



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 141.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, January 25, 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. 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. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Higher Education and Highways and Leader of the House of Parliament

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

Hon. A. D. Premadasa, State Minister of Industry and Commerce 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. 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. Ashok Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Megapolis and Western Development

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development

Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, Deputy Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment

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. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries

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

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. Rohitha Abeygunawardana

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. A. Aravindh Kumar

Hon. Velu Kumar
Hon. Nalaka Prasad Colonne
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Siripala Gamalath
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Bandula Gunawardane
Hon. Padma Udhayashantha Gunasekera
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. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thuraiatretnasingam
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Anura 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. Ashoka Priyantha
Hon. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda
Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda

Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. K. Kader Masthan
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Bimal Rathnayake
Hon. Lohan Ratwatte
Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
Hon. Ishak Rahuman
Hon. Mujibur Rahuman
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Thusitha Wijemanna
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavaritham Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. M. H. M. Salman
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran

Hon. Vadivel Suresh

Hon. Sunil Handunnetti

Hon. Kanaka Herath

Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake, 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 this House that many Hon. Members have enquired me about the steps that should be taken regarding the Report of the Committee on Public Enterprises on the issue of treasury bonds of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, which was taken up in this House yesterday.

All the Hon. Members are hereby informed that, in my point of view, a decision should be made in this regard by this august Assembly itself and that this report can be referred to the Attorney-General if you all agree to do so.

Although no incidence has been reported where such reports that have been presented to Parliament by the Committee on Public Enterprises from time to time and taken up in Parliament have been referred to the Attorney-General for further action, it is no doubt that it would be a good precedence to do so.

I believe that it would be a very good and timely practice to refer to the Attorney-General for further action the reports that are presented to this august Assembly after investigations have been carried out by various Committees of Parliament in future.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Reports of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption for the Years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 and moved that these reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the District Secretariat - Anuradhapura 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 Reports of the Homoeopathic Medical Council for the Years 2011 and 2012 and moved that these reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(4) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Performance Report of the Department of Inland Revenue for the Year 2015 and moved that this report be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(5) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Lanka Phosphate Ltd. for the Year 2014/15 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media presented the Annual Report of the Bank of Ceylon 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 the Committees : Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah, Member of the Committee on Public Finance on behalf of the Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran, Chairman of the Committee on Public Finance presented the Report of the said Committee on “Land (Restrictions on Alienation) (Amendment) Bill”, “Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969”, “Regulation under the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002”, “Orders under Sections 3 and 3C of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989” and “Order under Section 3(2) of Land (Restrictions On Alienation) Act, No.38 of 2014” referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the Table.

4. Petitions :

(1) Hon. Abdul Haleem presented —

- (i) a petition dated 26.11.2016 from Mr. B.R. Suranimala Jayasekara of No. 40, Gorakawatta, Batagalla, Pujapitiya; and
- (ii) a petition dated 23.05.2016 from Mr. K.G.N.P.H.M.I. Mohomad of No. 07, Telecom Road, Kurundugaha Ela, Akurana;

(2) Hon. H. M. M. Harees presented a petition dated 01.09.2016 from Mrs. Z. Mufeeda Usman of No. 218, Orabi Pasha Road, Sainthamaruthu - 01.

(3) Hon. Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma presented a petition dated 24.11.2016 from Mr. U. Wilbert Silva of “Sisila”, Midalana, Morapitiya.

(4) Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne presented a petition dated 21.11.2016 from (Dr.) (Mrs.) W.W.S.W.C. Fernando, Additional Paediatrician, Puttalam;

- (5) Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila presented a petition dated 21.09.2016 from Mr. P.I. Pathirathne of No. 201/2, Somananda Mawatha, Udumulla, Panadura.
- (6) Hon. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa presented —
- (i) a petition dated 09.11.2016 from Mr. Amarasiri Daluwatta of No. 31/A, Sriya Mawatha, Panadura;
 - (ii) a petition dated 20.10.2016 from Mrs. L.L.R. Lekamwasam of No. 216 “A”, Thalangama North, Koswatta, Battaramulla; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 02.12.2016 from Mr. M.H.E. Fernando of No. 14, Model Town, Katubedda, Ratmalana.

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

(At 2.15 p.m. the Deputy Chairman of Committees took the Chair.)

5. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah seconded by Hon. Sujith Sanjaya Perera moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the UnV 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.

6. Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act : The State Minister of Finance on behalf of 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 the Act, No. 48 of 1985 and No. 28 of 1987, published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/74 of 11th November 2016, which were presented on 08.12.2016 be approved.

The Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife moved,— That Hon Velu Kumar do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.34 p.m. Hon. Velu Kumar took the Chair.)

The Minister of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs moved,— That Hon. Mujibur Rahuman do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.45 p.m. Hon. Mujibur Rahuman took the Chair.)

The Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs and Minister of Lands moved,— That Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 5.47 p.m. Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

7. Regulation under the Value Added Tax Act : The Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,—That the Regulation made by the Minister of Finance under Section 5(15) of the Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002, as last amended by the Act, No. 20 of 2016, relating to excluding the cost of any healthcare service from VAT, other than the fees paid to medical practitioners, medical consultation fees, channelling fees and hospital room charges, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1991/17 of 01st November 2016, which was presented on 08.12.2016 be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No.1) : The Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— 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. 1987/8 of 03rd October 2016, which was presented on 09.01.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Order under the Excise (Special Provisions) Act (No. 2) : The Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,—(No.2),—Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3C of the Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No. 13 of 1989 relating to excise duty and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/30 of 10th November 2016, which was presented on 09.01.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Order under the Land (Restriction on Alienation) Act : The Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved,— Order made by the Minister of Finance under Section 3(2) of Land (Restriction on Alienation) Act, No. 38 of 2014 regarding transfer of a land in Colpetty on free hold basis to M/s Avic International Hotels Lanka Ltd., which is a Strategic Development Project and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1992/10 of 08th November 2016, which was presented on 09.01.2017, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

11. Adjournment (Price Increase of Lottery Tickets) : 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 6.52 p. m. adjourned until 10.30 a. m. on Thursday, January 26, 2017 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 09th January, 2017.