed,— That the Order made by the Minister of Finance under Sub-section 3 of Section 2 of the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 relating to special commodity levy and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/27 of 10th November 2016, which was presented on 24.01.2017 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Notification under the Excise Ordinance : Order read for resuming the Adjourned Debate on Question (08th February 2017) Motion made and question proposed,—That the Notification made by the Minister of Finance under Section 22 (2) of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52) on exempting the payment of excise duty on foreign liquor imported for the purpose of re-export or to sell at duty free shops for foreign currency with effect from 04th October 2016 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1987/5 of 03rd October 2016, which was presented on 24.01.2017 be approved.

(Excise Notification No. 990)

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Divineguma (Amendment) Bill : Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question proposed, and debated.

(At 11.58 a.m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare 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.

Clauses 1 to 5 were agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

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

Bill reported without Amendments.

The Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare moved,— That the Bill, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, accordingly read the third time and passed.

10. Regulations under the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act : The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media on behalf of the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine moved,—That the Regulations made by the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine under Section 142 of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act, No. 5 of 2015 read with Section 118 of the aforesaid Act, relating to ceiling on prices and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1989/61 of 21st October 2016, which were presented on 24.01.2017 be approved.

The Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardana do take the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 1.04 p.m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana 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 2.33 p.m. Hon. J. M. Ananda Kuamarasiri took the Chair.)

The Deputy Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine moved,— That Hon. Shehan Semasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.20 p.m. Hon. Shehan Semasinghe took the Chair.)

The Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine moved,— That Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.40 p.m. Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Select Committee of Parliament to look into and report on the expenses incurred by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the purchasing of the Office for the Sri Lankan Embassy in Brazil and the Office for the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York, USA, separately in respect of each premises : Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe seconded by Hon. Mujibur Rahuman moved,—That this Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into and report on:

- (a) The expenses incurred by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the purchasing of the Office for the Sri Lankan Embassy in Brazil and the Office for the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York, USA, separately in respect of each premises,

- (b) Whether these purchases were duly authorized;
 - (c) The amount incurred on each of these premises separately;
 - (d) The officers by name who were responsible for and/or instructed the purchasing of these premises;
 - (e) Any other matter that the Select Committee of Parliament deems relevant to its inquiries.
- 2.(a) That the Committee and its Chairman shall be nominated by Mr. Speaker,
- (b) That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 95 of the Parliament, the Committee shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) Members.
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 six months (06) of the date of its first sitting or such other or further time as Parliament may grant. [P. 188/'16]

Question put, and agreed to.

12. Adjournment (Indefinite Postponement of Local Government Election):

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. Shehan Semansinghe do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 6.34 p.m. Hon. Shehan Semansinghe took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to; the Parliament was at 7.26 p. m. adjourned until 1.00 p. m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of this day.