



(Eighth Parliament - First Session)

No. 109.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 1.00 p. m.

PRESENT :

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. 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. 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. 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. A. D. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research

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. Sagala Ratnayaka**, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development
- Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka**, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse**, 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. 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
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- Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare**, State Minister of Agriculture
- Hon. T. B. Ekanayake**, State Minister of Lands
- Hon. Dilan Perera**, State Minister of Highways
- Hon. Niroschan 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. Sujeewa Senasinghe**, State Minister of International Trade
- Hon. Vasantha Senanayake**, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management

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. Dunes Gankanda, Deputy Minister of Disaster Management

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. 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. 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. Nimal Lanza, Deputy Minister of Home 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. 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. A. Aravindh Kumar
Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri
Hon. (Mrs.) Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasingha
Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran
Hon. Chandrasiri Gajadeera
Hon. Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila
Hon. Nihal Galappaththi
Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena
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. (Dr.) Nalinda Jayathissa
Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana
Hon. Lucky Jayawardana
Hon. Premalal Jayasekara
Hon. Mylvaganam Thilakarajah
Hon. K. Thuraiatretnasingam
Hon. Janaka Bandara Tennakoon
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Sirinal de Mel
Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva
Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva
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. 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. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Abdullah Mahrooff
Hon. Tilak Marapana
Hon. (Prof.) Ashu Marasinghe
Hon. S. C. Mutukumarana
Hon. Seeniththamby Yoheswaran
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. Namal Rajapaksa
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Angajan Ramanathan
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura
Hon. Vidura Wickramanayaka
Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne
Hon. A. A. Wijethunga
Hon. Lakshman Ananda Wijemanne
Hon. (Mrs.) Sriyani Wijewickrama

Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri
Hon. Kanchana Wijesekara
Hon. Heshan Withanage
Hon. S. Viyalanderan
Hon. Wimal Weerawansa
Hon. Kumara Welgama
Hon. S. Shritharan
Hon. Gnanamuthu Srineshan
Hon. (Mrs.) Shanthi Sriskandarasa
Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe
Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
Hon. Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Hon. (Dr.) S. Sivamohan
Hon. Muthu Sivalingam
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Mavai S. Senathirajah
Hon. Chathura Sandeepa Senaratne
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe
Hon. Sunil Handunnetti
Hon. Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Hon. Indika Anuruddha Herath
Hon. Kanaka Herath

Mr. Neil Iddawala, Actg. Secretary-General of Parliament

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

1. Announcements by the Speaker : The Deputy Speaker made the following announcements:—

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“I wish to inform the Parliament that the Hon. Speaker has received the determination of the Supreme Court in respect of the Bill entitled ‘**Value Added Tax (Amendment)**’ which had been challenged before the Supreme Court in terms of Article 121(1) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has determined that neither the Bill nor any of its provisions thereof is inconsistent with the Constitution.

I order that the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the Official Report of today’s proceedings.”

2. Presentation of Papers : (1) The Deputy Speaker presented— The Second Instalment – Part XX and Fourth Instalment – Part XI of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2013, the Second Instalment – Parts XIV, XV and XVI, Third Instalment – Part IV and Fourth Instalment – Parts VIII, IX and X of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 2014; in terms of Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Ordered that the said Reports do lie upon the **Table** and to be printed.

(2) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Performance Report of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department for the year 2015 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 Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority 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 Higher Education and Highways presented the Performance Report and Annual Accounts of the District Secretariat of Badulla 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.

(5) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Finance, under Section 32 read with Section 22 of the Excise Ordinance (Chapter 52), regarding impose of excise duty on foreign liquor and impose of rules with regard to import of foreign liquor, and published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 1981/87 of 26th August 2016 and moved that this Order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

Question put, and agreed to.

(6) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Report of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka 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.

(7) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Annual Reports of the Coconut Development Authority 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.

(8) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the —

- (i) Annual Report of the National Housing Development Authority for the year 2012; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the Institute for Construction Training and Development for the year 2013;

and moved that these Reports be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment.

Question put, and agreed to.

(9) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Performance Report of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services for the year 2015 and moved that this report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender.

Question put, and agreed to.

(10) The Minister of Higher Education and Highways presented the Order made by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade under Section 14(1) of the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 relating to Cess and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1981/32 of 23rd August 2016 and moved that this order be referred to the Committee on Public Finance and Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. Petitions :

(1) Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe presented —

- (i) A petition dated 21.06.2016 from Mr. A. A. D. P. Amaratunga of No. 154/2, Magammana, Homagama; and
- (ii) A petition dated 18.06.2016 from Mrs. P. G. Wimalawathi of No. 01, Nawagamuwa, Ranala.

(2) Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna presented a petition dated 26.09.2016 from Mrs. D. Rohini Swarnamali of No. 361, Neligama, Ragama.

(3) Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe presented—

- (i) A petition dated 15.08.2016 from Mrs. I. S. Galapitagedara of No. E-92-B, Jayanthipura, Kurunegala;
- (ii) A petition dated 26.08.2016 from Mr. P. L. Hemasiri Wijewardhana of No.52, Keththaketoohena, Yatigaloluwa; and
- (iii) A petition dated 30.09.2016 from Mrs. S. M. Vineetha Senadipathi of Pansala Road, Wellewa, Polgahawela.

(4) Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana presented a petition dated 23.11.2015 from Mr. H. A. S. Fonseka of No. 326 B 02, Bulugahapitiya, Eheliyagoda.

(5) Hon. Bandula Gunawardane presented a petition dated 25.01.2016 from Mr. C. R. Yatigammana of No.63/6, Hiripitiya, Pannipitiya.

(6) Hon. Sirinal de Mel presented a petition dated 05.09.2016 from Mr. M. D. Dayananda of No. 6/10, Horana Road, Maviththara, Kesbewa.

(7) Hon. Anura Sidney Jayarathne presented a petition dated 14.08.2016 from Mrs. P. V. Pathmalatha of No.94, Yaya (Block) II, Maha Ambagaswewa, Madirigiriya.

(8) Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva presented—

- (i) A petition dated 03.08.2016 from Mr. H. M. Karunathunga of No. 12, Mahawaththa, Batapola;
- (ii) A petition dated 02.09.2016 from Mr. M. H. K. Udayarathna serving at No. 505, Kirula Road, Colombo 05; and
- (iii) A petition dated 02.09.2016 from Mr. M. H. K. Udayarathna serving at No. 505, Kirula Road, Colombo 05.

(9) Hon. Ishak Rahuman presented a petition dated 25.08.2016 from Mr. W. M. Weerasekara serving in Bank of Ceylon, Galnewa Branch.

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

4. Land (Restrictions on Alienation) (Amendment) : The Minister of Higher Education and Highways on behalf of the Minister of Finance presented,— Bill to amend the Land (Restrictions of Alienation) Act, No.38 of 2014.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, November 10, 2016 and to be printed and to be referred to the relevant Sectoral Oversight Committee.

5. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran seconded by Hon. Kaveendiran Kodeeswaran moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Saravanapavan 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. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Shehan Semasinghe seconded by Hon. Namal Rajapaksa moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Mahipala Herath Janasahana 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.

7. Leave to introduce Bill : Hon. Malith Jayathilake seconded by Hon. Angajan Ramanathan moved,— That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:—

“ Bill to incorporate the Maithripala Sirisena Lakdaru Diriya 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.

8. Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development : Hon. Buddhika Pathirana seconded by Hon. Lucky Jayawardana moved,—Whereas the United Nations General Assembly, by its Resolution No. A/RES/70/1, had launched 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with an ambitious seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

And whereas, the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka had endorsed this Resolution and committed to working tirelessly for implementation of this Agenda;

And whereas, the Sustainable Development Goals constitute an interlinked framework fusing together economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

And whereas Parliaments are at the forefront in realizing these goals through their lawmaking, budgeting and oversight functions;

This Parliament resolves that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to look into and to make recommendations in respect of the following in order to ensure that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is realized in Sri Lanka:—

- (a) formulating National Policies and legislating laws in consultation with relevant line Ministries;
- (b) allocation of adequate domestic resources and finding international funding resources;
- (c) coordinating among Government implementing Agencies;
- (d) networking measures at National, Provincial and Local levels;
- (e) encouraging public-private partnership;
- (f) obtaining the support of United Nations Agencies and civil society organizations;
- (g) sharing expertise and experiences among countries at regional and international levels;
- (h) developing separate database and reviewing the progress periodically; and
- (i) consideration of all matters which are connected with or incidental to the above issues.

2. (a) That the Committee and its Chairman shall be appointed by Mr. Speaker; and
(b) That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No.95 of the Parliament, the Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen (15) Members.
3. That the Committee shall have the power to—
 - (a) fix its quorum;
 - (b) summon any person to appear before it, to require any person to procure any document or record, to produce and receive all such evidence, written or oral, as the Committee may think it necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to above;
 - (c) obtain the services of specialists and experts in the relevant fields to assist the Committee; and
 - (d) 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 a period of one year from the first meeting of the Committee or within such further period as Parliament may grant. [P.187/'16]

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Adjournment (Bring the COPE Report Presented on 09th August to the Attention of the Executive) : The Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed, and debated.

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Buddhasasana moved,—That Hon. Lucky Jayawardana do take the Chair.

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 3.25 p. m. Hon. Lucky Jayawardana took the Chair.)

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

Question put, and agreed to.

(At 4.10 p. m. Hon. Edward Gunasekara took the Chair.)

(At 5.50 p. m. the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

And it being 7.30 p. m. the Parliament was at adjourned by the Deputy Speaker without Question put.

The Parliament adjourned accordingly until 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 pursuant to the Resolution of Parliament of 07th October, 2016.